



Cousin Research

Find the Whole Family

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Look at your family tree from a different angle. Instead of looking from yourself back to your ancestors, look from one of your ancestors down at all his/her descendants. An ancestor born in the late 1700s will usually have thousands of descendants besides the few who are your direct line.

Cousin Research means looking for the entire family, not just direct line ancestors, including grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc. These grandchildren, etc. are cousins to each other and to you.

ADVANTAGES OF COUSIN RESEARCH

The whole family is important. Finding information about the entire family often finds information about your ancestor. Stories and pictures about your own direct line ancestors may be found when searching for other family members. Cousin research is a great way to break brick walls.

Living cousins may have additional family information, stories, and pictures. They may have the information needed to resolve questions regarding the family. Hopefully they also know other relatives with additional information, stories, and pictures. They could also help with DNA testing.

FINDING COUSINS

1. Choose an ancestor from your pedigree chart.
 - a. Ancestors alive in 1850 or later with relatives, are usually easiest.
 - b. The countries with the most online records in FamilySearch are: US, Canada, and England, so search for ancestors in those countries first. Other countries are possible, but probably will be harder.
 - i. All the censuses for US, UK, and Canada are online and indexed.
 - ii. More records are available for more current times.
 - c. Start with parents of a wife near the bottom of your pedigree chart. These lines are often worked on less than your surname line.
 - d. Unusual names are easier to search than common names.
2. Look for relatives who are missing information in Family Tree.
 - a. No death date
 - b. No spouse, but who might have lived long enough to have married
 - c. Married but no children listed
 - d. Some children with large gaps of time between

3. New records and people
 - a. To find new records and people, use:
 - i. Record Hints
 - ii. Search Records
 - iii. Historical Records
 - iv. FamilySearch Catalog
 - v. Other Internet sites and/or repositories
 - b. Attach new people and records you find into Family Tree
 - c. Check for duplicates in FamilySearch
 - i. A duplicate may have more information
 - ii. Merge any duplicates, though be careful that you found a true duplicate
4. Finding living people
 - a. Other relatives
 - b. Online phone directories
 - c. Facebook
 - d. Search engines, like Google and Yippy,
 - e. Public records (database on FamilySearch)
 - f. BRB Publications, <http://www.brpub.com/>

HELP ON FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

- Descendancy View – shows an ancestor's descendants with helps and hints
- Landscape View – shows both ancestors and descendants with helps and hints
- Person page – shows person with family, helps and hints
- Historical Records – shows online records, both indexed and not yet indexed
- Hints – shows indexed records usually for the person
- Search Records – shows indexed records possibly for the person
- FamilySearch Catalog – describes records for places, with links to online records in FamilySearch and lists of films and books not yet digitized.
- FamilySearch Research Wiki – gives genealogical advice on researching for a place, including websites and contact information for record repositories

HELP ON THE INTERNET

- Puzzilla - puzzilla.org helps find people to research on descendant lines in FamilySearch
- Ancestry, www.ancestry.com (\$)
- Fold3, www.fold3.com (\$)
- German Roots, www.germanroots.com
- Find a Grave, www.findagrave.com
- Social media, such as dexknows white pages, Facebook, Google, to find living cousins
- Societies – genealogical, historical, lineage, one name