

**MOVING BEYOND RECORD HINTS:
YOUR FIRST STEPS IN ORIGINAL RESEARCH
Part 1 of 3**

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Purpose: By the end of this session, each student should:
-Understand advanced tools on FamilySearch
-Become familiar with key terms used in genealogy

Most of us begin our research based on work someone else has completed. We may have a multi-generational pedigree chart. We may be working from user-submitted data on FamilySearch or some other website. Record hints on varying websites give us a chance to start with our own research. But there are fundamental concepts for doing original genealogical research that we need to understand so that we can be effective in our work.

Words to Know

Sometimes it feels as if there is an entire language built around genealogy. Some helpful words to know follow:

Pedigree Chart

Pedigree charts are a way to show direct line lineage.

Family Group Sheet

A family group sheet shows detailed information for a full family group.

Research Log

Research logs are the way to track your research.

Collateral Lines

People loosely attached to your family tree who are not directly tied to your pedigree chart, but they still fall under the category of being your ancestors.

Home Sources

Home sources are the thing you have in your home or quickly available to you that tell you about your family.

Primary Source

Primary Sources are records that were created at the time of an event.

Secondary Source

Secondary Sources are records that were created about an event, after the event took place.

FamilySearch.org

FamilySearch provides so many resources. Most of us are only familiar with the trees portion of the site. From the trees we see record hints. FamilySearch offers other great tools to help with research, including the Research Wiki and the Library Catalog.

Family Trees

Research Wiki

Software

Having your own personal database for your family tree is very important. This will provide you a copy of your tree that cannot be edited by anyone but you. Each program offers similar basics, but you will need to choose which optional features you desire. This is NOT a comprehensive list.

Ancestral Quest
Brother's Keeper
Family Historian
Family Tree Builder
Family Tree Heritage
Family Tree Maker
Legacy Family Tree
The Master Genealogist
Redwood Free Family Tree
Reunion
RootsMagic
TreeDraw