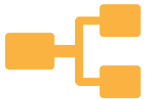FamilySearch

Introduction

Welcome to Family Tree!
This guide will help you get started.

This guide contains information on the following:

- What is Family Tree?
- How do I get started?
- What will I see when I sign in?
- What can I do in Family Tree?

- What else can I do in Family Tree?
- Where does the information in Family Tree come from?
- What are reliable sources, and how do I find them?
- What do I do next?

Note: This guide will be most helpful to LDS members who already have many ancestors in Family Tree.

What is Family Tree?

Family Tree is designed to help you do your family history. It is part of FamilySearch.org.

Family Tree is not like family history websites where each user can upload a personal pedigree or family tree. Instead, the goal of Family Tree is for all users to work together to create one tree that is shared by everyone.
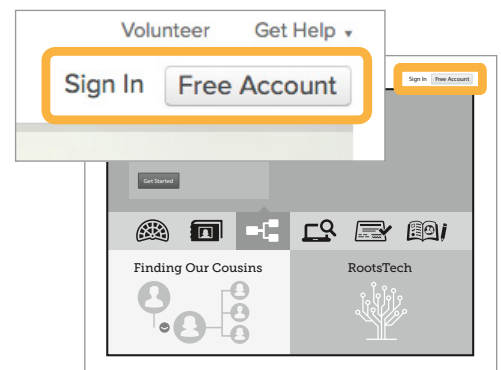
Many of your ancestors are probably already in Family Tree. You can view information about them and add more information as you find it. You can also add ancestors who are missing and include information about them.

How do I get started?

First, you need an account so you can sign in.

If you are a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and have an LDS Account, you can sign in using your LDS Account information. If you don't have an LDS Account, you can register for a free account. Be sure to provide your membership record number when asked, so that Family Tree can display your parents and ancestors.

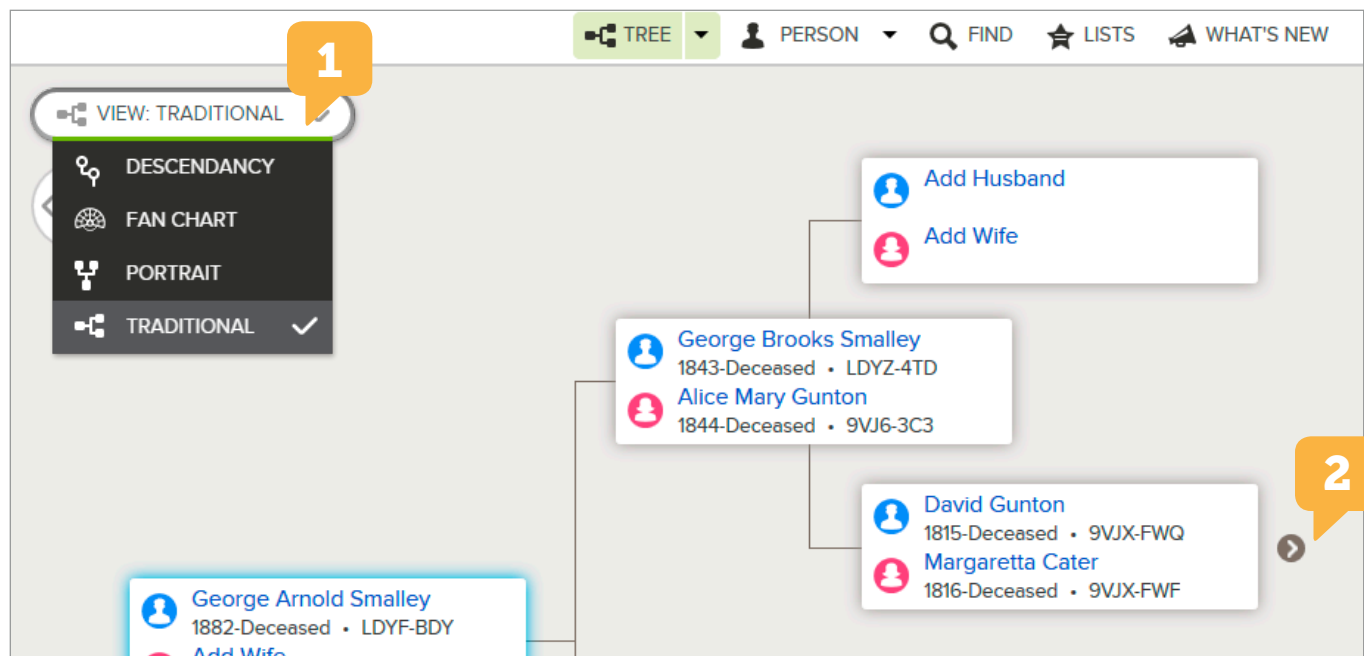If you are not a member of the LDS Church, you can register for a free FamilySearch Account here.

Tip: If you are a member of the LDS Church and already have an LDS Account, you don't need to register. Use your LDS Account username and password. If you need an account, you will be asked to provide your membership record number. If you don't have the number, you can still register. You can get the number from your ward clerk and add it to your account later.

When you have registered, go to familysearch.org/tree, and sign in.

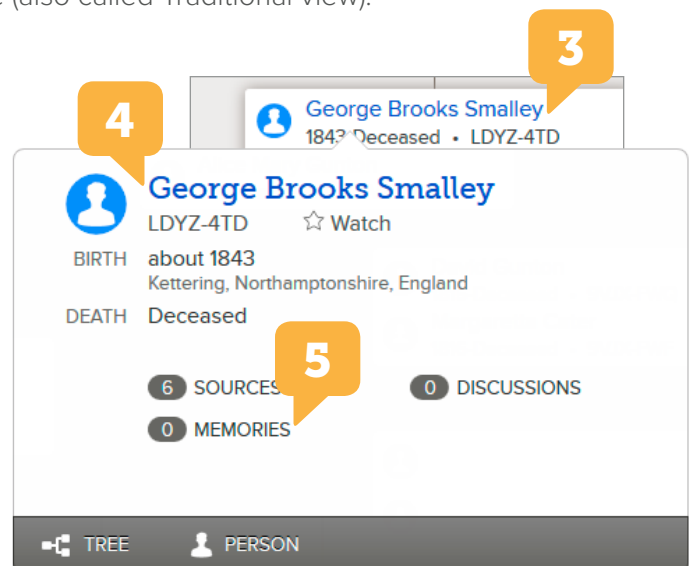## What will I see when I sign in?

When you go to Family Tree for the first time, you will see a pedigree chart similar to the one below, but you will be the first person on the chart. You may see your parents, grandparents, and other ancestors. (If you don't see them, don't worry. Go to the Build Your Tree Quick Start Guide. It tells you how to get them to show on the chart.)

What can I do in Family Tree?

Here are a few things people usually do on the main page (also called Traditional view).

1. Click the **View** drop-down list to change how you see the information.

2. Click an **arrow** after a couple to see more generations of the family.

3. Click a person's name to see a summary card. The summary card has links to other information.

4. On the summary card, if you click the person's name, you go to a page that has more information about the person, such as the names of the person's family.

5. If there are photos or stories about the person, you see a number by Memories. If you click **Memories**, you can see the photos and read the stories.

What else can I do in Family Tree?

There are lots of things you can do in Family Tree:

❶ Search for people who are already in Family Tree.

❷ Add people to Family Tree.

❸ Add or correct information in Family Tree.

❹ Add photographs and other memories.

❺ Link people together: for instance, you can link a child's record to her parents' records.

And that's just for starters!

There's already a lot of information in Family Tree. Where did it come from?

The information in Family Tree mostly comes from two sources: 1) indexed or extracted records and 2) users just like you! You should be aware that the information in Family Tree is not "official." You will want to verify the information in Family Tree by using reliable sources.

Reliable sources? What are those, and how do I find them?

In most modern cultures, records are created for important life events, such as birth, baptism, marriage, death, and burial. Many countries also take regular censuses. In a census, government workers count the residents of the country and record information about them, such as their names, ages, birthplaces, and occupations.

Records for living people are usually kept private. However, FamilySearch has a large collection of historical records for deceased people. (In fact, if you have done indexing you have helped make these records available for searching.)

These records are important because they give us information about our ancestors, such as birthplaces and family relationships. They help us get to know our ancestors. They also give us clues to help find missing ancestors so we can add them to Family Tree. For more information, see Build Your Tree.

What do I do next?

Here are three other quick start guides to help you take the next steps. You don't have to read them in a specific order.

Add a Photo to Memories

Find Records

Build Your Tree

You might also want to check out the FamilySearch Learning Center. You'll find free online courses on a variety of topics. Pick one that interests you.

FamilySearch has other resources to help you as you go. Just click **Get Help** in the top right corner of any page. We wish you success with your family history!

FamilySearch