Become a Pro Using Family Tree

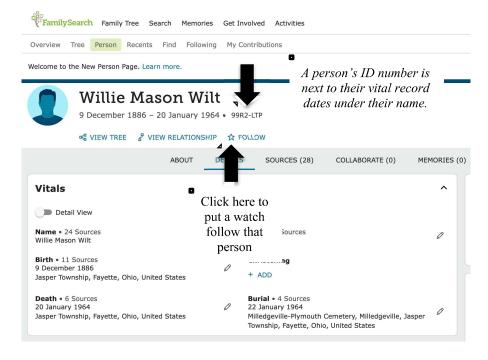
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One of the best resources at <u>www.familysearch.org</u> is the family tree. You will need to create a free account to use this feature.

Once you are logged in click on FAMILY TREE. This will take you to a page to start your own tree. Make sure to update the information for yourself, your spouse (if you are married), and any descendants you have. Any living people you add will not be visible to others until a death date is added for them. This is done to protect their privacy as well as yours.

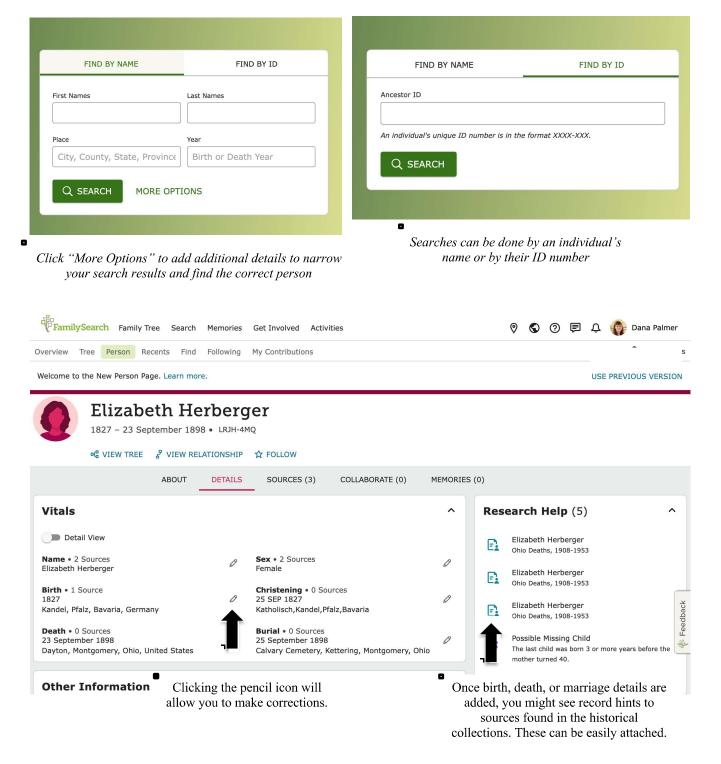


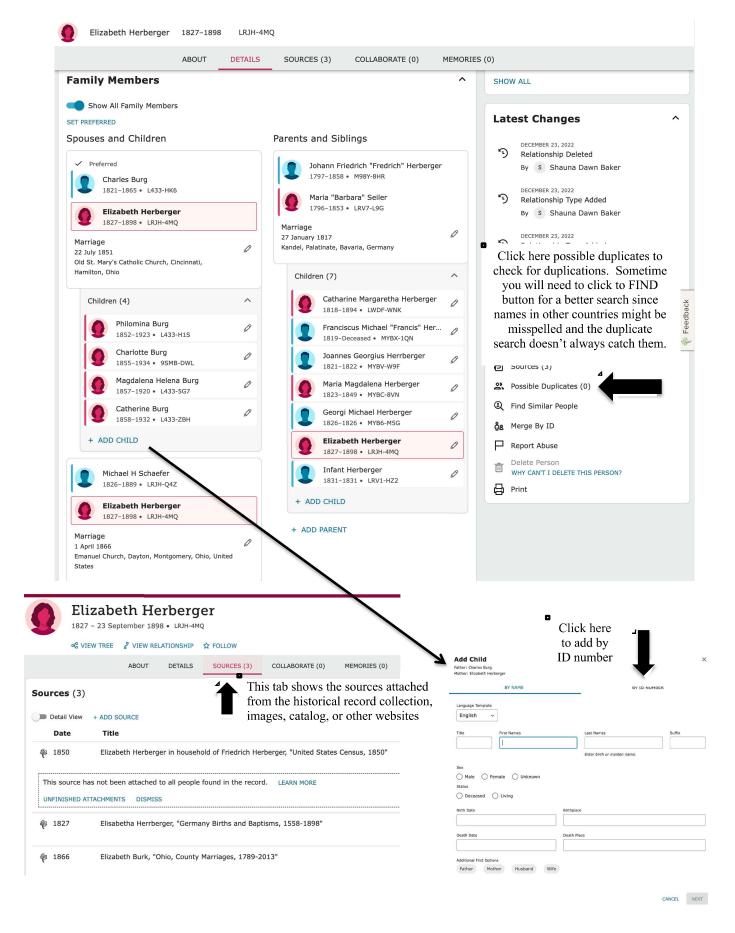
You can add your own family tree to this site as well as sources, photos, documents and research notes. The more documentation you add, the less likely someone else will change the information. This is an interactive collaborative tree, which means others can make changes to it too. This can be helpful or frustrating depending on whether or not the person making the change has good documentation to back up their change. The more documentation you add, the less likely relatives will change things.



Clicking on the follow button at the top right side will put a watch on that specific person. This is helpful because if someone makes a change to them you will be sent an alert notifying you that a change has been made. I recommend following on your direct line ancestors or anyone of your relatives with controversial information or who you are actively researching.

Before you upload a gedcom to FamilySearch, check to see if any of your relatives on your pedigree chart are already in the Family Tree database. If your relatives are already in the system, you can easily connect everyone using their assigned ID. Print out a pedigree chart from your personal genealogy database, then search for each individual in the Family Tree on FamilySearch. Write down their assigned number above their name on the pedigree chart. Link those unconnected by first linking the spouses to each other, then add each child by their assigned ID number as children of their parents. After you link and merge the individuals, then add any family members that are missing.

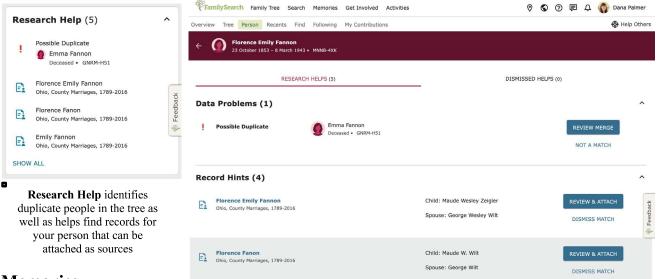




Attaching sources

When dates and locations are added for a person, record hints will pop up in the **Research Help** part of the details page in the upper right corner. Often these records are for your person and can be added to the sources. Carefully review each record hint and attach if it is for the same person. Click "Not a Match" if it is for another person.

Sometimes duplicate people will appear, especially when additional sources are attached because someone may have created a new person instead of trying to see if they were already in the system. Time will need to be spent merging these duplicate people.



Memories

This feature of FamilySearch is a great way to preserve your family photos, documents, and audio clips. Memories can be added to your gallery or attached directly to the person in the Family Tree. It's a lot easier to attach in the Family Tree, than attaching in the Gallery and then trying to link it to the correct person.

Each person in a photo can be tagged and identified. Tagging each person makes it easy to see who everyone is in the photo. Just hover your mouse over that person and their name will pop up if they are tagged.

Remember to add **Topic Tags** for photos and documents, especially if it is for military photos with others in it. The titles and tags in photos can be searched if they are added. This is a great way to share your photos and find more photos of your family.

Each photo or document can be classified as "Public" or "Private" allowing you the ability to preserve all your memories, even for living people. If you select the "Private" setting no one can see that Memory except for you.

