

Creating and Building Better Family Trees



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Part



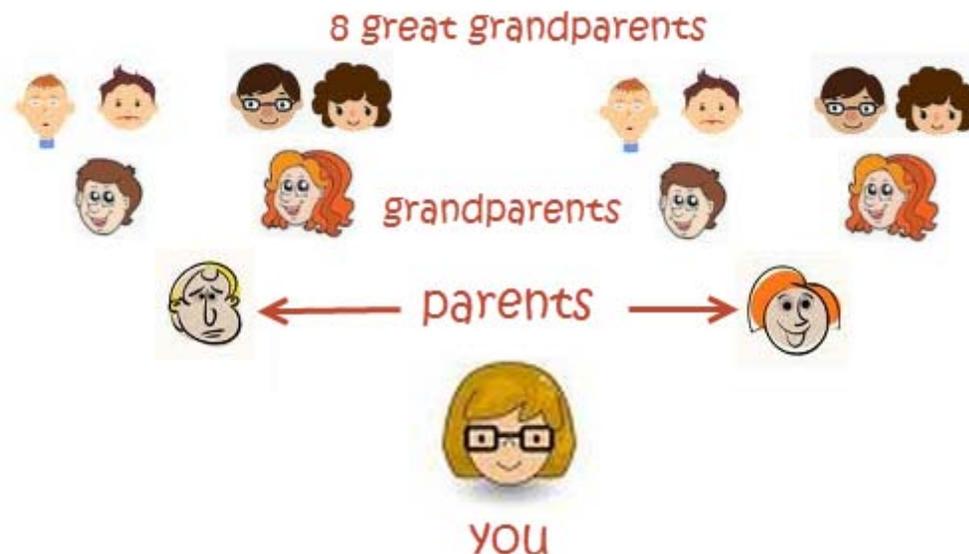
1 What is Genealogy?

Genealogy is the process of gathering information about your family, researching your family history, verifying the data collected from your research, as well as organizing and sharing the data in the form of a family tree. Each essential area will be explored in this document.

Relationships

Genealogy is viewed as a hierarchy of ancestors and their descendants which is recorded with pen and paper or in computer programs. An advantage to using a computer program is the ability to easily add and edit information, and present your data in many types of charts and reports.

We all have direct ancestors, and people that are related through marriage. Depending on how large or expanded your tree is, you may even have people in your tree that are not related. Many genealogy programs come with relationship calculators to help identify the relationship between two people.



1.1 Genealogy Research

The information gathering process starts with what you know by gathering information about yourself, your parents, siblings, spouses, and children. The next step is to interview your close family members, aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents to gather information about what they know. These interviews should include questions about your family that reveal important events, dates, and places. Don't forget to ask about

their personalities, jobs, where they vacationed, etc. Interviews can give clues to ancestors and where you should spend your efforts in gathering further information that will help document your family history.

From the clues you have gathered, the process of research begins. Research can take on many forms such as: going on a trip to the place you are researching; hiring a genealogist to perform research on your behalf; ordering microfilms that contain important clues to your family history; going to libraries, or finding information on the internet.

Research Efforts

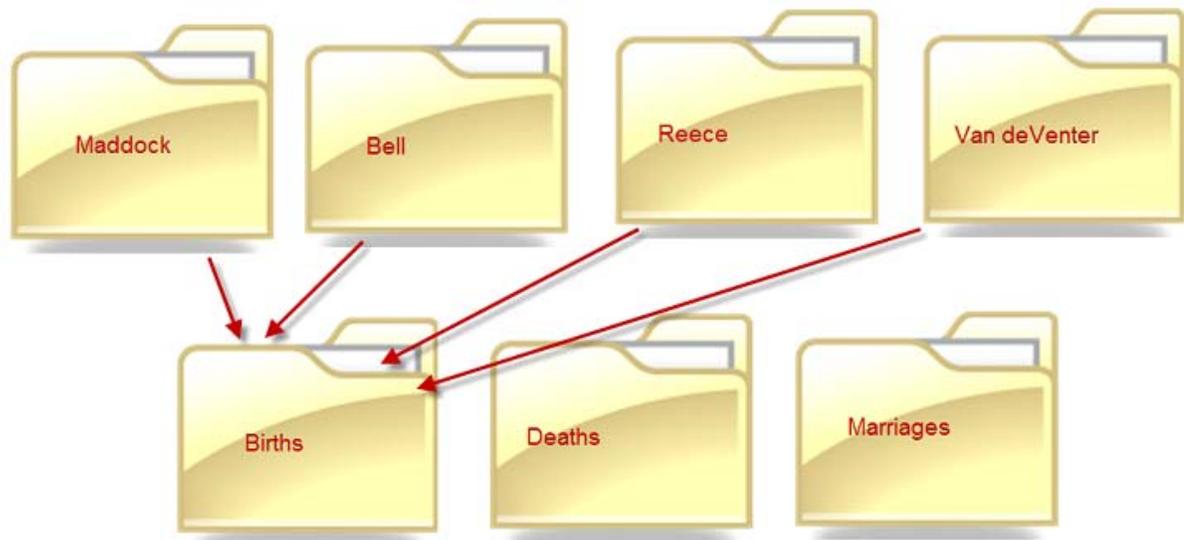
Coping with research challenges can be minimized when you use a methodical research process. By using and documenting all your efforts in a research log, whether successful or not, will help keep you focused, organized, and keep you from doing duplicate research.

When conducting research, take your time and understand what you are looking at. The source may not reveal what you are looking for directly, but may help lead you to some clues. Part of understanding the clues comes with research experience, being a detective, and leaving nothing unturned. You need to analyze all the documents you read, transcribe the hand written ones, and look for the little hints.

Always keep an open mind with various spellings to broaden your chances of results. Many times, people are not asked how to spell their name correctly, and were recorded the way they sounded to the person taking the information. When spellings of names are not verified, they may have been recorded incorrectly. In other cases, maybe a person was trying to change their name to hide their identity (most likely for age reasons) so they may have spelled it slightly different than what you think it should be. These are just a few examples what is involved with research. We have created a document Techniques and Tools for Genealogy Research. It helps with each step of the research process with examples and best practices for verifying documents before adding data to your tree. You can find our documents at: <http://www.family-genealogy.com/Sitemap.html>, under Download Articles.

1.2 Documenting your Family History

Storing your family information for easy retrieval is important, as you will want to refer to your documents in the future. Use a consistent filing system, so you will be able to find your information. There are many different ways to achieve this, filing by record type, by last name, by decade, etc. Create a system, and stick with it. With our program, you can file your documents by folder and they are automatically stored by person. For easy retrieval, you can filter your results by location, by person, and by tags.



Recording your Family Information

Next comes the recording of your research. While recording and transcribing information it is easy to make mistakes. Once a mistake is made and it is not caught, your tree can have you doing unnecessary research that will only lead to dead ends, especially if years and locations are recorded incorrectly. When considering a genealogy program, it should have a built in accuracy checker for unlikely information. Below is a list of common unlikely information errors that can occur from adding incorrect information:

Examples of Unlikely Family Information

Unlikely Birth Information:

1. Age Difference Between Child (name) and Mother (name) should be between “xx” and “xx” years.
2. Age Difference Between Child (name) and Father (name) should be between “xx” and “xx” years.
3. Birth date of (name) should not be earlier than the parents (name) Marriage Date.
4. (name) birth date should not be before the mother’s (name) birth date.
5. (name) birth date should not be before the father’s (name) birth date.
6. (name) birth date should not be after the mother’s (name) death date.
7. (name) birth date should not be after the father’s (name) death date.

Unlikely Death Information:

1. (name) crossed “xx” years with no death date.
2. (name) death date should not be before the birth date.

Unlikely Event Information:

1. (event) should not be after the death date.

Unlikely Surname:

1. (name) is same as spouse’s (name).

Unlikely Marriage Information:

1. Birth date and marriage date of (name) to (name) should be greater than xx years.
2. (name) death date should not be earlier than marriage date.
3. Unlikely Marriage Information: Birth date of (name) and (name) is greater than “xx” years.

Part



2 Building your Family Tree

Once you have gathered information about your family, it is time to put the information in a family tree, either on paper or in a genealogy program.

Once you start to grow your family tree, it becomes harder to track and decipher what have you done, and what research is still needed. Organization is a big part of genealogy programs to help with recording family information, maintaining your documents in an orderly fashion that can be easily recalled; help with your research efforts with research logs and task lists; and much more.

With this paper being focused on helping users with what research is done or not done for a particular person in your family tree, we are going to explore sources, the importance of sources, how they are rated, and a tool that can help with understanding where you need to do more research to fill in missing family information.



2.1 Genealogy Sources

Sources are documents (oral and written) that serve as proof to support information in your family tree. Sources should support each of the facts and information from a variety of documents. In order to rate a source, you need to know where the information came from; what evidence it provides by the strengths and weaknesses of that source.

Analyzing the Source

There are various elements to the source that need to be explored. Many times, it is subjective, as we were not present when these old historical documents were written. Since we were not present for the recording of the information, many times we will not know the intent of the document, or who provided the information, or when the document was written. That is why it is important to analyze the document and provide multiple document types to verify you are recording the correct information, and be able to form conclusions based on confirming and contradicting information about events, dates, places, and names.

Assertion Evidence / Facts

What information is or can be extrapolated from the document as far as a person's name, and their birth date, birth place, death place, or death date. Is either parent, spouse, or other family member mentioned or inferred in the document?

Source Reliability

Reliability helps to identify the information that is being presented as a measure of knowledge. Source rating is ranked in the order they are listed. From the document you are using, is the information directly or indirectly stated? Can it stand on its own or is another document needed to fill in the missing information?

- **First-Hand /Directly Stated:** A person who has personal knowledge of the facts, which may be written or audible, and directly states the facts as related to the source evidence.
- **First-Hand/Indirectly Stated:** A person who has personal knowledge of the facts, which may be written or audible, and indirectly states the facts as related to the source evidence.
- **Second-Hand /Directly Stated:** A person who has been told about the facts, and directly states the facts as related to the source evidence.
- **Second-Hand/Indirectly Stated:** A person who has been told about the facts, and indirectly states the facts as related to the source evidence.

Source Quality

Quality helps to further establish the sources reliability by its attributes. Something that is handwritten and has lots of details which is considered more reliable than a document that is an abridged version (a derivative) that may contain errors.

- **None:** Established for first-hand knowledge.
- **Original/copy:** An original or copy of an original that is a reproduction.
- **Derivative:** A hand written document or typed information that contains an abridged version of what was in the original document.

Source Information

Source Information contained in the source is judged by the informant's level of participation and knowledge. Some of the information from a source will provide assertion evidence. It is this evidence that should be looked at as primary vs. secondary and not the document as a whole or information that does not answer: name, birth date, birth place, death date, death place, links to either parent, links to spouse, links to other family member. If the document contains both birth and death information, then it is a document with mixed information.

- **None:** Established for first-hand knowledge.
- **Primary:** Contains information that was documented at or near the time of the event.
- **Mixed, Mostly Primary:** Contains information that is partially primary and partially secondary, but mostly primary.
- **Secondary:** Contains information that was documented after the time of the event.
- **Mixed, Mostly Secondary:** Contains information this is partially primary and partially secondary, but mostly secondary.

2.2 Building a Credible Family Tree

Building a family tree takes time. It is not just about filling in events and dates. It should include enough information so it tells stories about your ancestors through acquired documents. This takes time, and lots of research. You may become over whelmed with what you should research, as well as, what you have already researched.

We have created a tool that helps you to monitor, what information you have based on sources, and what you still need to research. All this is done through our progress rating chart that is setup by the user; so they decide what is important to find and what is not.

The tool is described in more detail under the topic [Progress Rating Chart](#).

Part



3 Rating Genealogy Sources

Sources are the documents or records that verify family information, events, dates, and relationships.

All records are subject to interpretation and can contain errors during the recording of the information. Also, a person may have supplied the incorrect information on purpose. Such as a date of birth on a military or marriage record, so they would appear to be old enough to enlist in the military or get married.

Sources are rated for the facts that can be extracted. Each source provides different information and should be rated as such. Not every source is easy enough to figure out how to rate, sometimes it is personal opinion. Another difficulty that arises is from not knowing who supplied the original information, what the intent was, and how accurate is the information? This is one reason why you need to do exhaustive research, to make sure you have the right document for the right person. One source cannot answer questions of assertion.

If you are unsure of how to rate your sources and need more clarification, consult books and internet documents for primary and secondary sources, and genealogical proof standards. Two sources to consult:

Board for Certification of Genealogists. *The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual*. Orem, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2000

Rose, Christine. *Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case*. 3rd Edition Revised. San Jose, California: CR Publications, 2009

3.1 Death Certificate Example

The person who is the informant is the daughter who may or may not have been present on the day of the death and may have been informed by someone else. The certificate is filled out by the coroner who has second hand knowledge provided by the informant. Neither the coroner nor the daughter was present for the birth of this person.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH											
STATE OF CALIFORNIA											
1A. NAME OF DECEDENT—FIRST		1B. MIDDLE		1C. LAST		2A. DATE OF DEATH (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) 2B. HOUR					
Donald						May				1800b	
3. SEX		4. RACE/ETHNICITY		5. DATE OF BIRTH		7. AGE		IF UNDER 1 YEAR		IF UNDER 24 HOURS	
Male		Caucasian		January 1, 1914		71		MONTHS		DAYS	
8. BIRTHPLACE OF DECEDENT (STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY)		9. NAME AND BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER		10. BIRTH NAME AND BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER		11A. CITIZENSHIP OF THIS COUNTRY		11B. IF DECEASED WAS EVER IN MILITARY GIVE DATES OF SERVICE		12. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	
Oregon		Unknown		Unknown		U.S.A.		19 TO 19		54-00-0000	
13A. PREVIOUS OCCUPATION		13B. NUMBER OF YEARS THIS OCCUPATION		17. EMPLOYER (IF SELF-EMPLOYED, SO STATE)		13. MARITAL STATUS		14. NAME OF SURVIVING SPOUSE OR WIFE, ENTER BIRTH NAME			
Cook		40		Unknown		Divorced		n/a			
18A. USUAL RESIDENCE—STREET ADDRESS (STREET AND NUMBER OR LOCATION)		18B. CITY OR TOWN		18C. STATE		19. COUNTY		20. NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT—RELATIONSHIP			
2901 E. Pacific Coast Hwy.		Signal Hill		California		Los Angeles		[Redacted] daughter			
21A. PLACE OF DEATH		21B. COUNTY		21C. STREET ADDRESS (STREET AND NUMBER OR LOCATION)		21D. CITY OR TOWN		22. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: (ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR A, B, AND C)			
South Bay Conv. Hospital		Los Angeles		2901 E. Pacific Coast Hwy.		Signal Hill		(A) Separated failure (B) Asites (C) Sarcosis Curis			
23. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS—CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO CAUSE, GIVEN IN 22A		27. WAS OPERATION PERFORMED FOR ANY CONDITION IN ITEM 23?		23A. DATE SIGNED		23B. PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE NO.		24. WAS DEATH REPORTED TO CORONER?			
Alcoholism, Diabetic		NO		17 May 85		C-380210		No			
25A. I CERTIFY THAT DEATH OCCURRED AT THE HOUR, DATE AND PLACE STATED FROM THE CAUSES STATED.		25B. PHYSICIAN—SIGNATURE AND DEGREE OR TITLE		25C. DATE SIGNED		25D. PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE NO.		25. WAS SHOPEX PERFORMED?			
Lyle Nelson MD		Lyle Nelson MD		17 May 85		C-380210		No			
26. SPECIFY ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, ETC.		26. PLACE OF INJURY		31. INJURY AT WORK		32A. DATE OF INJURY—MONTH, DAY, YEAR		26. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED?			
								No			
33A. I CERTIFY THAT DEATH OCCURRED AT THE HOUR, DATE AND PLACE STATED FROM THE CAUSES STATED, AS REQUIRED BY LAW I HAVE HELD AN INQUIRY- INVESTIGATION		33B. CORONER—SIGNATURE AND DEGREE OR TITLE		33C. DATE		34. LOCATION (STREET AND NUMBER OR LOCATION AND CITY OR TOWN)		34. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED (EVENTS WHICH RESULTED IN INJURY)			
						Grandview Crematory, Glendale, CA					
37. DATE—MONTH, DAY, YEAR		38. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY		39. EMBALMER'S LICENSE NUMBER (IF ANY)		39. EMBALMER'S LICENSE NUMBER (IF ANY)		40. DATE ACCEPTED BY REGISTRAR			
May 21, 1985		Grandview Crematory, Glendale, CA		Not Embalmed		Not Embalmed		MAY 20 1985			
41. NAME OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR (OR PERSON ACTING AS SUCH)		40B. LICENSE NO.		41. LOCAL REGISTRAR—SIGNATURE		42. DATE ACCEPTED BY REGISTRAR		43. STATE REGISTRAR			
Westwood Village Mortuary		951		Johns. H. [Redacted]		MAY 20 1985					

Screen Overview:

Source Reliability – Second Hand Knowledge / Directly States the Facts (gives exact assertion evidence for: name, birth date, death date, death place). Gives only the state where the person was born. Since most of the information is directly stated, it is safe to use the

Source Quality – Original/copy

Source Information – Mixed Mostly Primary

The information in red is considered secondary, as neither the coroner nor the informant was present at the time of his birth. Date of death, cause of death, and burial information are considered primary information. Occupation and SS number is

considered secondary and not important to our evidence. However, having the SS number we can now apply for SS-5 form to see if it has more family history information.

Important Note:

Notice the “links to either parent” is not marked this is because that information is not listed on the death certificate.

3.3 Census Record Example

Because we do not know who supplied the information, it is hard to determine how to rate this source. By looking at the source, we see the children are listed as adopted, because the head of house was probably not present for their birth, the information should be treated as secondary.

Sex	Age	Relationship	Married	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Never
Head	34	Wood, J. A.					
Wife	31	Wood, M. A.					
Child	7	Bernard F.	Adopted				No
Child	2	Robert J.	Adopted				No
Child	1	James	Adopted				No
Child	1	Mary Jane	Adopted				No

Screen Overview:

Source Reliability – Second Hand Knowledge / Indirectly States the Facts (gives indirect assertion evidence for: name, birth date, birth place, and linking to possible parent through adoption). Until we know for sure of the relationship between the head of house and the other children, it is best to leave those boxes blank.

Source Quality – Original/copy

Source Information – Secondary

The information about birth and relationships is secondary (being recorded after the event). Information that is being asked about: age, occupation, and residence would be considered primary, but is not the question we are trying to answer.

Important Note:

Census sources that show relationship of children do not explicitly state that both the father and mother are biological, but most likely at least one the parents is biologically related, unless the child is stated as adopted, and then the child should be listed in your family tree with two (2) sets of parents. This is one of the reasons we have the box 'Links to Either Parent' instead of links to both parents.

3.4 Military Registration Example

Important information can be obtained from various military documents.

The image shows a military registration card with the following handwritten entries:

1	Name in full	Ernest Raleigh	No. 6	22
2	Home address	Ardol Okla		
3	Date of birth	December 14		1894
4	Are you (1) a natural born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention to become a citizen?	Natural born		
5	Where were you born?	Ardol Oklahoma		
6				

Screen Overview:

Source Reliability – First-Hand Knowledge / Directly States the Facts (gives exact assertion evidence for: name, birth date, birth place)

Because the information is being supplied by the person with first-hand knowledge, in the program the quality and source information are grayed out.

Part



4 Family Case Study

Taking all the pieces and applying them to a family so you can see how the program can help you build a better tree is what we have done with the family below.

Progress Rating Setup for the Case Study Family is based on the default setup in the program.

Family Information

We will look at three (3) generations, and specifically the (4) four people that are outlined in the Progress Chart below:



4.1 Susanna Buchannan

From the [progress chart](#), you can see the parents are unknown.

Buchannan, Susanna Anne [Edit](#)

Birth:	1810
Birth Place:	Tennessee, USA
Death:	AFT. 1880
Death Place:	Kentucky, USA
Burial Place:	

[More Relations](#)

Screen Overview with Instructions

The information we have for Susannah is a little weak. We don't know her exact birth date or place of birth, or death date, or exact death place. Her parents are currently unknown as well. This is typical of many of our ancestors when working backwards to find information about our relatives. Because we do not know the person's exact birth date, and using a census record for this information can give a false reliability score for

a person. That is the danger of using and relying on census records as verification of a person's birth date.

Sources used for Susanna

Susanna has three (3) sources which are all census records. Census records do not give exact birth information, so the information is a little weak in providing evidence for those facts, but it does provide some value, and is better than nothing. It does help to link her to her spouse, and her children.

Source #1, 1850 Census

Source Information			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First & Last Name	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birth Date	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birth Place	<input type="checkbox"/> Death Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Links to Either Parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Links to Spouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Links to other Family Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Death Place
Rate This Source			
Reliability *	Select	Quality *	Select
	<input type="button" value="v"/>		<input type="button" value="v"/>
Information *	Select		<input type="button" value="v"/>

Source #2, 1870 Census

Source Information			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First & Last Name	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birth Date	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birth Place	<input type="checkbox"/> Death Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Links to Either Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Links to Spouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Links to other Family Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Death Place
Rate This Source			
Reliability *	Select	Quality *	Select
	<input type="button" value="v"/>		<input type="button" value="v"/>
Information *	Select		<input type="button" value="v"/>

Source #3, 1880 Census

Source Information			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First & Last Name	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birth Date	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birth Place	<input type="checkbox"/> Death Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Links to Either Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> Links to Spouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Links to other Family Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Death Place
Rate This Source			
Reliability *	Select	Quality *	Select
	<input type="button" value="v"/>		<input type="button" value="v"/>
Information *	Select		<input type="button" value="v"/>

How Sources were Rated for Susanna

Since we don't know who answered the questions, it is best to be cautious and use second hand knowledge for any census record.

Source Reliability – Second Hand Knowledge / Indirectly States the Facts (gives indirect assertion evidence for: name, birth date, birth place, links to spouse, and other family members (her children). In 1870 and 1880 she is living with her daughter, son-in-

law, and grandchild.

Source Quality – Original/copy

Source Information – Secondary, because the evidence we are trying to pull from the document birth date and birth place is being recorded after the event (birth) took place. The information such as age, occupation, and residence would be considered primary, but it is not helpful to the evidence we are trying to find.

Source Outcome and Score

Each source provides some value, as it documents the applicable facts. The Score area makes it easy to decide where you should spend your research efforts, and create a task list based on missing documents that are needed to verify facts.

Source Title ^	Published/Event Date	Linked Event	Media
1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405	28 Aug 1850		1850 Census
1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18	30 Jun 1870		1870 Census
1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53	17 Jun 1880		1880 Census

Fact	Applicable	Source Title	Progress
First & Last Name	✓	1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405	
Birth Date	✓	1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53	
Birth Place	✓	1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405	
Death Date	✓		
Death Place	✓		
Links to Either Parent	✓		
Links to Spouse	✓	1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405	
Links to other Family Member	✗	1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53	

Missing historical Documents

Screen Overview:

Based on what we know for Susanna, we can see we need documents that give information about her death date, death place, and links to either parent. We also need better documents to verify her birth information. Relying on census records for birth information, can lead to a false positive for birth information.

Analysis

Take what you know and combine pre-research efforts to get a starting point on what should be done next.

Sources currently found do not verify exact place and date information for birth and marriage, but without secondary documents that can help solve these questions we will not be able to get answers because birth certificates were started for Tennessee in 1908. We have information from census records her first child was born about 1836 which is before marriage certificates were being recorded. She died sometime after the

1880 census, but most likely before 1911 as she would be 101 years old, and that is when death certificates started to be recorded. Last residence known is in Court House, Meade County, Kentucky.

Next Steps

Based on last known residence, our next tasks would be to verify death date and place. Our pre-research efforts would be to see what newspapers or gazetteers are available for possible gossip/obituaries that would capture the news. Look for books written about cemetery transcriptions, and books about historical families in the area. See if there are wills or probate records are available since they began in 1807 and 1808 respectively. If we wanted to do some research on her husband we might add some notes to remind us that after 1850 he either passed away or they got a divorce.

4.2 John Jupin

His parents are known and his wife is Malissa Hawkins, as shown in the [progress rating chart](#).

Jupin, John F.
 Edit

Birth:	15 Mar 1846
Birth Place:	Bardstown, Nelson, Kentucky, USA
Death:	13 May 1932
Death Place:	Bristow, Creek, Oklahoma, USA
Burial Place:	Brandenburg, Meade, Kentucky, USA

Wives: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)
 More Relations

Screen Overview:

We have information about John, which mostly relies on census records. A headstone photo helps to verify his death date and in this case, also provides a link to one (1) of his spouses.

Source Outcome and Score

Sources					+ Add Sources
Source Title^	Published/Event Date	Linked Event	Media		
1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53	17 Jun 1880		1880 Census		
1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18	30 Jun 1870		1870 Census		
1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A	18 May 1910		1910 Census		
1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A	16 Jun 1900		1900 Census		
1850 Federal Census - Indiana - Perry Co., Tobin	12 Sep 1850		1850 Census		
1930 Federal Census - Kentucky - Jefferson - Louisville, Pg 6A	05 Apr 1930	Residence	1930 Census		
Headstone, John Jupin & Mary Edmonds	13 May 1932	Burial	Headstone		

Score			
Fact	Applicable	Source Title	Progress
First & Last Name	✓	1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; 1850 Federal Census - Indiana - Perry Co., Tobin; 1930 Federal Census - Kentucky - Jefferson - Louisville, Pg 6A; Headstone, John Jupin & Mary Edmonds	
Birth Date	✓	1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; 1850 Federal Census - Indiana - Perry Co., Tobin; 1930 Federal Census - Kentucky - Jefferson - Louisville, Pg 6A; Headstone, John Jupin & Mary Edmonds	
Birth Place	✓	1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; 1850 Federal Census - Indiana - Perry Co., Tobin; 1930 Federal Census - Kentucky - Jefferson - Louisville, Pg 6A	
Death Date	✓	Headstone, John Jupin & Mary Edmonds	
Death Place	✓	missing historical documents	
Links to Either Parent	✓	1850 Federal Census - Indiana - Perry Co., Tobin	
Links to Spouse	✓	1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; Headstone, John Jupin & Mary Edmonds	
Links to other Family Member	✗	1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; 1850 Federal Census - Indiana - Perry Co., Tobin; 1930 Federal Census - Kentucky - Jefferson - Louisville, Pg 6A	

Screen Overview:

Score reveals we are missing a document that verifies his death place. Using census record(s) for birth information can give a false reliability score for a person. That is the danger of using and relying on census records as verification of a person's birth date.

Analysis

From what we know, we are missing exact birth information and a document confirming his death place. We are pretty sure we know his parents names, based on a census as he is list as "son". But it could be son to the father or the mother, so we should verify his mother's maiden name.

Next Steps

We would create a task to verify his death place. Since we have detailed information on the death date and place, we could start our pre-research and look to see if there was a local newspaper for the area, with obituaries. We could also look to see if the death certificate would be available either from the Family History Library, local genealogical society, or get a copy of his death certificate.

4.3 Malissa Hawkins

She is the daughter of Susanna Buchannan, and wife of John F. Jupin, as shown in the [progress rating chart](#).

■ Hawkins, Malissa(1)
 Edit

Birth: 1849
Birth Place: Brandenburg, Meade, Kentucky, USA

Death: 13 Sep 1912
Death Place: Roseburg, Douglas, Oregon, USA

Burial Place:

More Relations

Screen Overview:

More detailed information is needed for her birth date and burial place is unknown.

Sources				Add Sources
Source Title^	Published/Event Date	Linked Event	Media	
Oregon Death Index, 1903-98	13 Sep 1912	Death		
1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405	28 Aug 1850		1850 Census	
1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53	17 Jun 1880		1880 Census	
1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18	30 Jun 1870		1870 Census	
1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A	18 May 1910		1910 Census	
1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A	16 Jun 1900		1900 Census	

Score			
Fact	Applicable	Source Title	Progress
First & Last Name	✓	1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405; 1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; Oregon Death Index, 1903-98	
Birth Date	✓	1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; 1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A; 1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405	
Birth Place	✓	1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405; 1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18	
Death Date	✓	Oregon Death Index, 1903-98	
Death Place	✓	Oregon Death Index, 1903-98	
Links to Either Parent	✓	1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405	
Links to Spouse	✓	1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; 1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A; 1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18	
Links to other Family Member	✗	1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18; 1910 Federal Census - Oklahoma - Pottawatomie Co, Avoca, Pg 15A; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; 1880 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 53; 1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405	

Screen Overview:

Although the rating shows we have enough documents to provide enough reliability that the person belongs in the tree, we do not know her exact birth date. That is the danger of using and relying on census records as verification of a person's birth date. Also recording death information for a person that is not verified gives a false reliability score for this person.

Analysis

The death information, as well as the other facts are based on secondary information. This information needs to be verified for “our” Malissa. Just because it seems like it is for her, we don’t have enough evidence to prove its validity at this time. It should **not** be added as a source until it is verified. We are not certain of her birth date and need this clarified too. Hopefully we can find a death certificate that includes this information, as Kentucky birth records did not start to be recorded until 1910.

Next Steps

We would create a task to see if we can view her death certificate from a Family History Film, or if we need to order a copy. Being able to get more information from the certificate should help with answering her birth date and might provide burial information. We would check to see if there are local newspapers for Roseburg, Douglas, Oregon that had obituaries for 1912 that reveal more family information as well as her birth date.

4.4 Lillie Jupin

Lillie is the daughter of John Jupin and Malissa Hawkins, as shown in the [progress rating chart](#).

■ Jupin, Lillie B.(1)
✎ Edit



Birth: 31 May 1892
 Birth Place: Meade, Kentucky, USA

Death: 03 Oct 1922
 Death Place: Salem, Marion, Oregon, USA

Burial Place: Cremated

↓ More Relations

Screen Overview:

We have detailed information for Lillie that is backed up with good primary and secondary documents, as shown below.

Source Outcome and Score

Sources				+ Add Sources
Source Title▲	Published/Event Date	Linked Event	Media	
1910 Federal Census - Arkansas - Searcy Co., Bear Creek Twp., Page 20A	14 May 1910		1910 Census	■ 🔗 📄 ✎ ✕ 👤
1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A	16 Jun 1900		1900 Census	■ 🔗 📄 ✎ ✕ 👤
1920 Federal Census - Oregon - Marion Co., Salem, Pg 6	06 Jan 1920		1920 Census	■ 🔗 📄 ✎ ✕ 👤
Death Register for Oregon State Asylum, Lillie	1922	Death	Death Register	■ 🔗 📄 ✎ ✕ 👤
Oregon State Asylum Admittance Register, Lillie	1914	Residence	Admittance Log	■ 🔗 📄 ✎ ✕ 👤
Oregon State Insane Asylum Hospital Records, Lillie Jupin			Medical Records	■ 🔗 📄 ✎ ✕ 👤

Score			
Fact	Applicable	Source Title	Progress
First & Last Name	✓	Oregon State Asylum Admittance Register, Lillie; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; 1910 Federal Census - Arkansas - Searcy Co., Bear Creek Twp., Page 20A; Oregon State Insane Asylum Hospital Records, Lillie Jupin; 1920 Federal Census - Oregon - Marion Co., Salem, Pg 6; Death Register for Oregon State Asylum, Lillie	
Birth Date	✓	1920 Federal Census - Oregon - Marion Co., Salem, Pg 6; Oregon State Insane Asylum Hospital Records, Lillie Jupin; 1910 Federal Census - Arkansas - Searcy Co., Bear Creek Twp., Page 20A; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A	
Birth Place	✓	1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A; 1910 Federal Census - Arkansas - Searcy Co., Bear Creek Twp., Page 20A; Oregon State Insane Asylum Hospital Records, Lillie Jupin; 1920 Federal Census - Oregon - Marion Co., Salem, Pg 6	
Death Date	✓	Death Register for Oregon State Asylum, Lillie; Oregon State Insane Asylum Hospital Records, Lillie Jupin	
Death Place	✓	Oregon State Insane Asylum Hospital Records, Lillie Jupin; Death Register for Oregon State Asylum, Lillie	
Links to Either Parent	✓	Oregon State Insane Asylum Hospital Records, Lillie Jupin; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A	
Links to Spouse	✓	1910 Federal Census - Arkansas - Searcy Co., Bear Creek Twp., Page 20A; Oregon State Insane Asylum Hospital Records, Lillie Jupin	
Links to other Family Member	✗	Oregon State Insane Asylum Hospital Records, Lillie Jupin; 1910 Federal Census - Arkansas - Searcy Co., Bear Creek Twp., Page 20A; 1900 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Brandenburg, Pg 11B & 12A	

Screen Overview:

We have detailed information for each of the applicable facts, which give enough details to verify her life events.

Analysis

Primary sources have been used to verify her life important events and relationships. We are satisfied with our results.

Next Steps

We are done researching Lillie.

4.5 Case Study Summary

Adding sources for fact verification of life events and relationships is used to help verify the person belongs in the tree and that you have the correct information.

You won't always be able to find primary sources. Sometimes it will be the accumulation of secondary sources that indirectly help answer the event and relationship questions.

When analyzing your sources and rating them, keep an open mind about who answered the questions or wrote the document? What was their knowledge? Was the document created near the time of the event? What was the intent of the document? Many of these documents contain mixed primary and secondary information.

Create tasks based on what you know and what you want to find out. Do pre-research to see what is available before delving into a research project that can last several years. Keep good notes to help move you in a forward direction with your family history.

Organize your findings, and keep track of what you have researched by using folders that can be setup by person and cross filed by last name, decade, or record type.

Keeping an up to date research log of what has been researched, successful or not. This will stop you from doing the same research over and over again.

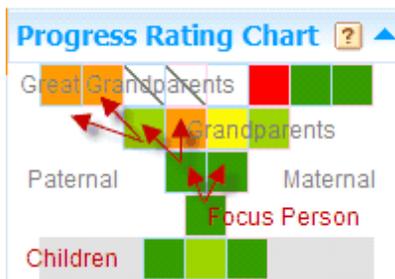
Part



5 Progress Rating Chart

With our color-coded progress rating chart that shows five (5) generations at a glance, it will help users to see ‘the big picture’ and help identify what documents are missing to verify the life important events and family relationships.

The chart shows the person’s maternal side on the right and the fraternal side on the left. It shows three (3) generations above the focus person, and one (1) generation of descendants below. The color coding results are based on the cumulative sources for that person. This helps genealogists understand where they need to do more family research.



Screen Overview:

Squares outlined in pink signify a female.

Squares outlined in blue signify a male.

Squares with a line through them signify the person is missing from the family tree.

Squares that are white signify they have no sources.

Important Note:

When you are on a screen that shows the Progress Rating Chart, select any square and that person will become the focus person.

Hover over the square to see the details of that person.

The example above reveals the focus person’s paternal great-grandparents (linked to the grandmother) are missing.

5.1 How Rating Colors are Achieved

Every person is born and dies on a certain day in a certain place, and has a set of parents, and are related to other people. Most people get married and therefore have a spouse, and usually have children. Tracking the events and relationships that we each have is important to verifying our family history. The people in your tree may still be alive, may not have children, or never married, or could be deceased. We have provided a way for each person to customize what they want to track and research.

Adding Sources to your Tree

After setting up your progress rating, you will want to start to add sources. Sources are documents (oral and written) that serve as proof to support information in your family tree. Sources should support each of the facts and information from a variety of documents. In order to rate a source, you need to know where the information came from; what evidence it provides by the strengths and weaknesses of that source.

In our program, when adding a new source you will be asked to mark some boxes. Which boxes do you choose? Choose the boxes that are applicable to the information that can be extracted from your source.

Part of the source screen will also ask for other source information that needs to be added, such as author, publication information, etc. Then you will use some drop down boxes to rate the information within the source, not the document itself.

Sources are given a color based on your setup and the boxes marked when adding a source.

Marking facts that are not applicable according to your rating setup, will not count towards your score for that person. It is best to mark all applicable boxes, just in case you change your progress rating criteria, then you won't have to redo any work.



Source Title ▲						
1850 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co, Pg 405	■					
1870 Federal Census - Kentucky - Meade Co., Court House, Pg 18	■					

Screen Overview:

This shows the sources and the [score](#) of the sources for the focus person from the Tree Tab. Optionally you can see information from the Content Tab.

Important Note:

A source linked to multiple people may have a different rating for each person based on what boxes were checked and what category the person falls into.

Any source that you link to other family members, the reliability, quality, and information stays the same for each person. For more information, see [Attach Sources to Multiple People](#). The Facts that are applicable to each person will be displayed so you can mark which facts are applicable for each person.

5.1.1 Progress Rating Score

Color is based on the accumulation of sources for a person and how the source was rated. For a person to get to dark green (desired rating), they must have at least two (2) sources, unless the source is rated as firsthand knowledge, then the facts that are marked will be dark green. Remember, sources have a combined rating based on the applicable facts. The Score is based on all the sources added to your ancestor.

If a person in your file is more than 100 years old and you do not have a death date for them, the program will place that person in the deceased category. If finding death information is applicable to your 'deceased' settings, this person will need to have these facts marked to get to dark green. You can see the Applicable facts, the sources, and current rating for the focus person from the Content Area of the Tree Tab.

Score ▲			
Fact	Applicable	Source Title	Progress
First & Last Name	✓	1930 Federal Census, Oregon - Jackson - Ashland, Page 1B; Death Certificate, Donald F Gay; Social Security SS-5 Form, Donald F Gay; Military Personnel Records; Birth Registration, Sherry Lou Gay; Muster Roll of US Marine Corp; California Marriage Index, 1965-1985, Donald F Gay	
Birth Date	✓	Death Certificate, Donald F Gay; Social Security SS-5 Form, Donald F Gay; Military Personnel Records; California Marriage Index, 1965-1985, Donald F Gay	
Birth Place	✓	Death Certificate, Donald F Gay; Social Security SS-5 Form, Donald F Gay; Military Personnel Records	
Death Date	✓	Death Certificate, Donald F Gay	
Death Place	✓	Death Certificate, Donald F Gay	
Links to Either Parent	✓	(missing historical documents)	
Links to Spouse	✓	Birth Registration, Sherry Lou Gay; California Marriage Index, 1965-1985, Donald F Gay	
Links to other Family Member	✗	Birth Registration, Sherry Lou Gay	

Screen Overview:

In order for anyone to be dark green, all their facts must have at least one (1) "✓" for the applicable facts, as set up by the user. This is a condition, so that if a person has enough documents to be considered dark green, but only has five (5) of the required seven (7) boxes "✓", per the customers Progress Rating Setup, that person will not be dark green.

5.1.2 Progress Rating Setup

To establish what facts you want to track, use the progress rating setup in the Administration Tab, by marking the applicable boxes. Those facts then need to be verified with sources. For example, if you require all eight (8) facts to be verified by sources, it will take several documents to back up the facts. This is more work than having to find documents to verify four (4) facts. However, the more boxes you chose, the more reliable your family tree will be and will follow more closely to genealogical proof standards.

Progress Rating Setup		Groups of People			
S.No	Fact	Married & Deceased	Not Married & Deceased	Married & Alive	Not Married & Alive
1	First & Last Name	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Birth Date	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Birth Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Death Date	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Death Place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Links to Either Parent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Links to Spouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Links to other Family Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Screen Overview:

Groups of People

All people can be found as being associated within one (1) of the four (4) four groups. You choose which life events and relationships you want to track for your ancestors that fall into each group: Married and Alive, Not Married and Alive, Married and Deceased, Not Married and Deceased.

Life Events

All of us are born on a certain day, and place; given a name; and die on a certain day and place. Of course there are other life events, but these are the events that happen to all of us, so they are included as part of the rating scale.

Types of Relationships

Everyone at a minimum has parents. As a general rule you have at least one other relationship, either as: siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, etc. By including relationships you build a more credible and reliable family tree. It is too easy for someone to find a single document with the person's name and assume the person is "the relative" that you have in your tree, especially when the document only has the person's name and no other family member listed on the document. To help solve this problem, we have added the ability to track relationships which will help strengthen the reliability of your family tree. When you find a document that has the parents names, spouse name, or

other family member such as: a sibling, cousin, uncle, or aunt, mark the appropriate box.

Part



6 In Closing

We hope we have helped you to understand a little bit more about genealogy and hope you start to explore your family tree a little bit more in depth by adding sources to verify your family information.

Try building your tree with our program, that is loaded with lots of genealogy features.

Start a **FREE** trial membership at <http://www.family-genealogy.com>



6.1 About the Document

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6.2 About the Author

Brandy Sacco is the owner and founder of ourFamilyology, Inc. as well as the ourFamilyology online genealogy program. As a genealogy hobbyist with more than 18 years of experience, she recognized the epidemic of people copying family histories that are unverified and not supported up with sources. She felt compelled to remedy this by creating a program that actually helps people create source verified, responsible family histories.

Prior to starting ourFamilyology, she was an executive at a Fortune 500 company. Her abilities as a team leader were quickly recognized as she spearheaded the development and deployment of a multitude of world-wide projects. She is known for her troubleshooting abilities and has the know-how and can-do attitude to get the job done in difficult to near impossible situations.

Brandy has spoken at RootsTech, is a member of National Genealogical Society, The Bergen County Historical Society, and is involved with several groups that are trying to increase the awareness and advocate standards that will help shape the future of genealogy.