

Class 4 Theme: We must do all we can do and have Faith that God will do the rest.

Matthew 13:31 tells the parable of the mustard seed. To that, Joseph Smith added, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of a mustard seed. The mustard seed is small, but brings forth a large tree, and the fowls lodge in the branches. The fowls are the angels.* Thus angels come down, combine together to gather their children, and gather them. We cannot be made perfect without them, nor they without us, when these things are done, the Son of Man will descend, the Ancient of Days sit; we may come to an innumerable company of angels, have communion with and receive instruction from them.” Joseph Smith (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 159)

“I have a conviction born of a little experience to which I bear testimony that there are forces beyond this life that are working with us. . . have the simple faith that when you do everything you can, researching to the last of your opportunity, the Lord will help you to open doors to go further with your genealogies, and heaven will cooperate, I am sure” – Harold B. Lee, Williams, Clyde J. The Teachings of Harold B. L. p. 573. 1996.

“The spirit and influence of your dead will guide those who are interested in finding those records. If there is anywhere on the earth anything concerning them, you will find it.” – Bryant S. Hinckley, Sermons and Missionary Services of Melvin J. Ballard, Deseret Book, 1949, p 230.

“Revelation comes to individual members as they are led to discover their family records in ways that are miraculous indeed. And there is a feeling of inspiration attending this work that can be found in no other. When we have done all that we can do, we shall be given the rest. The way will be opened up.” Elder Boyd K. Packer, Ensign, Nov 1975, 99

“Confirm upon us the Spirit of Elijah, we pray thee, that we may thus redeem our dead and also connect ourselves with our fathers who have passed behind the veil... Wilt thou also permit holy messengers to visit us within these sacred walls and make known unto us with regard to the work we should perform in behalf of our dead. And, as thou hast inclined the hearts of many to search out their progenitors... bless them, we pray thee, in their labors, that they may not fall into errors in preparing their genealogies; and furthermore, we ask thee to open before them new avenues of information, and place in their hands the records of the past that their work may not only be correct but complete also.” – President Wilford Woodruff, dedicatory prayer of Salt Lake Temple

Assignment

1. Contact your Ward Clerk, have him print out your membership record, or give you the member number and confirmation date.
2. With this information register for IIGI
3. Bring PAF backup to next class

Discussion/ Theory

Learn what others have done

What research has been done by other family members? If possible obtain copies from relatives that you may know have done research. There are many sources containing files that can be checked for previous research. Fortunately for us many of these are on a computer. The Church has provided much help for us to meet our Family History responsibilities.

Research on individuals and families compiled by others, such as family histories, biographies, or genealogies can save time. Occasionally, when using information from compiled records, you will find conflicting information. Always carefully evaluate the information you find. Examples of large collections of compiled records include Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource File. Both are found on familysearch.org.

Keys to Correctly Identifying Your Ancestors.

- Ancestors are always identified by four factors: a name, a date, a place and a relationship. (Required to submit for temple ordinances)
- Does the ancestor live at the right time and in the right place?
- Ancestors can be linked to a spouse, children, parents, brothers, and sisters.
- Is the ancestor married to the right person?
- Do the names of the ancestor's children match the names you have gathered?
- Ancestors can be identified by occupation, property ownership, and physical description.
- The more identifying characteristics of an ancestor you find, the greater likelihood you have found your ancestor from among their neighbors with similar surnames.

Always working from the *known* to the *unknown*.

Ancestral File: Ancestral File is a lineage_linked database compiled by the Church, containing 35 million names submitted by users of FamilySearch. It has been around for about 25 years. It is a searchable database, but it can no longer be updated or corrected. The information is NOT verified or checked by anyone, so there are many errors. You will only find deceased individuals in this file.

Pedigree Resource File: The Pedigree Resource File (PRF) is another database of records. It is available on compact disc and contains family history records submitted by individuals through FamilySearch Internet, via the Internet. Family information is organized in family groups and pedigrees and includes submitted notes and sources. It is a fairly new database that began in 1999 and currently contains 45+ million names. Like Ancestral File, the Pedigree Resource File has NOT been checked for accuracy, so it is very important to verify information found there! What you see on FamilySearch Internet is only the index to this file. To see the complete submission, you must use the Pedigree Resource File CDs, found at some Family History Centers. They can also be purchased through FamilySearch Internet.

What is the Difference between Ancestral File and the Pedigree Resource File?

There are three main differences:

- Ancestral File is no longer an active file, meaning there will be no more submissions accepted, although you can still use the database as a resource; Pedigree Resource File submissions are uploaded to the internet. This means that the PRF is more current as well as the only place to submit files.
- Ancestral File have tired to merge the duplicate people together, which created errors in some cases. In the Pedigree Resource File, separate submissions are not merged with any others, and corrections cannot be made to the files. Thus, you can find only one Prophet Joseph Smith in the Ancestral File, but you could find ten or twenty in the Pedigree Resource File.
- No sources for event dates, places and relationships, or notes can be included in Ancestral File. The Pedigree Resource File allows you to see an exact copy of the submitter's notes and sources (since none of the information is merged).

Ancestral File vs. Pedigree Resource File Comparison Chart

	Ancestral File	Pedigree Resource File
Names	35 + million names. Now closed to new submissions.	45+ million names and continually increasing
Availability	Found on Internet Found at all Family History Centers	Only the Index is on the Internet CDs must be purchased to see the complete information _ some Family History Centers have them
Data	All information merged together. Does not connect information with the submitter ? Cannot see sources or notes.	Information not merged with others' submissions Submitter's name (+ additional info.) listed at bottom of information. Can see additional sources and notes from submitter.
Living data	Living data not shown.	Living data not shown unless submitted.
Using the Info	Can make GEDCOMs from internet or Network version . Can only GEDCOM 4 generations at a time.	Can make GEDCOMs from actual CD only. Can GEDCOM all generations provided.
Updating/Correcting	Closed file; updates and corrections are no longer accepted.	Upload over the internet (best option currently)