

FamilySearch is a non-profit, volunteer-driven service of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It offers a free website with billions of records, a collaborative family tree, and free research help. FamilySearch has added improvements to Family Tree. There is a new landscape pedigree with icons encouraging cleanup of the tree. There is a relationship calculator. There are sources pointing to the extracted IGI records used to prepopulate Family Tree.

The landscape pedigree view contains various colored icons indicating several possible ways to clean up Family Tree. I've shown them below with the popups enlarged for legibility.

One icon type indicates that the computer has found sources that might be useful for documenting the information in the tree. These are like Ancestry.com's shaky leaves, so they should be considered carefully before attaching. FamilySearch has added a relationship calculator for relatives within your scope of interest. Your scope of interest is defined as four generations of ancestors and their children. When viewing the person page of someone in your scope of interest, you can see a link to "View My Relationship." Click the link to see a graphical representation of your relationship to that person. Again, this is only available for your ancestors up to your 3rd-great-grandparents and then down one from each of these ancestors. Most people know that FamilySearch seeded Family Tree with information from older databases. However, they didn't create any sources to indicate which database they got the information from. FamilySearch is rectifying that for persons in Family Tree that were created from the high quality extracted records of the International Genealogical Index (IGI). As of last report, they have created sources for 100 million of the 500 million planned. An IGI source looks no different from any other sources until the source is opened. Then you will see a message indicating the source is from the IGI.

FamilySearch is excited about its new indexing system. They haven't released it yet, but it is "coming later this year." Over 100,000 volunteers are indexing billions of records. Indexing is important and anyone can do it. It's a good way to give back to the community and you decide how much time you wish to spend. And while you may not index your own ancestor's records, you will index someone else's ancestors and someone else will index yours.

Mike Fisher

Please Note:- there will be no meeting in the Methodist Centre

During July and August

For our September meeting on the 8th we have "The iron Maidens – Women at War in WWII"

by Ron Gallivan. - Note the date in your diary!