

# Untangling the Knots

## *in your Family Tree*

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### DESCRIPTION

*Anyone who has spent some time on FamilySearch has stumbled upon a few difficult knots that seem impossible to untangle. Don't let those knots discourage you from using this phenomenal tool and world tree to its fullest. Come and learn how to untangle those knots using Ancestry, FindMyPast, & MyHeritage. This class will discuss tried and true methods that combine the power of all four major genealogy websites to help you untie the knots and straighten your family tree.*



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### BACKGROUND

- What is FamilySearch & how is it different?
  - History of FamilySearch and its record database
  - A wiki (always getting better)
- Why use FamilySearch?
  - 100+ years worth of research
  - Ultimate collaboration
  - Free personal help
  - Longevity of your research
  - Reduction of duplications
  - Connect with relatives and participate
  - Auto discovery features

## UNTANGLING THE KNOTS

- Find the knots, (if you don't already have one)
  - Start from self and work up: "Data Problems" icon
  - Look for knots: Tree Sweeper:  
<https://beta.treesweeper.fhtl.byu.edu/start>
  - FamilySearch: "Recommended Tasks"
- Analyze what you already know
  - Analyze the attached sources
  - Review the "Latest Changes"
  - Start a family group sheet
- Decide what you need to know
  - Start a research log
- Research
  - Use technology:
    - Set up online trees: How to build new tree based off of only the few facts that you know
      - Ancestry: Most total records available
      - My Heritage: Strongest global scope including B, M, & D records from 32 countries
      - Find My Past: Extensive Irish, Scottish, and English records
    - Choose a "home base" tree
    - Install the apps
    - Set up Google alerts
  - Perform additional research
    - Learn about the locality: FamilySearch Wiki
    - Use other research websites and resources
  - Update your research log and family group sheet as you work
- Record your results
  - Update the FamilySearch Family Tree
    - Verify all sources have been attached
    - Verify all family facts are updated
    - Merge duplicates
    - "Watch" the ancestor to get notifications if information is changed on this person
  - Update all other online trees with confirmed information
- Start over

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*When you decide to connect to the open public FamilySearch Family Tree you get*

**connected to millions**

*of other users from literally all over the world . . .*

*It truly is a global family tree. You also connect to more than a billion potential ancestors and billions of records, once again from all corners of the world.*

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Steve Rockwood  
RootsTech 2018