

Climbing Your FamilySearch Tree

If you want this document in electronic form, so you can click on links, e-mail david@rodeback.com.

Step One: Log In

- If you don't already have **your own account at LDS.org**, create one. You'll use this account for FamilySearch too, including indexing. To create it, you'll need your membership record number (see your temple recommend or ask a clerk or consultant to help you get it).
- Here's a direct link: <https://ldsaccount.lds.org/site/register?isMember=true>
- If you already have an account, go straight to [FamilySearch.org](https://familysearch.org) and log in.
- **If you get stuck** and want help, don't be shy. Ask a child or grandchild, or a home or visiting teacher, or have David Rodeback (801-369-2626, david@rodeback.com) send you a family history consultant. Don't hesitate. This is what they do.
- Go to your tree.

Step Two: Connect the Generations

- Due to privacy concerns (and laws), FamilySearch is reluctant to show you what it knows about living people. So **check your own information in the tree** – your children, too – and then **start adding your parents and grandparents**. If they're deceased, search for them and add existing FamilySearch records. If they're living, you'll have to add the information manually.
- Once you're able to add a deceased person's record in one of your lines, you'll usually see additional generations in that line filled in automatically.
- **If you get stuck** and want help, don't be shy. (See above.)

Step Three: Search Your Tree for Ripe, ahem, Fruit

- For the first few generations in your tree, FamilySearch will simply show you if ordinances are needed. Hover over or click on **the temple icon** near each name for information on each person. For generations further back, you may have to look at each person's record.
- Note that, **if a deceased person was born less than 110 years ago**, you need permission from the nearest relative to do that person's temple ordinances.
- If you're looking for names to take to the temple and don't find any among your direct ancestors, **go back several generations and work your way through lines other than your own** (your cousins), looking for unfinished ordinances.
- If you **get stuck or want help** preparing a name for ordinance work (including a crucial step, checking for duplicates), you know what to do, right? (See above.)
- Take notes as you search your tree, so you can remember where you've already looked.

(If what you really want to do is procrastinate your own work by reading about family history instead of doing it, you'll find links to 20 essays by David Rodeback at bit.ly/dr-familyhistory.)