



# TREE GROWTH PLAN

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*The Family Tree at FamilySearch provides a way to gather in one place everyone that has ever lived on earth. You can help grow this tree and help others see their family.*

*There are five activities in each of the four areas: index, link, grow, and engage + a final activity on day 21. Many of these activities build on tools developed at BYU.*

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN:** Be sure to visit our website and fill out the Pre-Experiment Survey!

**TAKE  
SURVEY**

## 1 REVERSE INDEXING

BYU has a way to automatically read handwritten text in historical records, but the machine sometimes makes mistakes. Just click on the ones that don't belong in the group. Feel free to start with your own surname: [indexing.fhnl.byu.edu/home](http://indexing.fhnl.byu.edu/home)

## 2 MOBILE INDEXING

It is nice to squeeze in a bit of service when we have a few minutes. Mobile indexing is a way to quickly do a bit of indexing. Just pick the name that best matches the image or type in what you think it is: [bit.ly/index-phone](http://bit.ly/index-phone)

## 3 FIX AN EXISTING INDEX

Getting a person's name right in a record is really important for helping people find their family. Look at the census records that are attached to your grandparents and see if their name was misspelled in any records. If they were, you can often submit a correction on the record. Here is a link to an example person whose surname was misspelled: [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VT4Z-TKP](http://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VT4Z-TKP)

## 4 INDEX DIRECTLY TO THE FAMILY TREE

Not all of the fields in census records are indexed. Knowing what your ancestor's occupation was can be really insightful. Look up the occupation of one of your ancestors in a census record and put that information onto their profile (under other information). For example, the following person was listed as a farmer in the 1940 census: [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VT4Z-TKP](http://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VT4Z-TKP)

## 5 FAMILYSEARCH INDEXING

FamilySearch has lots of indexing projects. Take a look at the current projects and see if there is one that is a good fit for you: [familysearch.org/indexing/](http://familysearch.org/indexing/)

## 6 ATTACH RECORDS FOR YOUR SURNAME

BYU has created a web app that lets you access record hints for people with your surname. Just type your name in the customized hints app and each dot on the screen will take you to a record you can attach to people on the Family Tree: [bit.ly/rll-hints](http://bit.ly/rll-hints)



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## ATTACH RECORDS FOR A PLACE YOU LOVE

BYU has created a web app that lets you access record hints for people living in a country, state, or county. Just type in the name of a place that is meaningful to you and each dot on the screen will take you to a record you can attach to people on the Family Tree: [bit.ly/rll-hints](https://bit.ly/rll-hints)

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## DO TASKS ON MOBILE APP

Log in to the FamilySearch mobile app. Find the “tasks” button and try out some of these record hints for people you are related to.

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## ATTACH RECORDS TO YOUR ANCESTORS

Look at your fanchart on familysearch.org and click on the option for “research helps”. Any name that you see marked in blue has a record hint that you can attach. These records are a great way to find new information about your family.

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## SIGN UP FOR THE 5-A-DAY EMAIL LIST

BYU has created an email service that will send you an email each day with five record hints that you can do. These hints are designed to add new people to the tree and help others learn more about their family. Click this link to join the email list: [bit.ly/hints-email](https://bit.ly/hints-email)

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## USE HINTS CAMPAIGN

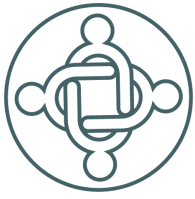
FamilySearch has a hints campaign that will give you tree-extending hints. These are record hints for your ancestors that will add new people to the Family Tree: [familysearch.org/campaign/hints](https://familysearch.org/campaign/hints)

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## TRY GOLDIE MAY

Goldie May provides a tool that will allow you to add entire new families to the Family Tree. These families are from US census records and have been curated to only include families where no one in the family is already on the Family Tree. Download May and then go to the volunteering tab: [app.goldiemay.com/](https://app.goldiemay.com/)





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## ADD PEOPLE FROM OBITUARIES

Obituaries provide rich information about individuals who have passed away. You can use the information from an obituary to add someone to the Family Tree and make it possible for their family members to find them and see the link to the obituary. Here is a video that shows how to do this: [bit.ly/rll-obits](https://bit.ly/rll-obits)

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## ADD PEOPLE FROM CENSUS RECORDS

You can help grow the tree for a place that you care about by adding families from the census records in that place to the Family Tree. Here is a video that shows you how: [bit.ly/add-from-census](https://bit.ly/add-from-census)

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## ADD PEOPLE FROM A HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK

A high school yearbook can provide a lot of information about someone's ancestors (including a cool photo). You can find a high school yearbook from your community from before 1930 and make sure that the people in the yearbook are on the Family Tree. Here is a video that shows you how: [bit.ly/rll-hs-yearbooks](https://bit.ly/rll-hs-yearbooks)

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## HELP SOMEONE ADD A PHOTO

Photos can be a powerful discovery experience for people when they see their family on the Family Tree. Find someone in your community that has photos of their grandparents and help them add those photos to the Family Tree. It is likely that other relatives will love seeing those photos.

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## GROW THE TREE FOR SOMEONE

Ask someone to tell you about their grandparents and see if you can find them on the Family Tree. Help add their grandparents to the tree and branch out from there using records on FamilySearch and records and public trees on Ancestry. You'll find that you connect with lots of people already on the tree and will be able to show your neighbor so much information about their family.

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## DISCOVER HOW YOU ARE RELATED TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

Look up your neighbor's grandparents on the Family Tree while you are logged in. Then click "view my relationship" and you'll be able to see your personal connection with each other. If your neighbor already has a FamilySearch account, you can also use the "relatives around me" feature on the mobile app or the Relative Finder app.



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HELP YOUR  
NEIGHBOR SET  
UP A  
FAMILYSEARCH  
ACCOUNT

When someone sets up their free FamilySearch account, it helps to have someone there to assist. Spend a few minutes to help a neighbor set up a FamilySearch account and then add in enough information to link back to people who are already on the Family Tree.

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HELP YOUR  
NEIGHBOR SEE  
THEIR  
RELATIONSHIP  
TO A FAMOUS  
PERSON

If your neighbor has a FamilySearch account, you can search for their favorite famous deceased person (Lucille Ball, Fred Rogers, Walt Disney, Alexander Hamilton, etc.) Once you find the profile of that person, have them click “view my relationship” and they can see if they have a personal connection. Here is a video how to do that: <http://bit.ly/rll-famous>

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PICK A  
PROJECT THAT  
IS MEANINGFUL  
TO YOU

Now that you have a lot of great tools for growing the tree, find a part of the tree where you want to have an impact. Use your new tools to expand the tree for that place and look for ways to invite others to help you and see their family.

WHEN YOU'RE DONE: Be sure to visit our website and fill out the Post-Experiment Survey!

**TAKE  
SURVEY**

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Share your progress with us  
on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#),  
[Twitter](#), or [TikTok](#) using the  
hashtag #21DayExperiment

# TREE GROWTH PLAN

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DAY 1

☐

Reverse Indexing

DAY 12

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Try Goldie May

DAY 2

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Mobile Indexing

DAY 13

☐

Add People From Obituaries

DAY 3

☐

Fix an Existing Index

DAY 14

☐

Add People From Census Records

DAY 4

☐

Index Directly to the Family Tree

DAY 15

☐

Add People From a High School Yearbook

DAY 5

☐

FamilySearch Indexing

DAY 16

☐

Help Someone Add a Photo

DAY 6

☐

Attach Records for Your Surname

DAY 17

☐

Grow the Tree for Someone

DAY 7

☐

Attach Records for a Place You Love

DAY 18

☐

Discover How You Are Related to Your Neighbor

DAY 8

☐

Do Tasks on Mobile App

DAY 19

☐

Help Your Neighbor Set Up a FamilySearch Account

DAY 9

☐

Attach Records To Your Ancestors

DAY 20

☐

Help Your Neighbor See Their Relationship to a Famous Person

DAY 10

☐

Sign Up for the 5-a-Day Email List

DAY 21

☐

Pick a Project That is Meaningful to You

DAY 11

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Use Hints Campaign