New Tools for Finding Your Missing Cousins

FamilySearch | THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Why Should I do Descendancy Research?

"If your chart is as complete as mine, there is still very important work for you to do. . . . We call it 'finding our cousins.'"

Neil L. Andersen, "Find Our Cousins!"
(address given at the RootsTech Family Discovery Day devotional, Feb. 8, 2014)
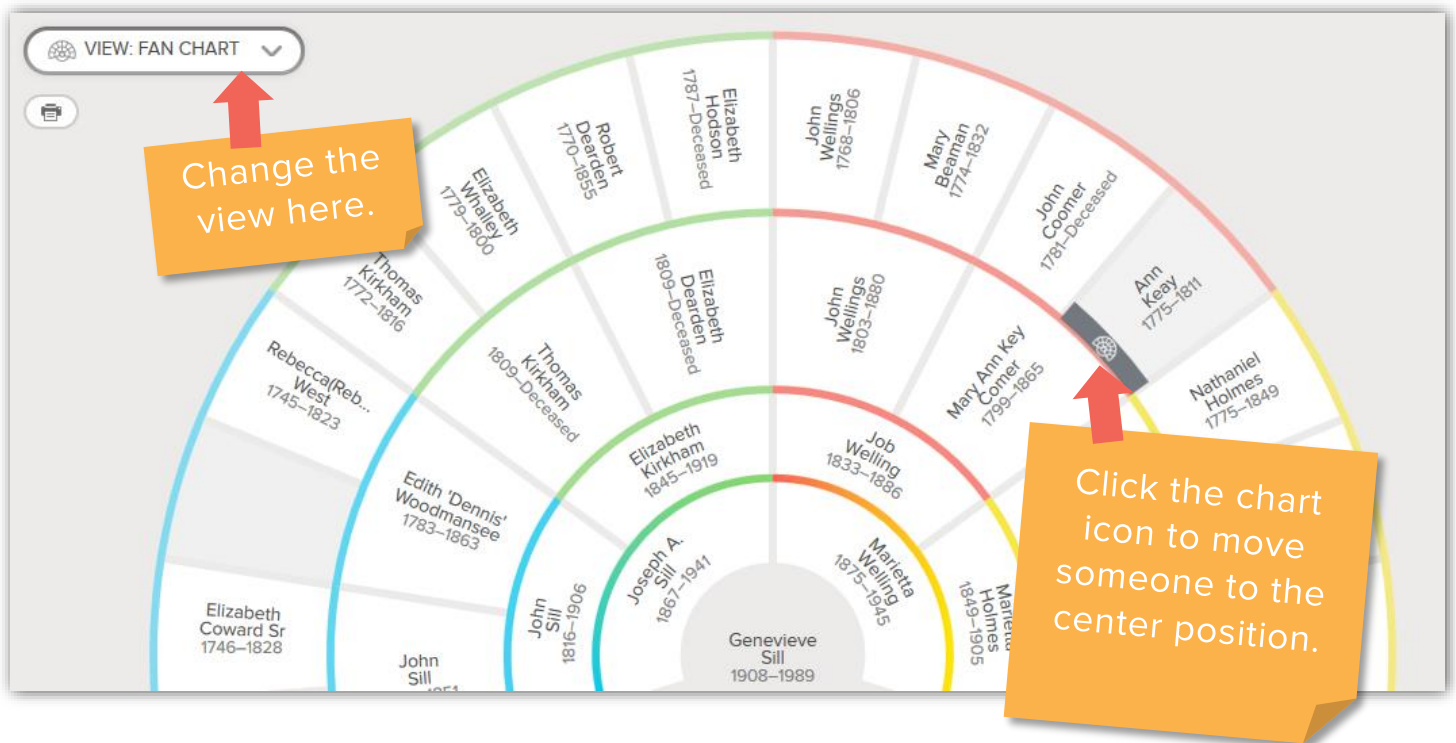

Descendancy Research Process

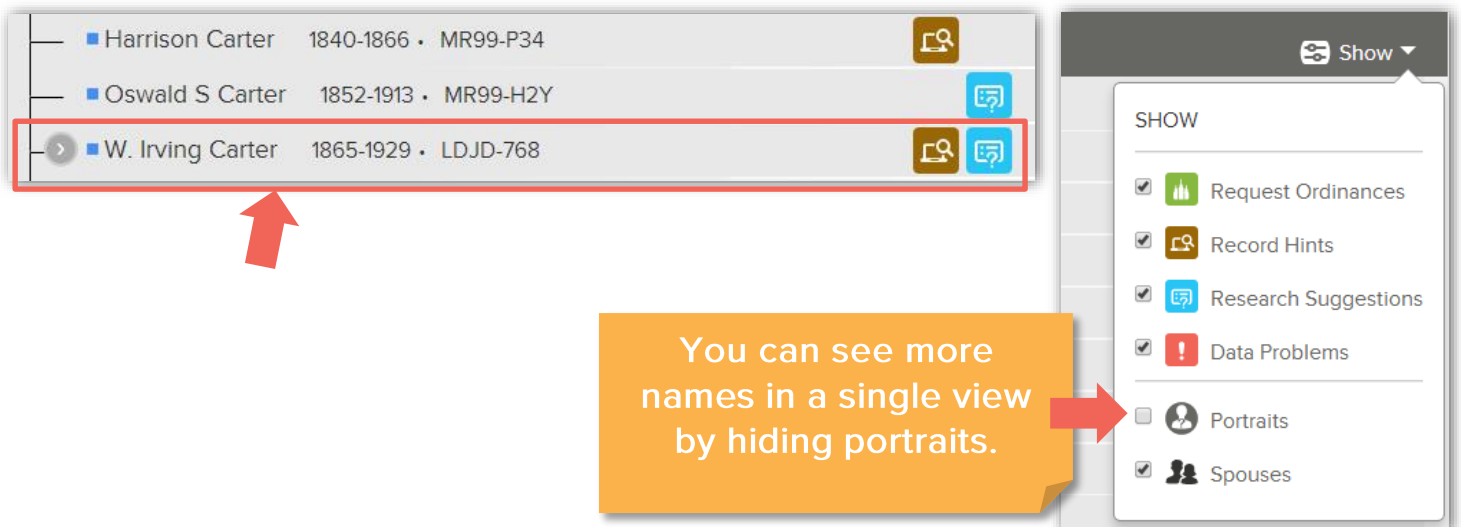| Choose an Ancestor | Select a Descendant | Find a Record | Attach Record and Add People | Reserve Ordinances | Print the FOR |

Choose an Ancestor

Review your grandparents' great- and great-great-grandparents to identify an ancestor who might have descendants missing from Family Tree. Choose an ancestor who was born before 1830 and had descendants who were not members of the Church. It can be helpful to focus on someone from England, the United States, or Canada.
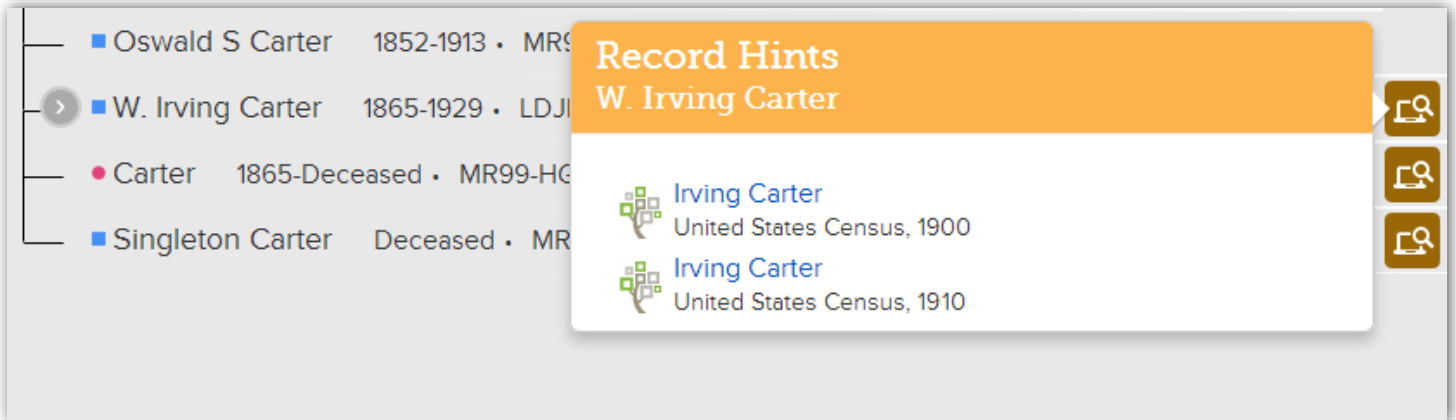

Select a Descendant

Change the view to descendancy, and select a descendant who has both a Record Hints and a Research Suggestions icon next to his or her name.
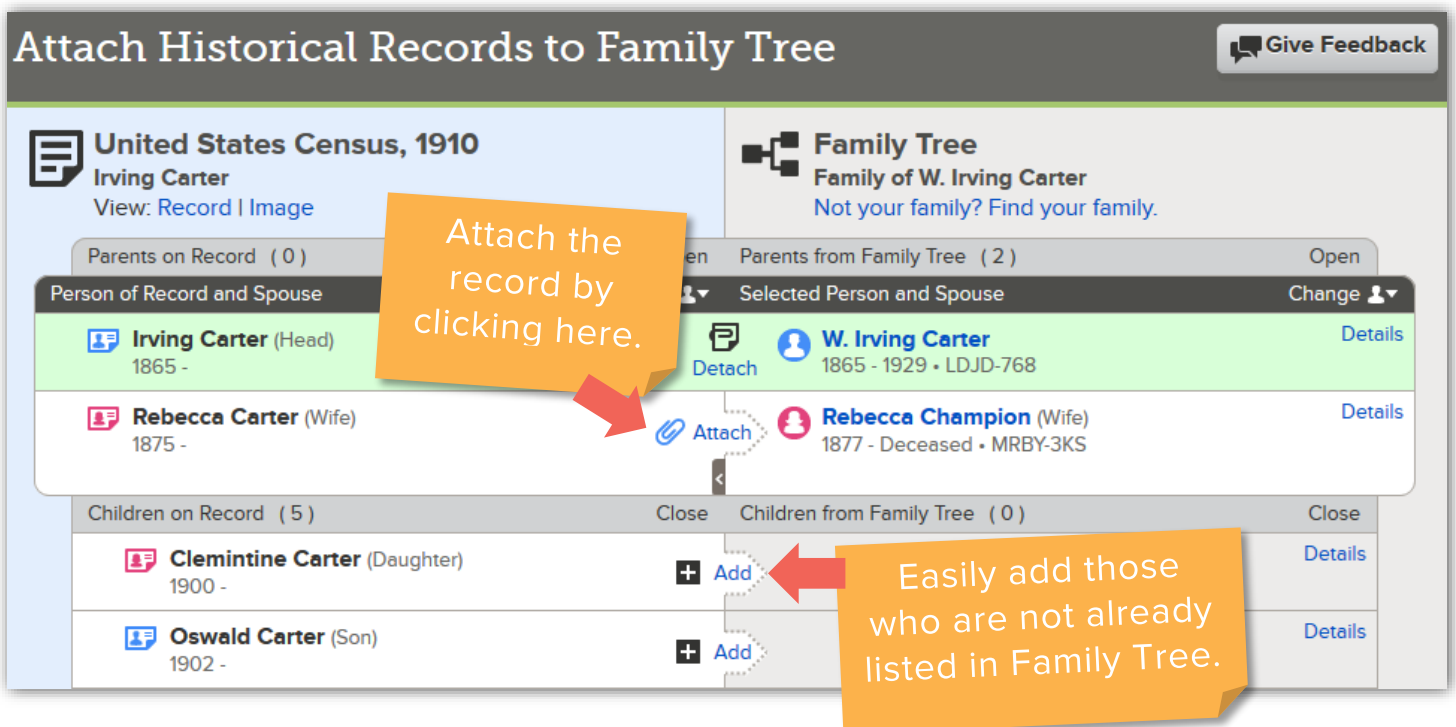
Find a Record

Find a record for the family using Record Hints. Make sure that the record is for the correct family by comparing the information on the record with the information in Family Tree. Find the family in more than one record to add helpful clues, new family members, and stronger conclusions.
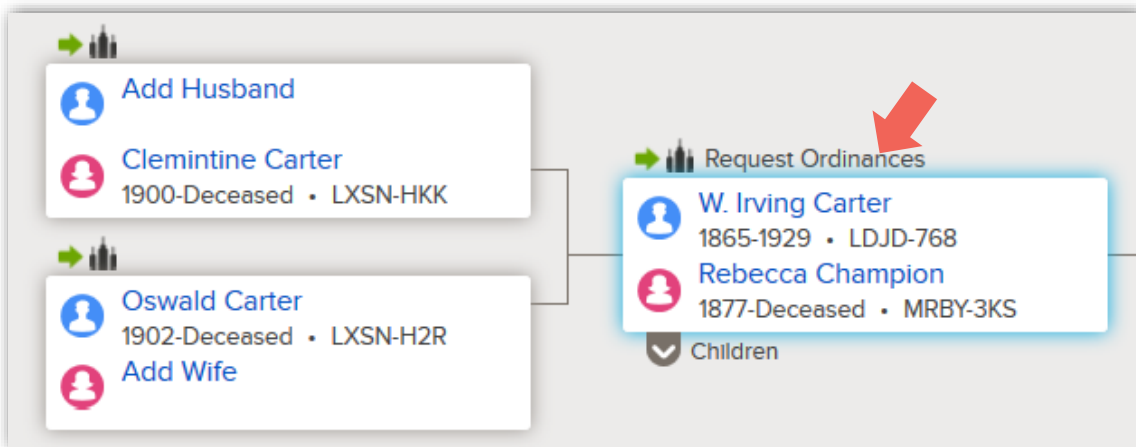

Attach Record and Add People

Attach the record to those already in Family Tree. Click **Add** to add people who are not already listed in Family Tree. The system will look for duplicates. Repeat these steps for all of the records you have found.

Reserve Ordinances

Reserve ordinances for multiple family members from the Family Tree traditional view. Make sure to review possible duplicates, and then select the ordinances you would like to reserve. Review the Church policy statement, and remember that permission from one of the closest living relatives is required to do ordinances for individuals who were born within the last 110 years.

Print the Family Ordinance Request (FOR)

Use the Temple list to print a Family Ordinance Request. Take the FOR to the temple, where a temple worker will create the blue or pink ordinance cards for you.