

# Topic 7: Why Use an Affiliate Genealogy Program

To understand why genealogists use affiliate genealogy programs in addition to *FamilySearch Family Tree*, we must first understand why we use *Family Tree*.

## *FamilySearch Family Tree*

1. *FamilySearch Family Tree (FSFT)* is the only way to submit names for temple work.
2. It is a good idea to enter and save your information at *FamilySearch* because you can access it anywhere, as long as you have access to the internet. It is possible to add a person's voice explaining something (under *Memories*) or pictures with your cell phone of a tombstone when you are in the town of an ancestor.
3. Think of *FSFT* as the "Book of Life" spoken of in the *Book of Revelations*. The LDS church is committed to having "a book containing the records of our dead, which shall be worthy of all acceptation" (D&C 128:24). We all want to be included.
4. There are many apps that work with *FSFT* to make family history enjoyable and help families grow closer. Go to the bottom of the home page of FS and click on **App Gallery**.
5. It is fast and easy to link sources at *FamilySearch* into *FSFT* without as much data entry, but that can also result in sources being entered incorrectly. It is imperative to study each source.
6. *FamilySearch* is free; and therefore, many people use it more than any other program. This means there are more beginners and more potential for errors. However, this can become a great missionary opportunity: befriend fellow researchers and help them learn how to use the program.
7. When family members live in different countries and want to share information, *FSFT* is the easiest way to make that possible. You can post copies of original documents in *Memories* so researchers in another country can study them and translate them if necessary.
8. It is safe. Living individuals can only be seen by the person who posted them.
9. You can do research at affiliate sites for free only if you have an account at *FSFT*. Searching affiliate sites is faster because the *FSFT* search engine automatically "fills in the search form."
10. If you use the applicable HINTS in *FSFT*, your work will be accepted as credible. Later when you are no longer on the earth, your descendants can pick up where you stopped and perhaps go further toward solving potential issues you faced, because more records will be available. Remember: Documenting correctly (such as answering the question "Why do you think it is important to add this source?") when you work on your research will mean less correcting later.
11. You can enter sufficient information to persuade others to understand the assertions you have made. Every name, place, and date you enter is really the "assertion of a fact", and that assertion should be supported by evidence.
12. Because *FamilySearch* is a *Wiki* website, anyone can change the information on any deceased person. This is good because there are many people in the world who may have evidence you need. If you have a common ancestry, working with others can speed up your work.

## Benefits of Affiliate Stand-Alone Programs

1. Stand-alone means the software can work with a battery or a plugged-in computer anywhere there is electricity. This means it is faster than being online. No one can corrupt your data if you take adequate care with virus and hardware protections.
2. Three affiliate programs sync with *FSFT: Ancestral Quest, Legacy Family Tree, and RootsMagic*. Save time setting up your stand-alone program because your family members already viewable at *Family Tree* can be downloaded. Later, data can instantly sync between the two programs.
3. Since *FS* is a *Wiki* website, it is possible to have someone delete an entire family branch or merge a family member and take that member elsewhere. So, you want to keep your own personal copy of information on your home computer or flash drive to correct or upload to *FSFT* if necessary.
4. If you used one of these affiliate stand-alone programs, you can add more sources that the family may have that have not yet been shared at *FamilySearch*, including personal insights, sources, and images. For example, *FSFT* may not have the source of the original immigrant, such as a printed family book a grandparent made that has not been cited at *FamilySearch*; or you can include sufficient historical background on a location to prove the proper place where the ancestor originated.
5. A stand-alone program gives you the opportunity to work on a hypothesis for the next generation while you are looking for sources to prove that hypothesis without “muddying the waters” at *FSFT*. You can organize your sources to see all the details to make an accurate analysis of evidence.
6. Stand-alone programs offer tools to determine how everyone is related. They also have some sort of built-in locality database that gives you the historical location at a specific year for a town or will tell you if a county did not exist that you are trying to enter at a specific year. Each one can build a timeline for you. All affiliate database programs can help you calculate a date based on the age of a person at the time of death to calculate the birth year, or other variations (such as age at marriage).
7. Each affiliate program has unique features such as historical event tracking built into the program in *Legacy*, yet *RootsMagic* work with other programs to provide a similar report. *Legacy* has a research guidance system that helps beginners find sources for U.S. research, which *Ancestral Quest* and *RootsMagic* work with MAC computers and can work on a flash, or other removable drives.
8. Stand-alone programs provide plenty of space for the living as well as the deceased. You can keep family members’ names and addresses for family reunions, yearly Christmas card lists and birthdays. Some can even make calendars for different sides of the family.
9. Produce hundreds of different types of reports necessary when working on a collaborative project including taking data from the stand-alone program and convert it in minutes to a personal Web page. You can monitor potential problems and find ways to fix them.
10. You can change colors, fonts, views, etc., to make the program easy on your eyes. You can make reports into a .pdf format to view online, .rtf format to pull into Word or other word processors.
11. You can search for any word or string of words and find the results in seconds, even with 25,000 people in the database, which you cannot do with your sources at *FSFT*!
12. You can set a record number so that when you print your information, each person has an individual number as well as Family Group Record (FGR) number which can print at the top of your FGRs so they can be filed in numerical order in binders with documents that provide evidence of relationships (see [www.fileyourpapers.com](http://www.fileyourpapers.com)). Learn now how to get started.

## Downloading from FSFT and Affiliate Data Entry

The three programs below have worked with *FamilySearch* to provide users of their programs with a way to search, view, and update data in *FamilySearch*'s free *Family Tree* database and they have been certified by *FamilySearch* to do so.



The *Legacy* icon is on each computer in the center along with the other two affiliate programs. There is also a printable enlarged version of “**Lesson 06 Downloading from *FamilySearch* to *Legacy***” under the “Lessons” category at our center’s Web Site [www.provoeastfhc.org](http://www.provoeastfhc.org). Consultants will receive a 9-page handout to put into their binders in order to help others, if asked, “How to take my family from *FamilySearch* and move it directly into *Legacy*.”



This is the *RootsMagic* icon you will see on the desktop of the center computers. There is also a PowerPoint version of “**Lesson 06a RootsMagic Importing from *FamilySearch***” that covers how to obtain, start, and import your family from *FamilySearch* *Family Tree* directly into *RootsMagic7* under the “Lessons” category at [www.provoeastfhc.org](http://www.provoeastfhc.org). Consultants will receive a 12-page handout to put into their binders in order to help others learn how to use one of these affiliate programs.



This is the *Ancestral Quest* icon you will see on the desktop of the center computers. It is referred to as AQ as well and is produced by **Incline Software**. This too is a very popular program because Incline’s developer prepared the first windows based *PAF* program which was used as *FamilySearch*’s first software program. Thus, former *PAF* users feel comfortable using it. As you have learned if you watched the presentations on the above two programs, when you run AQ for the first time, you will be asked whether you want to activate the *FamilySearch* tools within AQ. Even with the *FamilySearch* menu of AQ visible, you will still need a *FamilySearch* account to access the *Family Tree* data from within AQ. If you already have access to the *Family Tree* through a *FamilySearch* Account or an *LDS FamilySearch Account*, simply use that account ID and password when logging into *FamilySearch* from within AQ.

Go to [www.ancquest.com/using\\_familysearch.htm](http://www.ancquest.com/using_familysearch.htm) and click the **Watch the tutorials** link near the bottom of the page. There is an **Ancestral Quest Quick Start Video Tutorial** and move on at your own pace. We have headsets in the cupboard so that you, or a patron, can watch these training videos during a quiet time in the center, and thereby learn how to use the AQ program. Consultants will receive more information on AQ in reference to its newest version in January of 2018.

If patrons want a copy of the various instructions provide in color, please suggest that they print them at home from the web site as we only have a black and white printer in the center.