

Junk Genealogy



By Jeannette Holland Austin

There is an inclination today to accept other research and link it to your pedigree charts.

There are a number of sites which provide easy linking to genealogies already traced. It is best not to link your ancestor to any genealogy charts on any website.

Although at first glance this appears to be an easy way to have the lineage traced back further in time, it is a serious mistake. You do not want this

unless you want a whole bunch of new problems to unravel.

Here is how it works. A computer generation generally accepts all of the entries, even if it is for the same name. For example, you add Mary Smith born 1802. However, there is another Mary Smith born 1801.

The computer treats it as two separate people. If you wish to use the research progress of someone else, I suggest that you check out their sources and double check the information in the records. Excellent sources include is old bible records, church and parish registers, and all information discovered at the county court house, viz: last wills and testaments, probate, estates of every sort, marriages, deeds, civil and superior court cases, land grants, pensions, and so forth.

Such records represent sources of factual truths. One must gather all probable information and make comparisons with the data. Census records contain important data, such as places of birth, number of years married, proper names of children, and so forth. After speaking to relatives and gathering tombstone information, the census record is one of the first places to search. What I am saying here is that computer-generated charts actually raise the level of errors.

Many people, in the interest of furthering their tree, accept the work of other people. I do not.

However, I use that information as a guideline to establish actual facts. Research in county records is very important because few errors are found there. As a point of information, a last will and testament is usually filed of record and probated within 3 days of the death.

The reason is that the relatives need to put the probate in process in order to have the authority to act for the deceased person. If you want to know where your ancestor came from or where he went, you must search all of the deed records as a matter of course. This is part of discovery. As for marriages, parsons were not always required to file their licenses and

marriage ceremonies with the county court house.

Therefore, until laws established this process (usually after 1900), few marriage records (per population) exist. Hence, one must search old newspapers where marriages and obituaries are found. This is a very tedious process. Also, it is easy to discover whether or not your ancestor had a last will and testament or estate on Kentucky Pioneers Simply click on a county on the homepage, and you will see a list of records available (to members) as well as names.

This part is free. All that you do is click on the county and find out! It is very difficult to read the old indexes. We have made this very easy for you. All indexes are (typed) links to the actual documents in the court houses. Can it get any better than that?