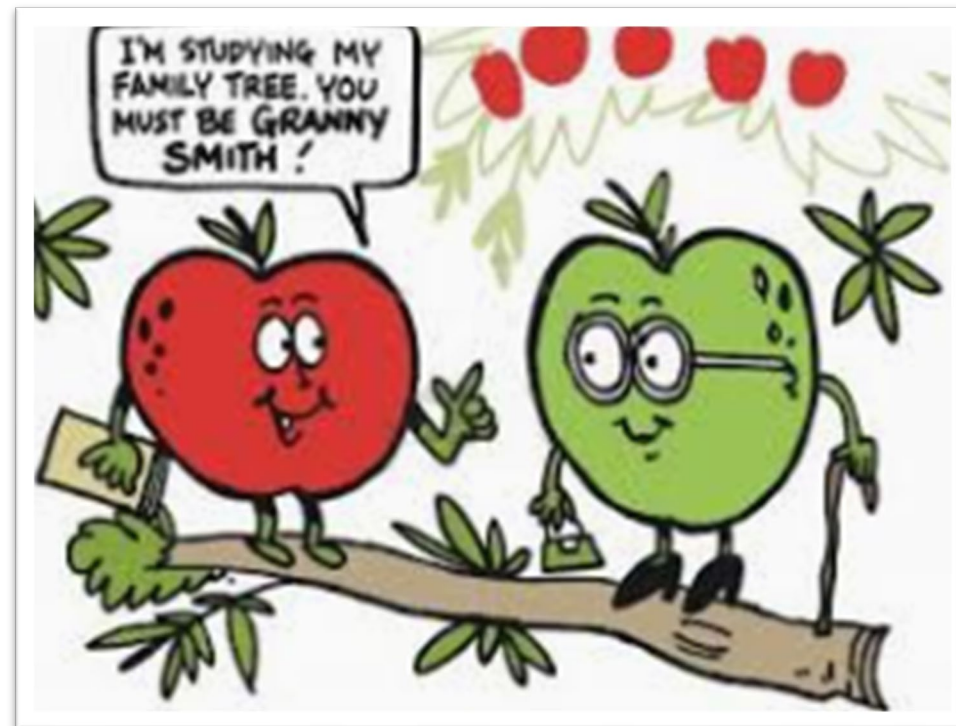# Where to Find Sources on FSFT Most Likely to Contain Evidence

What kind of sources are most useful.

What is a source repository.

What is a Record Group?

Preparing to visit a repository.

Review of Lesson One

- We learned in our previous two lessons about the role of evidence and its importance to family history research. Thus every time we start a new project we need to set a new objective or goal.

- Secondly, we need to determine if the evidence at this new starting point is a genealogy assertion (or a fact).

- Finally we should write down specifically what it is we are seeking.

- Next we were shown how the free pedigree builder *"Family Tree"* at *FamilySearch.org,* provides tools to capture evidence

- But we must start the process by and it starts with standardizing names, dates, and places so the search engines can send us records from those places and time periods.

Review of Lesson Two

- The Rule of Witnesses comes from transcripts, extracts and abstracts, working with scanned images, photocopies, or cell phone images.

- Uniform Headers standardize source notes to make them easier to read and analyze.

- A new FSFT tool, if turned on, chronologically organizes event dates.

- By analyzing existing evidence already linked to a person including the Research Helps on a Person page pointing out duplicates and record hints.

- Maintain standardizing rules
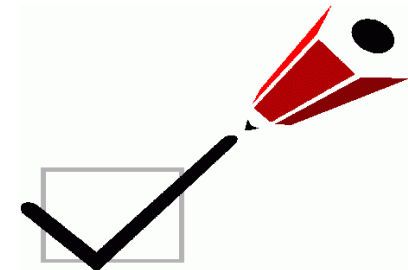
What kind of sources are most useful?

- Those used to prove relationships between people are best.
- Those most available to you.
- Those that are free.
- Those that link to original records.
- And, of course, those you are looking for because you already know the relationship, such as vital records.
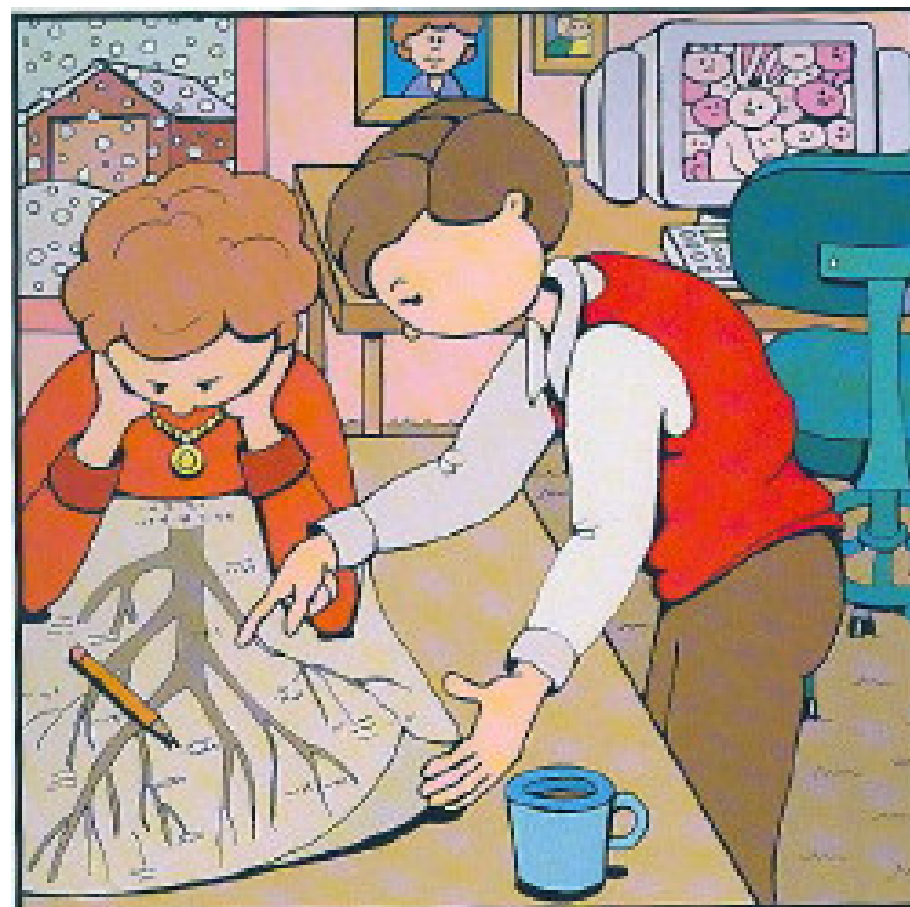
Most Widely Used Records for Family History

- Are kept in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and its thousands of Family History Centers.

- Take advantage of those repositories first to find new evidence.

- By learning how to first operate the search engines built into FSFT, by proper standardization, HINTS will be sent to you.

Time Wasters

Since every "piece of information" has the potential to prove the existence of something, please understand and use the best methods for documenting the evidence as you find it on each record (review slides 5-7 in Lesson 2). If you don't, it wastes valuable earth time, and you will need to restudy each record over and over again.

- Transcriptions
- Extracts
- Abstracts

Why Do I Have No Hints?

- Did you standardize your names, dates, and places?

- Did you review the sources already on your ancestor and update the data, if needed in the Person page?

- Are your sources in chronological order so you can quickly determine missing details?

- Be aware that only a fraction of the sources needed to explain the life of our earliest ancestors are not yet in electronic format, or are not in the Family History Library. You may need help of a specialist who can point you in the right direction.

What to do when you have no clue?

- Have you talked to family members, who may have information you are missing such as places people lived.
- Knowing a place, can lead you to repositories of information.
- Everyone in the family knows something that other people do not remember or never heard before regarding their relatives.
- So who has all the public records?

Public records are found in Repositories

- **Repositories** are places, such as a library, an archive, a genealogical or historical society, or a courthouse where things may be put for safekeeping and retrieval.

- These older repositories have protected records and made them available to many new family history websites (including *FamilySearch, Ancestry, FindMyPast, MyHeritage*, as well as hundreds of other sites which then became repositories of electronic records.)

Collaboration is Vital

- Without collaborating with others, citing sources, and recording proof, valuable "earth time" is lost by people duplicating the work of others.

- Literally, our turn on earth is to document what was found by our ancestors who did not have the abilities to record evidence we have today. We can use their clues, and today's technology to explain and retain the evidence to fulfill Heavenly Father's plan.

- Don't try to do everything alone.

FSFT Collaborates with Many Other Providers

- It may be necessary to visit repositories personally such as archives, on-site local libraries, genealogy societies, and historical societies, but when you cannot travel there…

- Speed up your research by learning which repository contain the record you need. If you are working online, you should be able to have a positive search without much effort by communicating with these repositories online.

- The three websites above have the potential of containing something about your family not available at *FamilySearch*.

- Be aware that repositories have developed their own types of cataloging systems over the generations. The *National Archives*, the *Library of Congress*, as well as state and local archives and libraries established different cataloging and citation methods when their organizations were formed.

- Recently, online providers obtained some of the same records which originated in archives and federal libraries and have retitled them with online citations. Most started out in original federal, state, and county collections. **This means there are duplicates. But it is faster and easier to read the complete records without taking expensive trips to these large repositories.**
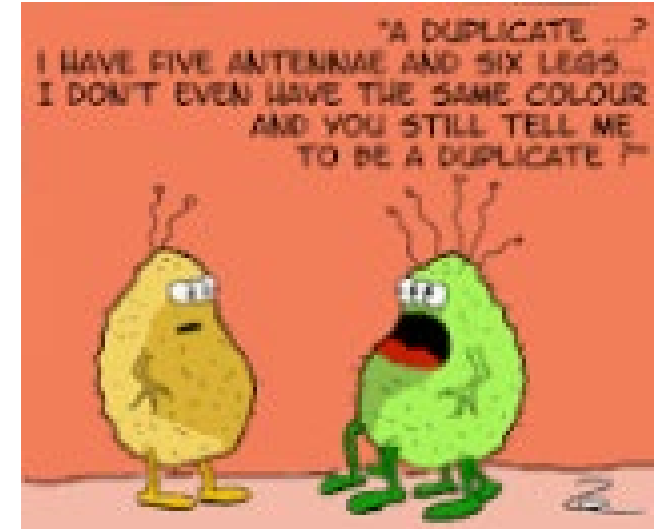
Is it really a duplicate source?

A record may cover the same event, such as a marriage, but they can contain different types of information.

One may have originated as an index or a **secondary source–** with resultant dates and misspellings.

Another is the image of a original document indexed by the one above. If this one was recorded by a reliable person who was eye-witness to what happened, and recorded the details shortly after the event, that record is a **primary source,** and usually is preferable to an index.

Another might be a marriage license which contains more information about ages, birth places, current residences, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd marriage for the couple, and parents of the couple.

"A DUPLICATE ..?
I HAVE FIVE ANTENNAE AND SIX LEGS
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE SAME COLOUR
AND YOU STILL TELL ME
TO BE A DUPLICATE !"

But keep them all so someone doesn't create another family with the source not linked, and makes a duplicate out of it.

What is a Record Group?

- A **Record Group** is a collection of records in a repository generally containing the same type of information.

- When using *FamilySearch*, collections of records (sources) are listed in the *FamilySearch Catalog* as **Record Groups**.

- The following record groups are used at the beginning of your research:

Search   Memorie

Records

Family Tree

Genealogies

Catalog

Books

Research Wiki
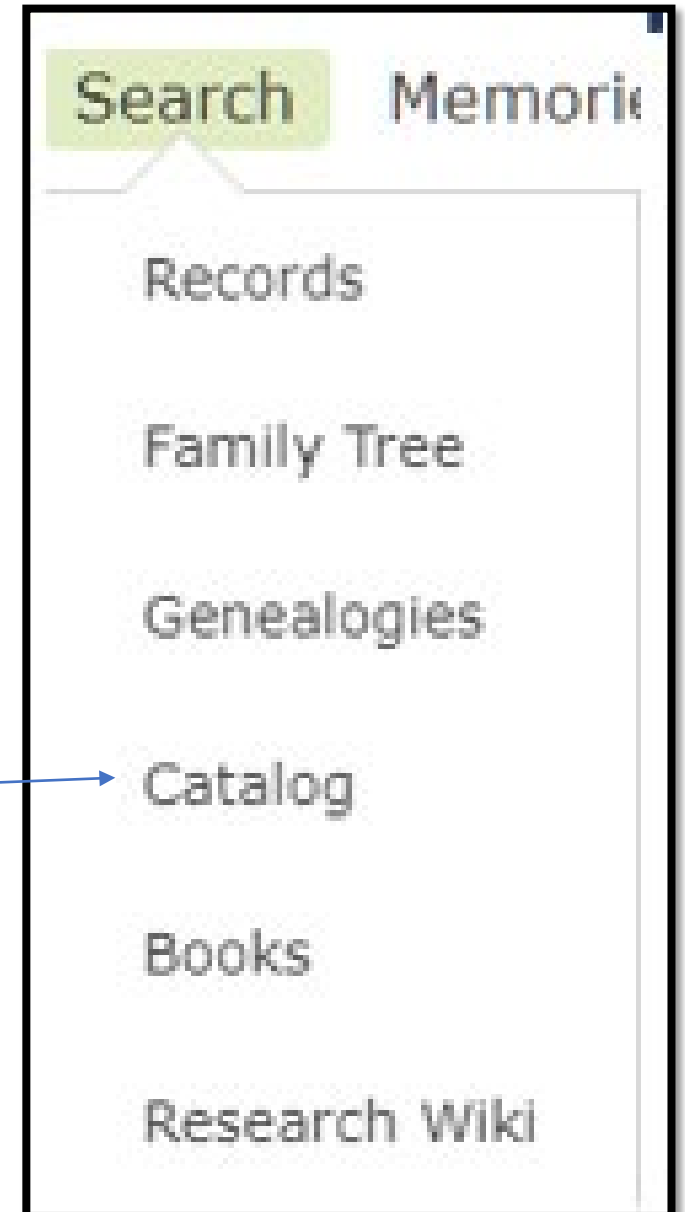
Home Sources

This record group varies with each family and is usually retained by a family members in the family home, or in the homes of relatives.

Families might have copies of pension, graduation, hospital birth, burial plot, or financial records. There might also be pictures, family Bibles, journals, awards, family group records, scrapbooks, baby books, deeds, wills, employment records, insurance papers, and heirlooms in their collection.

What is saved depends on the customs of the people involved.
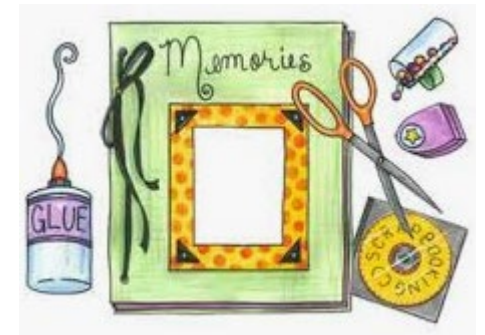
Census Records

- Census records describe an enumeration by a government of the people in a specific area at a specific time.

- U. S. Federal Census Records (kept from 1790 to 1940) are online for every place in the United States [except 1890 when most was destroyed.

- Some U.S. states also have State Census Records that were taken in years between federal census records.

- Both federal and state census records enumerated people, but they were taken at different times and asked different questions. In fact, nearly every census asked different questions. Thus, **the more census records you find on your ancestors, the more you will learn about them.**

Snoopy is showing you how some people abstract a census…they just use the date of the enumeration and the name of the person and leave out all the evidence that was actually collected.

Vital Records

- **Vital Records** include birth, marriage, death and divorce records. In foreign countries, these records are called *Civil Registrations*.

- Because vital records are relatively new in the USA, you will also need to know about substitutes for vital records.

Death Record Substitutes

The ***Social Security (SS) Death Index*** is the only nation-wide Federal record for deaths. It contains the first and last name of people who died after 1935 and their date and state of birth, as well as the date of death, so it picks up where the 1940 census left off.

Once you have the place and date of death, you can use the information provided to order the original death certificate and a burial record.

Social Security Death Index

With this index and $27, the government will send you the person's original application for a Social Security number, which gives the person's town, county, state, and country of birth *as well as* the names of the parents of the individual. This information helps find a birth date and parents for a foreign-born ancestor.

[NOTE: Some people have a **Railroad Retirement** number rather than a SS number so that would be another source of evidence.]

Birth Record Substitutes – Military Records

The federal government keeps **military records** which could provide a person's birth date and place. There are 24,000,000 draft registration records available for World War I, where three registrations were conducted between 1917 and 1918. But only 2,800,000 men were inducted into military service. All are available at FSFT and Ancestry.

 The WWII draft registration was the result of a new Selective Service Act that required all men between the ages of 18 and 64 to register as part of four registrations.

Birth Record Substitutes – Delayed Birth Certificates

Because people could not get their pensions or retirements without a birth certificate, **delayed birth certificates** also became available for those born without a state birth record. They required at least two people who were witness to the birth and a specific form in each state.

Marriage Record Substitutes

Before vital records, **Churches recorded birth, marriage, and death records.** Watch for clues of your ancestor's religious affiliation. Someone could have had a public wedding, but was married by a M.G. (Minister of the Gospel). The place where a person was buried can be a church burial ground.

Check to see if your ancestor was buried in a community, private, or church cemetery. Then you can possibly find birth or christening registers, or church marriage banns (notifications of marriages) among the church files.

Obituaries, Newspapers, etc.

Obituaries and Newspapers are other sources for determining someone's religion so you can find a church record, or for finding a death, anniversary, marriage, or birth record.

   I've seen people advertise on milk cartoons, on the back of old wooden ironing boards, engraved on pewter cups, sewn in cross-stick, etc.

Milk cartons at the Family History Center.

Cemetery Records

Today billions of burial records are listed as **Cemetery Records** and are found online through links at the websites *FamilySearch or Ancestry,* or their own sites *Billiongraves* and *findagrave*.

Charles Augustus DeLoach

BIRTH	2 Aug 1842 Upson County, Georgia, USA
DEATH	31 Dec 1926 (aged 84) Troup County, Georgia, USA
BURIAL	Wehadkee Baptist Church Cemetery LaGrange, Troup County, Georgia, USA
MEMORIAL ID	11576303 · View Source

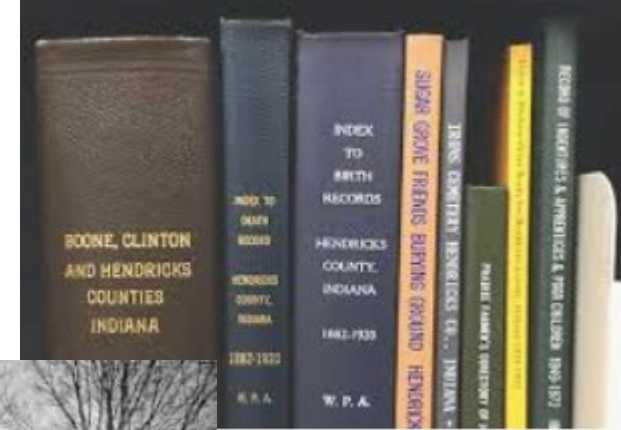SHARE   ⊕ SAVE TO   SUGGEST EDITS

MEMORIAL   PHOTOS 4   FLOWERS 14

Charles Augustus Holladay

Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx ...

County Histories

Most of the **County Histories** between 1870 and 1920 included a lengthy section of biographical sketches of many of the county's families and early maps. Before 1850, only 22 such histories had been published. By 1880 at least 1,166 county histories were published. A tremendous benefit for tracing immigrant ancestors, as they can lead to the home parish.

Every word searchable American County Histories Database

Accessible ARCHIVES

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Sources Have Different Strengths

Each record group has differing strengths and weaknesses regarding to the information found within them. For example, a compiled historical record offers evidence, but its information may or may not be correct.

To judge the accuracy of any information found, we must not only understand the purpose for which it was created, but the veracity of the person giving the information. If the person had never personally met your ancestor, and never lived near the ancestor, during any time period, that person cannot be a source of primary evidence for your ancestor.

Now it is time to use the **Search Records** feature on the **Person Page** to find his death or burial record after 1920.

We have done hints and sources in *FamilySearch* already. If you standardized your records, all you need to do is click *Ancestry*.

Charles B. Whitcomb
Massachusetts Births, 1841-1915

Possible Missing Child

▼ Search Records

FamilySearch

ancestry

findmypast

MyHeritage

1924 DEATH: MA, Worcester Co., New Braintree

#6 June 7, 1924, Charles Bryant Whitcomb, male, white, age 90 yrs 9 months 24 days, cause of death Cerebral Hemorhage, Place of death Braintree; Place of Burial Worcester; Retired 35 years, born Ashby, Mass; Name and Birth Place of mother: Begelow, filed June 9, 1924.

How to add *RecordSeek* to your computer

1. Log into www.recordseek.com

2. Drag the button **RecordSeek** to your browser's bookmark bar.

3. OR install one of the browser extensions following directions on this page to your internet browser extension.
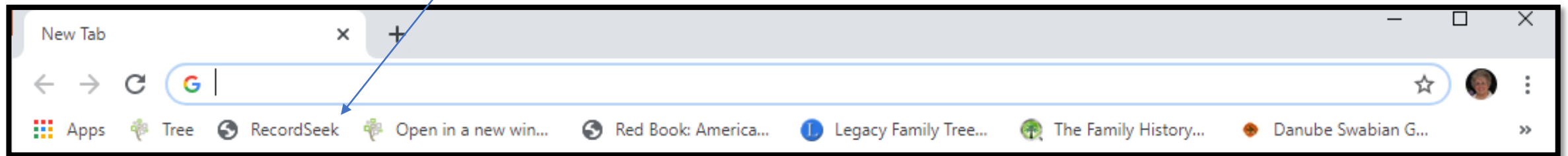
Find the image at *Ancestry.com,* you want to add to a specific person page at *FamilySearch*

RecordSeek

HOME   ABOUT   FAQ   MOBILE INSTALL   CONTACT

Record a website as a source, with virtually no effort.

RecordSeek makes it effortless to record your source citations from the web. Get started, and start saving sources.

Install one of our browser extensions

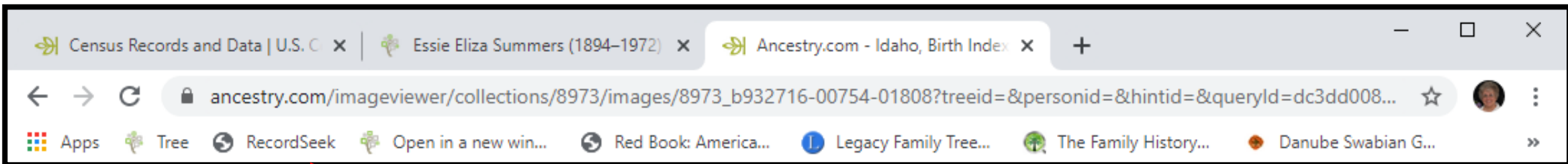or drag the button below to your browser's bookmark bar

RecordSeek

Over 1,724,949 Sources Created

Install one of our browser extensions

or drag the button below to your browser's bookmark bar

RecordSeek

Census Records and Data | U.S. C ✕ | Essie Eliza Summers (1894–1972) ✕ | Ancestry.com - Idaho, Birth Index ✕ | +

← → C 🔒 ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8973/images/8973_b932716-00754-01808?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&queryId=dc3dd008... ☆

▦ Apps · Tree · RecordSeek · Open in a new win... · Red Book: America... · Legacy Family Tree... · The Family History... · Danube Swabian G... »

Click on the *RecordSeek* button.

A 339-119 033 244   26 N

1. PLACE OF BIRTH

County of Madison

City of Rexburg

No. _____ St. _____

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH   261573

JAN 17 1938 Registration District No. _____ State File No. _____

(If born in hospital or institution give name.)   Prim. Registration District No. _____ Local Registrar's No. _____

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD Emmett Summers Clifford

3. Sex Male

If plural births { 4. Twin, triplet, or other none   5. Number, in order of birth none

6. Premature no   Full term yes

7. Legitimate? yes

8. Date of birth Dec. 19 1935 (Month, Day, Year)

9. Full name FATHER Elmer Emmett Clifford

18. Full maiden name MOTHER Essie Eliza Summers

10. Residence (usual place of abode) (If non-resident, give place and State) Antelop, Ida.

19. Residence (usual place of abode) (If non-resident, give place and State) Antelop, Idah

11. Color or race White | 12. Age at last birthday 23 (years)

20. Color or race White | 21. Age at last birthday 21 (years)

13. Birthplace (city or place) Labelle, Idaho (State or Country)

22. Birthplace (city or place) Burton, Idaho. (State or Country)

14. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. Farmer

23. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as housekeeper, typist, nurse, clerk, etc. House wife

15. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, sawmill, bank, etc. Farm

24. Industry or business in which work was done, as own home, lawyer's office, silk mill, etc. Own home.
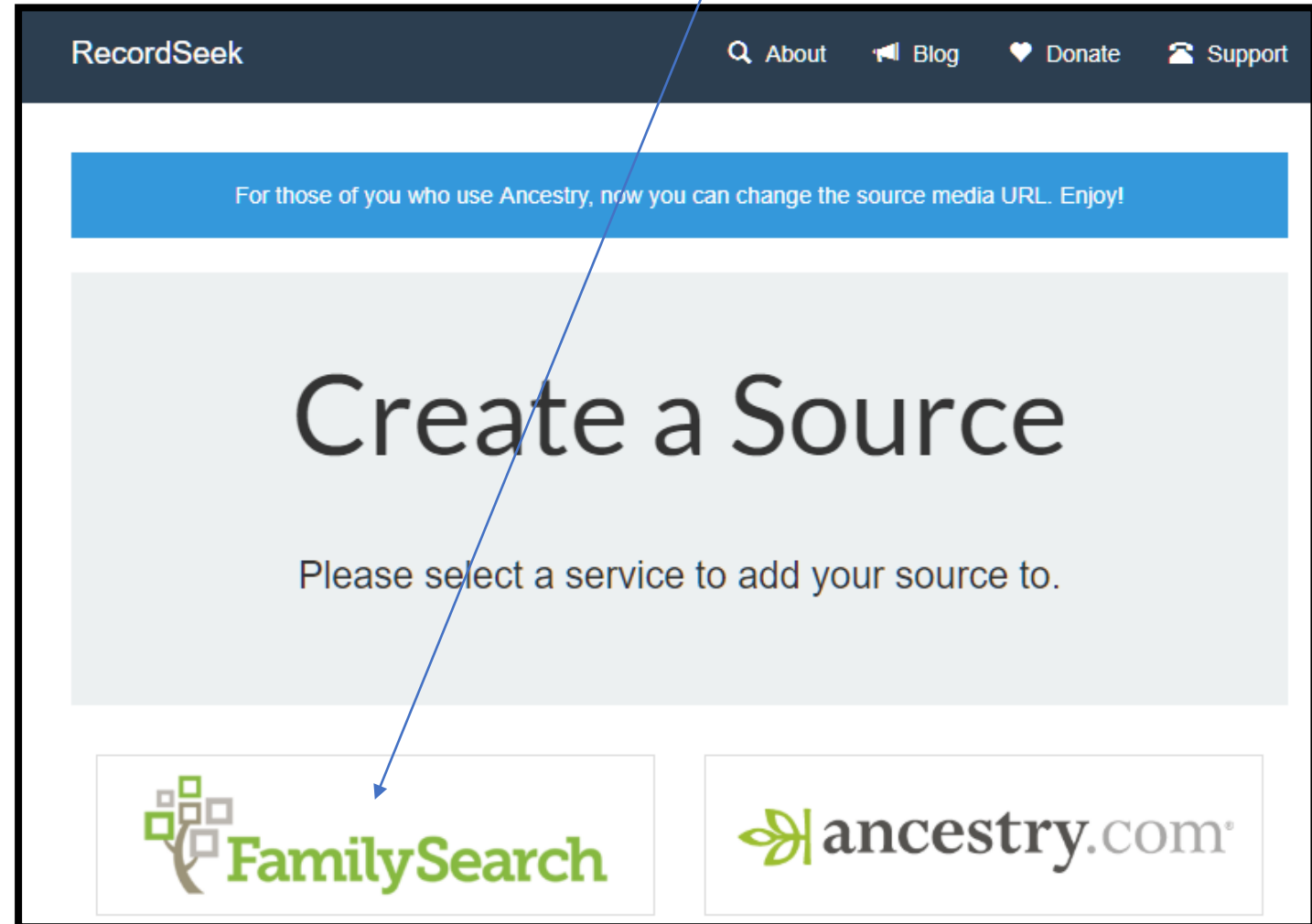
16. Date (month and year) last engaged in this work

17. Total time (years) spent

25. Date (month and year) last engaged in this work

26. Total time (years) spent

THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD, N. B.—In case of more than one, make for each, in order of birth stated, and the number of each.

This template will open. Click on *FamilySearch*.

Give the template time to open and fill up with the citation information from Ancestry.com as shown on the next page

I like to put a Uniform header in front of the **Source Title** line now, OR, if you forgot, you can edit it after it is moved under the Person's sources at FSFT.

You can also put an abstract under **Describe the Record** as shown on the next image.

recordseek.com/share/#!/fs-source

RecordSeek ❯ **FamilySearch**   🔍 About   📢 Blog   ♥ Donate   ☎ Support

Hello Karen Ann Clifford!

Attach a Source

🏷 Tag this Source to Events

Source Title

1915 BIRTH: ID, Madison Co., Antelop, Idaho, Birth Index, 1861

Source (URL)

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8973/images/8973_b932716-00754-01808?indiv=try&h=320171080&db

Where the Record Is Found (Citation)   Format: MLA ▼

"Idaho, Birth Index, 1861." 1918, Stillbirth Index, 1905
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8973/images/8973_b932716-00754-01808?
indiv=try&h=320171080&dbid=8973. Accessed 19 Jul. 2020.

Describe the Record (Notes)

Source created by RecordSeek.com
Emmett Summers Clifford, male, no child before him to this couple, full term, legitimate, born 19 Dec 1915, father Elmer
Emett Clifford resident of Antelop, Idaho, white, age 23, born Labelle, Idaho, farmer on general farm, last 2 yearsMother:
Essie Eliza Summers, resident of Antelop, Idaho, white, age 21, born in Burton, Idaho, occupation: Housewife, in own home,

Source Box (Folder)

Home (Unorganized) ▼

← Go Back   Save Now, Attach Later   Next ➡

Here is the Uniform header in front of the title line.

Here is the abstract under **Describe the Record**.

Copy the ID # of the Person on the Person Page at FSFT:

KD1W-BYT

Click NEXT.

KD1W-BYT

- If you copy the FSFT ID# in advance, you do not need to search for an existing person by filling in the top part of the next form.
- Just paste the FSFT ID # of the first person mention on the document, that you copied already.
- In this case it was the child born in 1915.

Paste the **FSFT ID#** on the bottom line. Click **Next.**

Search for an existing person

Given Name(s)	Last Names (Surname)	Gender	Event Type

Spouse's Given Name(s)	Spouse's Surname	Event Year (Range)	Event Place
		From To	

Mother's Given Name(s)	Mother's Surname	Father's Given Name(s)	Father's Surname

Search by Person ID Number

KD1W-BYT

← Modify Source   Advanced   Reset   Next →

Add the
Reason
to
Attach
this
Source
to this
Person.
Click
Create &
Attach.

Attach Source to Emmett Summers Clifford

🏷 Tag this Source to Events

Source: "1915 BIRTH: ID, Madison Co., Antelop, Idaho, Birth Index, 1861"

Reason to Attach this Source to this Person (Optional)

This provides evidence of the birth of Emmett Summers Clifford to his mother Emmett Summers Clifford and her husband Elmer Emmett Clifford.

This will be useful for other patrons who see your source, and want to know why you attached it.
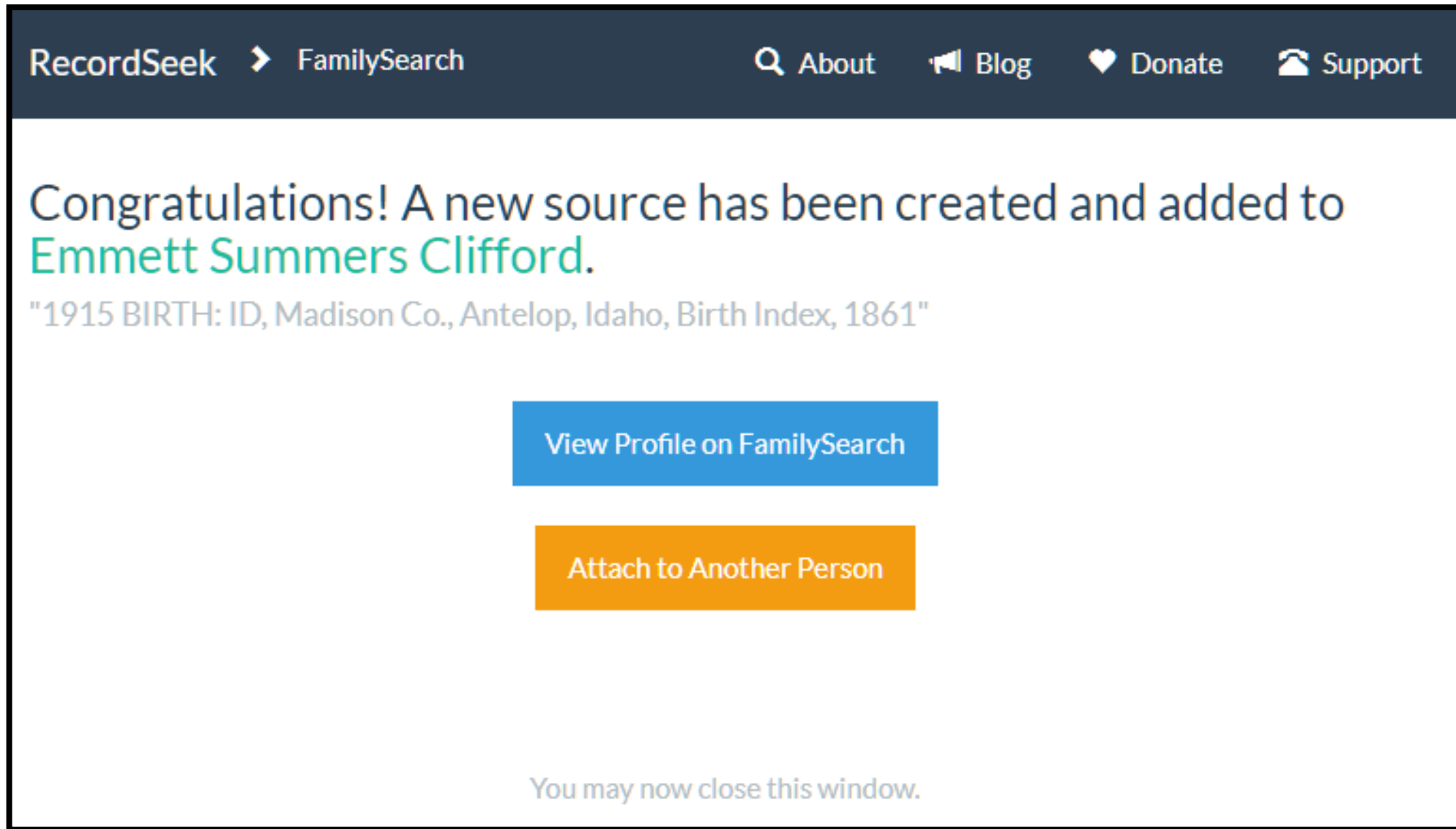
A few examples:
- "This is one of my Grandparents and I know it applies."
- "I'm not sure if this is correct, more research is needed."

← Go Back

Create & Attach

The names of both parents were listed to link this same source to each of them one-at-a-time by clicking the orange **Attach to Another Person** button and entering each FSFT ID# as shown on next page.

RecordSeek ❯ FamilySearch   🔍 About   📢 Blog   ♥ Donate   ☎ Support
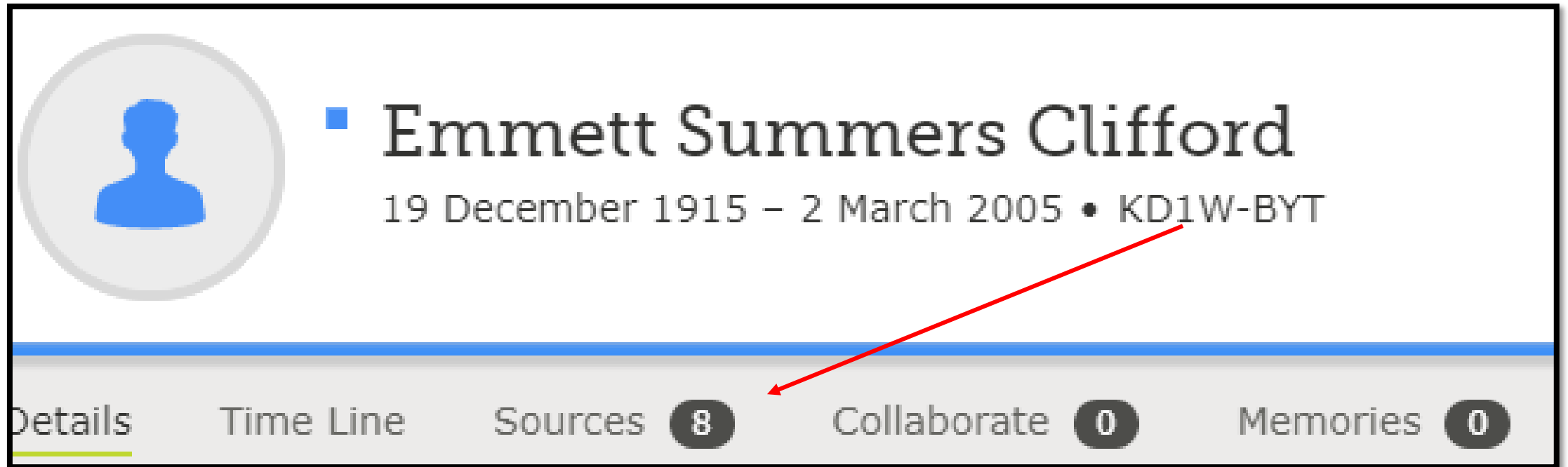
Congratulations! A new source has been created and added to
Emmett Summers Clifford.

"1915 BIRTH: ID, Madison Co., Antelop, Idaho, Birth Index, 1861"

View Profile on FamilySearch

Attach to Another Person

You may now close this window.

Now, KWC5-5HV was entered and click Next.

Search for an existing person

Given Name(s)	Last Names (Surname)	Gender	Event Type

Spouse's Given Name(s)	Spouse's Surname	Event Year (Range)	Event Place
		From To	

Mother's Given Name(s)	Mother's Surname	Father's Given Name(s)	Father's Surname

Search by Person ID Number

KWC5-5HV

← Modify Source   Advanced   Reset   Next ➡

Create & Attach to one of the parents.
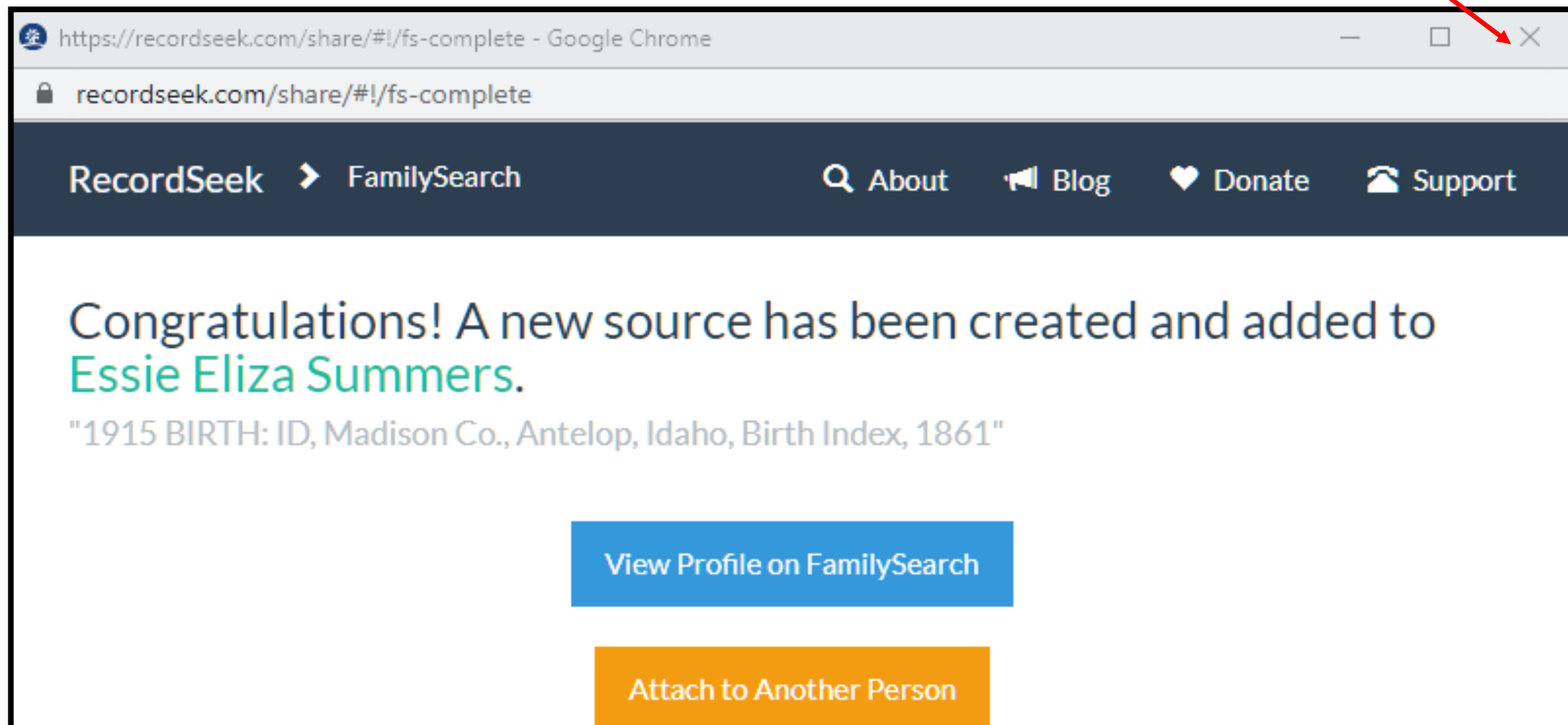
- Explain that the father of Elmer Summers Clifford was listed on his son's birth record, and it gave the father's age, his occupation, and how many years he had been a farmer.

Reason to Attach this Source to this Person (Optional)

Elmer Summers Clifford was listed on his son's birth record, and it gave the father's age, his occupation, and how many years he had been a farmer.

Next click the **Create and Attach** button and repeat the process for the mother's sources, and then close the template by clicking on the X in the upper right corner.

Click this X to close the window when done.

Go to Emmett's person page at FSFT **KD1W-BYT** and click on **Sources**

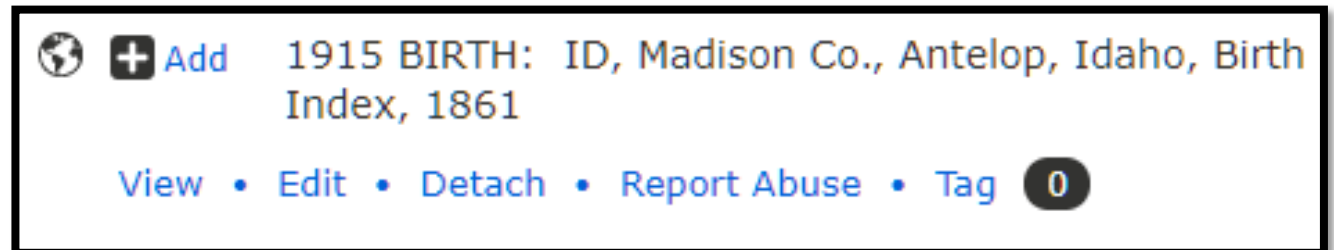Since all my sources are in chronological order (using Options), but source not there, I clicked the reload button.

Sources

⬤ Detail View   ➕ Add Source   ⚙ Options

	Date	Title	Created By
🌳	1920	Emett S Clifford in household of Elmer E Clifford, "United States Census, 1920" View Source	June 19, 2014 alicewagers1
🌳	1940	Emmett S Clifford, "United States Census, 1940" View Source	August 28, 2015

Click on the right side of your mouse to **reload.** It is coming from another site, and is put at the bottom of sources. You need to click **View Source**

Back	Alt+Left Arrow
Forward	Alt+Right Arrow
Reload	Ctrl+R
Save as...	Ctrl+S
Print...	Ctrl+P
Cast...	
Translate to English	
View page source	Ctrl+U
Inspect	Ctrl+Shift+I

🌐 ➕Add   1915 BIRTH: ID, Madison Co., Antelop, Idaho, Birth Index, 1861
View Source
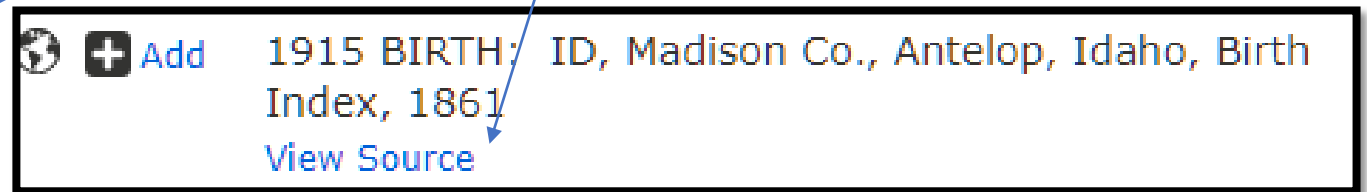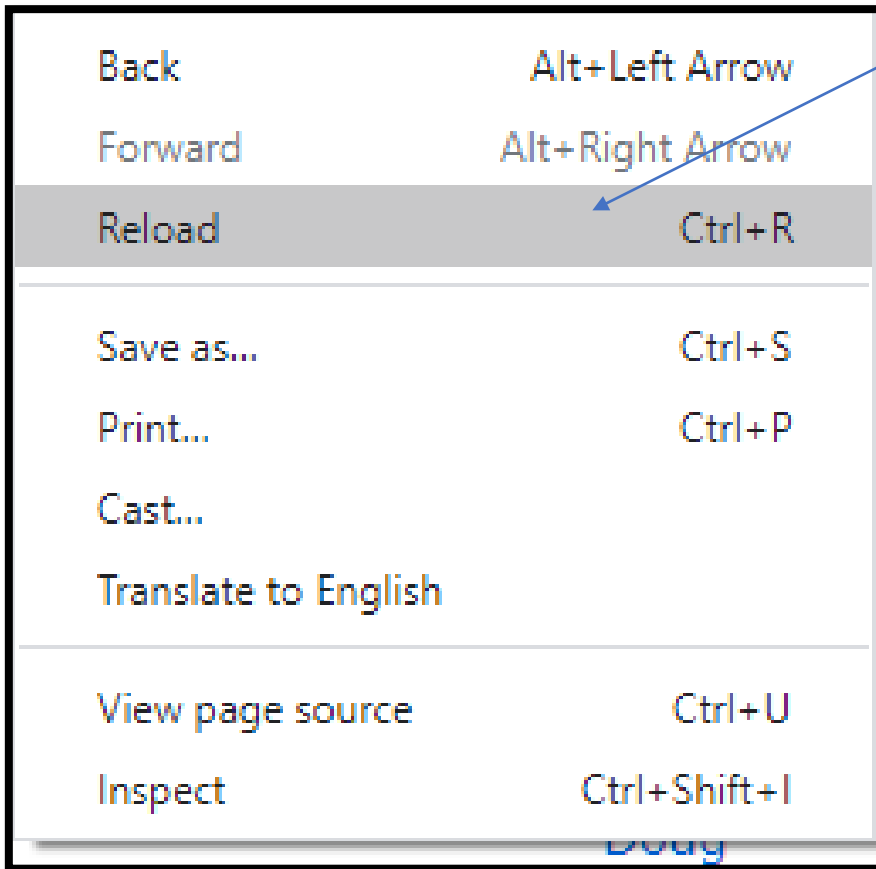
Click Edit and add exact birth date.

🌐 ➕Add   1915 BIRTH: ID, Madison Co., Antelop, Idaho, Birth Index, 1861

View • Edit • Detach • Report Abuse • Tag 0

Enter the standardized format of Emmett's birth date (spell out fully the months and years) and when the standardized format appears below the entry, click on that format so calendar appears beside the date. Remove the duplicate year.

Event Date ⓘ

19 December 1915|

19
📅 December
1915

Source Title (Required) ⓘ

1915 BIRTH: ID, Madison Co., Antelop, Idaho, Birth Index, 1861

Record) ⓘ

Event Date ⓘ

📅 19 December 1915

✔ Standardized Date

Source Title (Required) ⓘ

BIRTH: ID, Madison Co., Antelop, Idaho, E

The globe indicates a source has come from a different web site. Add its **Uniform Header** and **abstract** and move it into place at the bottom of the Sources in the ancestor's **Person Page**.

Sources

Open Details • ➕ Add Source • 🗃 Attach from Source Box

🌐 Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988 for Charles Bryant Whitcomb

⚛ 1860 MARRIAGE: MA, Worcester Co., Charles B. Whitcomb, "Massachusetts Marriage

Add the Uniform Header to the death entry and move it down to the last source for Charles.

Open Details • ➕ Add Source • 🗄 Attach from Source Box

🎗 1860 MARRIAGE: MA, Worcester Co., Charles B. Whitcomb, "Massachusetts Marriages, 1841-1915"

🎗 1870 CENSUS: MA, Worcester Co., Worcester City, Chas B Whitcomb, "United States Census, 1870"

🎗 1900 CENSUS: MA, Worcester Co., Worcester City, Charles Whitcomb, "United States Census, 1900"

🌐 Legacy NFS Source: Charles B. Whitcomb - Government record: Census record: birth-name: Charles B. Whitcomb

🌐 1924 DEATH: MA, Worcester Co., New Braintree, Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988 for Charles Bryant Whitcomb

Record Seek can add the source to multiple people without having to enter everything again.

- If you click **Attach to Another Person**, *RecordSeek* opens to the second page shown on the previous page called **Search for an existing person**, so you can enter the spouse's FSFT ID #, click **Next**, and this time give the reason for attaching this source to the husband. Repeat this process for others named in your source. You can close the window by clicking the X in the upper right corner.

Summary

Finding existing evidence on those in your family tree is often solved by:

- Standardizing the vital events at FSFT
- Standardize the source notes at FSFT by adding a uniform header and abstracts
- Do a Research Evaluation of your tree from yourself to your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.
- While doing the above, select someone who you are prompted to work on for a total of 12 hours in one month.

Goal: *ANALYZE EXISTING EVIDENCE* of names, dates, relationships, and places of events.

- We must utilize the evidence or assertions provided along with the sources and make sure their facts have been updated in the Vital section of the PERSON page.

- If there is an assertion with no evidence, the assertion should be recorded on a Research Planner or FSFT TO DO list on the home page.

- Learn and use the proper methods for recording evidence on research planners, at FSFT, and in your Family Group Records in an affiliate genealogy program.

How to know if you have enough evidence?

- Here is a good standard to determine if, and when, you have done sufficient research on your family.

- This standard is used by both genealogical credentialing organizations in the United States, as well as the Federation of Genealogical Societies (all volunteer) and the National Genealogical Society.

Genealogical Proof Standard

- A reasonably exhaustive search has been conducted in multiple repositories (websites).

- Each statement of fact has a complete and accurate source citation.

- The evidence is reliable and has been skillfully correlated and interpreted.

- Any contradictory evidence has been resolved.

- The conclusion has been soundly reasoned.

- Near the end of research on especially controversial connections or significant families, a "proof statement" that explains how you reached your conclusions has been included.

When do you start researching your family?

1. Once all the standardization of names, dates, and places has been completed on the family selected.

2. Once all the abstracts have been made regarding sources for the family.

3. Once all the Duplicates have been merged together on the selected family.

4. Once all the Hints have been linked to the family you selected.

5. Once you have added any new children, or added their marriage and death dates in the selected *affiliate program*.