

Puzzilla.org Beginner Tutorial

1. Sign in to **Puzzilla.org** using your FamilySearch user ID and password.
2. Examine “**Ancestors**” tree. Blue squares indicate males, red circles indicate females. Move your mouse over the symbols to browse their names.
 - a. Notice “Generations” field. Suggestion for youth: change to 7 or 8 generations.
 - b. Click someone in the topmost row to select that person
 - c. Click “**Descendants**” button.
3. Examine descendants tree. Selected person is at the center; children are in the first circle, grand-children in the second circle, etc.
 - a. Click “**Targets**” button. This adds a red square to persons whose children have not yet been found. These are good places to start because they are likely places where others’ research stopped.
 - b. Suggestion: under Targets button click in “**Birth Range**” field and type 1830-1870 to narrow the time to a period of good record coverage.
 - c. Click a target person. Suggestion: choose someone with an uncommon name.
4. Click on “**View in FamilyTree**”. Examine person details in FamilyTree.
 - a. Birth and death: upper left
 - b. Spouse and children: lower left
 - c. Parents and siblings: lower right
 - d. “Record Hints” and “Search Records”: upper right
5. Click “**Search Records**.” This is like a Google search and lists records in order of decreasing probability of matching your target person. Suggestion: Click “**Record Hints**” if any are available. Record hints show pre-selected historical records with a higher probability of including your target person.
6. Examine “**Search Results from Historical Records**” or hint record details.
 - a. Look for records containing your target person. Match the names, the event dates and places, and the relationships to known family members.
 - b. **Success:** Previously-unknown family members are discovered in historical records, such as birth, marriage, death, census. Get help from a Family History Consultant to help you add new persons to the tree, attach sources, resolve duplicates, and submit ordinances.
 - c. **Try again:** If you don’t find a match in the first Search Results page immediately, close that browser tab, return to the Puzzilla descendants tree tab and select a different “Target” person. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until previously-unknown family members are discovered in historical records.
 - d. Suggestion: Try many searches; do n’t get stuck on one person, one family, or one descendants tree. Try a different descendants tree for a different ancestor from the Puzzilla ancestors chart.