Genealogy Leveraging Technology

My Background

- Fifty years in IT industry with programming, database, sales and project management experience

- 6 years of genealogy experience with 2 years focused

Purpose Statement

The mission of the SSV Genealogy Club is to help our members learn best practices to research, gather, record and share information about our ancestors

We Offer

- **Monthly Members' Meeting:** Bring in outside experts to learn the latest methodologies on any aspect of genealogy research

- **Weekly Help Group Meeting:** Review of genealogy classes at local historical research centers; share success stories; 20 minutes on tricks and tips; 60 minutes of one-on-one assistance

- **Twice Monthly Classes:** Instructor-led sessions on new technologies, new products, how-to's, workshops

Computer-driven Genealogy

- Most genealogy is done by finding information in the cloud

- Extensive use of computer applications and databases

- Sharing of information is done with internet tools and in some cases with reports

- New technologies will certainly call for more computer interaction

Applications, Database Products & More

Applications & Databases

- Family Search
- Ancestry.com (Newspapers.com, Fold3)
- Family Tree Maker
- Legacy
- MyHeritage
- RootsMagic 9

More Products

- Ancestry DNA
- MyHeritage DNA
- 23andMe
- Family Book Creator
- Google Images, Google Books, Google Maps
- Find-A-Grave; BillionGraves

Family Search - Web-based Application

- World-wide family tree

- Owned & managed by Latter Day Saints

- Family Search has over 2,000 data set collections

- Family Search is the "savior" to many historical records

- Good tool for research, info storage & source citation

- Strengths:
  - Free to anyone and everyone
  - Research tool for vital information; census; immigration & naturalization; military; land, wills & probates
  - Accessibility with internet connection
  - Great family tree presentation, source documents
- Weaknesses:
  - Free to anyone and everyone
  - Searches are complex
  - Security

Ancestry.com – Rich Functionality

- Subscription-based tool (monthly, annually)

- Good tool for research, info storage & source citation

- Most popular genealogy tool

- Preservation of many historical records

- Web-based – available anywhere (smartphone app available)

- Integrated with Newspapers.co & Fold3

- DNA tests and matches available

- Strengths:
  - Hints - batch processes that scour databases
  - 60b records available
  - 25m DNA tests
  - Research tool for vital information; census; immigration & naturalization; military; land, wills & probates
  - Accessibility and Smartphone updates & display
  - Rich family tree presentation and fact data

- Weaknesses:
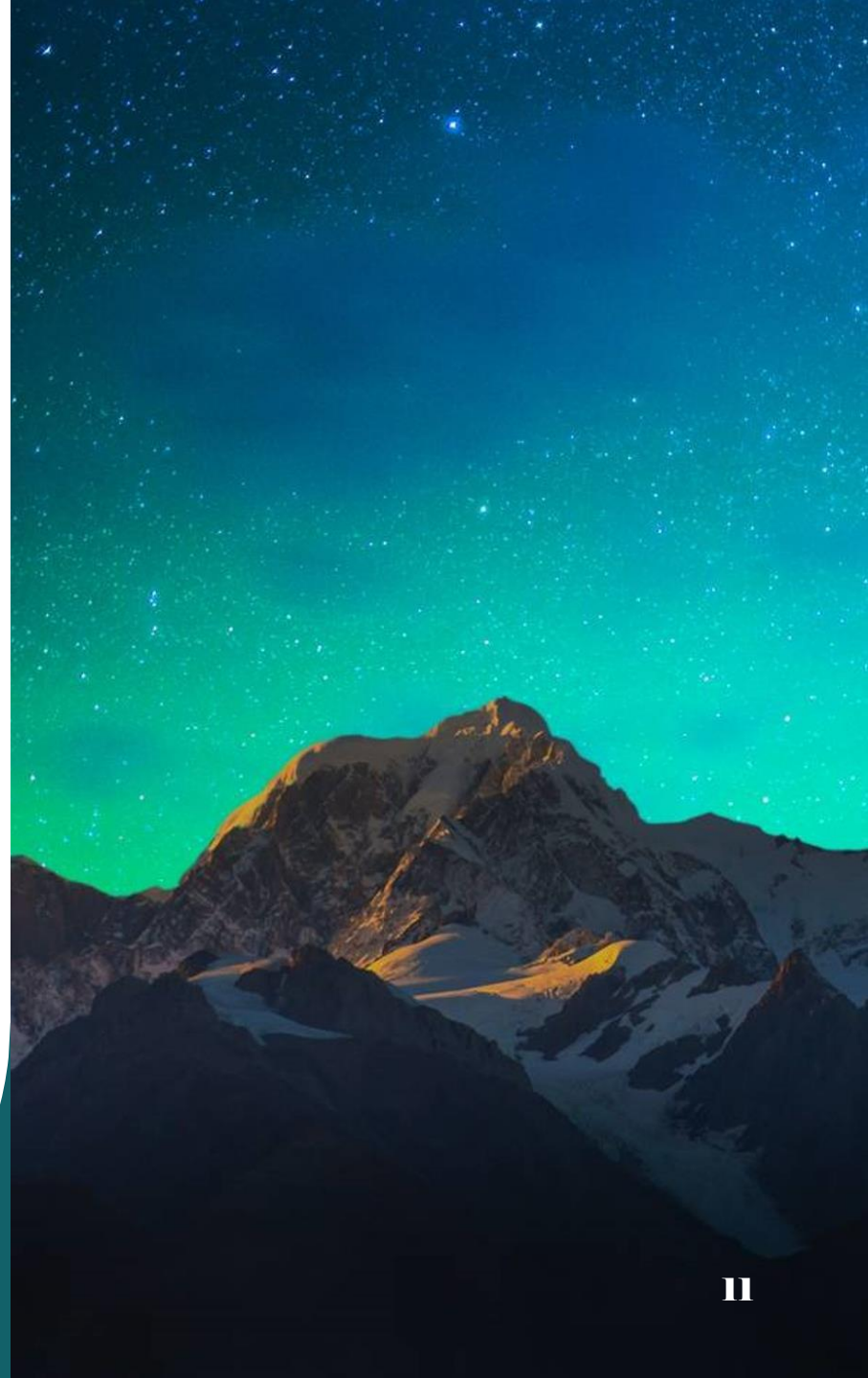 - Searches can be complex

Family Tree Maker

- PC-based: buy once use forever except updates

- Leverages FamilySearch and Ancestry.com for research (no research capabilities in FTM)

- Bi-directional synchronization with Ancestry.com

- Easy-to-use for Windows/Mac users

- Supports smartphone display of information

- <u>Very</u> rich in reporting capabilities & mass changes

- Strengths:
    - Reporting and mass updates
    - TreeVault backs up incrementally to cloud and supports smartphone access
    - Family tree presentation is excellent through reporting tools
    - Open architecture, i.e. Family Book Creator
    - Security
    - Large user group base
- Weaknesses:
    - No research capabilities requires access to FamilySearch and/or Ancestry.com
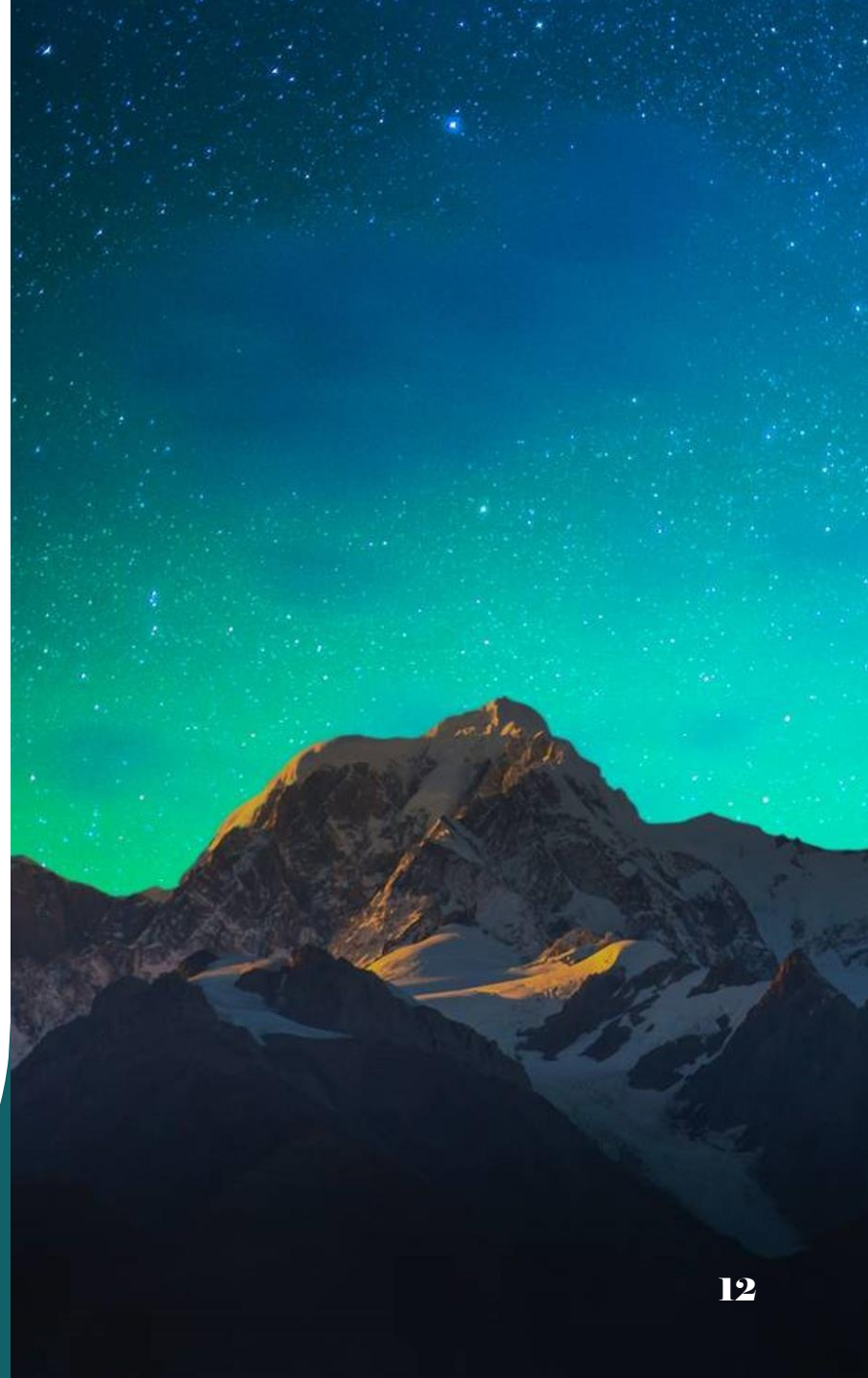
New Technologies

- Family Collaboration

- Full-text Searching

- Generative Artificial Intelligence will drive:

  - Data collection by companies like FamilySearch, Ancestry, Gravesite

  - Language Translation

  - Record Searching

  - Customer Support and Help Desk activities

  - Ancestor Storytelling

SSV Genealogy Group Growth strategy

- Train members in genealogy tools

- Encourage members to present their success stories

- Maximize LDS resource utilization

- Grow the club membership count

- Ensure club continuity

Questions

Thank you

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