Introduction

Genealogy Research 101

- Suppose a friend, who knows nothing of genealogy research, asked your for some research guidance for the following ancestor…

- Abel Fike was born in North Carolina, and he died in 1852 in St. Clair County, Illinois. He married Rachel Crownover in 1805 and had the following children: A. I., born 1807 in St. Clair County, and Narcissa born in 1813.

- What do you suggest?

- Why?

- Is there anything you wouldn't suggest? Why?
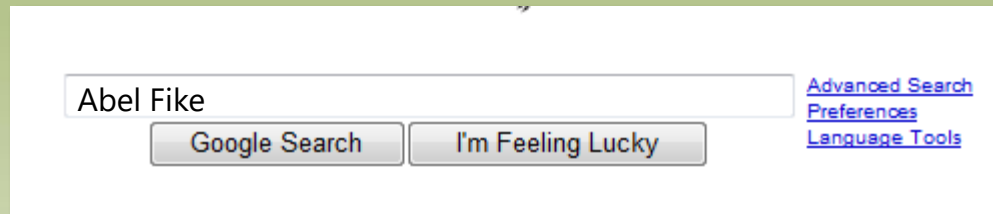
- This is a simple example….

GenSmarts

- GenSmarts is an "AI" computer application that contains lots of knowledge about records that exist and along with rules as to how they are used in genealogy research.

- By reading the genealogy data you've collected in _____ (PAF, Family Tree Maker, RootsMagic, Legacy, TMG, etc.), and apply the rules and knowledge above… research suggestions can be made.

- This is much like what we just did in the previous example, but, being a computer, the speed and complexity of what can be considered exceeds what we can do in our head.

Genealogy Research - Example 2

- Now… imagine if that same friend went to someone else who also didn't know much about genealogy research, but was an internet whiz.

- What guidance do you suppose your friend would get?

Feeling Lucky?

Abel Fike

Google Search   I'm Feeling Lucky

Advanced Search
Preferences
Language Tools

- Keyword search technology is "dumb" compared to the context rich and logical suggestions you gave your friend.

- While keyword searching has it's place/role, it's not a productive, comprehensive technique for genealogy research.

Demonstration

GenSmarts Basics
Research Suggestions For A Person

Let's compare…

- A question I occasionally get these days goes something like this…

  "Oh, I already have Family Tree Maker. It gives me suggestions - Why would I want GenSmarts?"

- How similar do you think what FTM does is to GenSmarts?

- Let's look at an example…

FTM 2009 Suggestions Explored

The "leaf" means you have research suggestions. Let's click it…

FTM 2009 Suggestions Explored

Looks like FTM has two ideas for us. A marriage record check and a pedigree database check.

How does this compare to the ideas we all came up with earlier?

Do you think these suggestions are limited to only things that are at Ancestry.com?

I already have this marriage fully documented, why do I need this?

Can I delete or mark this somehow?

GenSmarts Suggestions Explored

GenSmarts has 13 ideas.

How does this compare to the ideas we all came up with earlier?

Events in the lives of related people influence the suggestions…

Note there is no marriage suggestion… even though GenSmarts knows about it (a setting allows you to see these if you want).

The list includes diverse things – some free and some pay – government web sites, libraries, etc.

GenSmarts

Not every suggestion will pan out, but since the ideas are well reasoned, some of them certainly will.

GenSmarts Version 2.1.1.63 B3AbelFike.ftm

File Print/Export Tools View Help

My Genealogy File | **To Do List** | Research Locations | Data Cleanup

Research To Do List
Suggestions for Abel Fike

Sorted by Research Priori

- Illinois Death Records for Abel **Fike** [464]
- Illinois 1850 Census for Abel **Fike** [464]
- Illinois Land Patent for Abel **Fike** [464]
- Illinois War of 1812 Service Records for Abel **Fike** [46
- Illinois 1840 Census for Abel **Fike** [464]

Results List - BLM GLO Records - Windows Internet Expl

http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/PatentSearch/Results

Results List - BLM GLO Records

Bureau of Land Management - General Lar

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Results List

Home > **Land Patent Search** > **Results List**

Click on a **Patentee Name** to view the full land patent i

View Image	Patentee Name	State	Cou
📄	**FIKE, ABEL**	IL	St. C
📄	**FIKE, ABEL**	IL	St. Clair 11/30/1833 Kaskaskia 583 IL0020__.103
📄	**FIKE, ABEL**	IL	St. Clair 10/15/1835 Edwardsville 8113 IL0270__.119

1850 United States Federal Census - Ancestry.com - Windows Internet Explorer

http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&rank=1

Yahoo! Search

1850 United States Federal Census - Ancestry.com

1850 United States Federal Census about Abel Fike

Name:	**Abel Fike**
Age:	6
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1844
Birth Place:	St Clair CO
Gender:	Male
Home in 1850 (City,County,State):	District 2, St Clair, Illinois

Household Members:

Name	Age
A J Fike	42
Abel Fike	6
Andrew Fike	10
Martha Fike	16
Mary E Fike	3
Nancy Fike	37
William Fike	8

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GenSmarts vs. Keyword Searching

- Do you think the FTM suggestions feel like they're coming from a keyword search?

- Here's a test to see if you're really tracking along with how GenSmarts works…

  I have two people in my file, with identical data (birth, marriage, death, etc.), one is named Bob Jenson and the other one is named Curly Westin. How will GenSmarts suggestions be different for these two people (pick your answer below):

  a) it will depend on what GenSmarts can find at the various sites...
  …or…
  b) the suggestions will be the same

Demonstration II

- So far I've only showed you how GenSmarts deals with a specific person you might be researching. Let's turn that sideways and upside down…

- What process do you use to organize for a trip to Salt Lake city?

GenSmarts Basics – Part II

Practical Matters – GenSmarts

- Current Version is 2.1.1.83

- Version 1 was released in June of 2003, Version 2 in May of 2007

- www.GenSmarts.com

- Supports research in US, Canada, UK.

- 24.95 to download, 29.95 for a download and CD with 1 hr tutorial, or 34.95 for a Deluxe CD with all of the above plus another 3 hours of tips and techniques. $5 off currently for a V1 upgrade.

- Win7, Vista, XP, 2000, ME, 98… all version of Windows are fine except Win95. No Mac, though it works fine with Parallels and other newer emulators (but not Virtual PC).

- Works directly with FTM 2010/2009/2008, FTM16 and earlier version, TMG 7,6,5, and 4, RootsMagic 2/3/4, Legacy, PAF, UFT, Personal Historian, Ancestral Quest, and of course Gedcom.

- A free trial version at http://www.GenSmarts.com that's somewhat limited and a few versions out of date, but good enough to see how it'll work with your data.

Conclusion

- Oh, and one more thing about my own research…

Questions?