

# Introduction

# Genealogy Research 101

- Suppose a friend, who knows nothing of genealogy research, asked you 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....

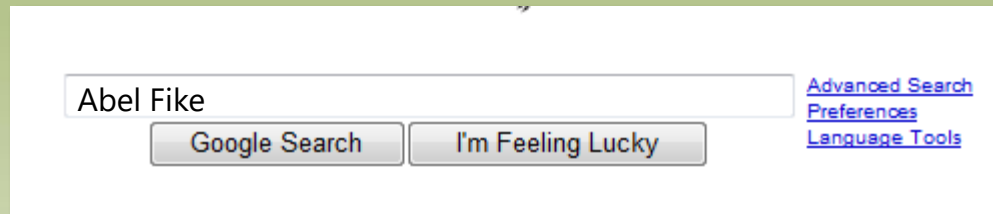
# GenSmarts

- 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 its 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 screenshot shows the Family Tree Maker 2009 interface. The window title is "B3AbelFike - Family Tree Maker 2009". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Person", "Tools", and "Help". The toolbar contains icons for "Plan", "People", "Places", "Media", "Sources", and "Publish". The main window is divided into several sections:

- Index:** 2649. Sort: Family, Given Name. Find: [Search box]. A list of names is shown, with "Fike, Abel" selected.
- Family Tree:** A diagram showing "Abel Fike" (center) connected to "Nathan Buford Fike" (above), "Nancy Land" (below), and "Susan Foushee" (below). "Abel Fike" has a green leaf icon next to it.
- Person Profile:** Abel Fike. No direct relationship found. Name: Abel Fike. Sex: Male. Age: 74. Birth: 15 Apr 1777. Birthplace: North Carolina, USA. Death: 10 Feb 1852. Deathplace: Mascoutah, St Clair, Ill. Marriage to Nancy Land. Marr: 02 Dec 1815. Marriageplace: St Clair, Illinois, USA. A "Customize View..." button is at the bottom.

The “leaf” means you have research suggestions. Let’s click it...



# FTM 2009 Suggestions Explored

The screenshot shows the Family Tree Maker 2009 interface. The top menu bar includes Plan, People, Places, Media, Sources, Publish, and Web Search. The search bar shows a search for 'Abel Fike' with filters for 'N Fike' and 'S Foushee'. The search results pane displays a record from 'U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900' with a quality of 5 stars. The record details show a name of 'Abel Fike', birth year of 1777, and a spouse named 'Nancy'. Below the search results, a comparison table is shown, comparing the person from the tree with the search result detail.

Person from your tree	Search result detail
Name: Abel Fike	Name: Abel Fike
Birth: 15 Apr 1777 in Nort...	Birth: 1777
Death: 10 Feb 1852 in Mascouta...	Spouse(s): Nancy
Marriage: Rachel Crowover; 1805...	
Marriage: Nancy Land; 02 Dec 181...	
Father: Nathan Buford Fike	
Mother: Susan Foushee	
Spouse(s): Rachel Crowover, Nan...	
Children: Benjamin Fike, John Jasp...	

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 Version 2.1.1.63 B3AbelFike.ftm

File Print/Export Tools View Help

Confused? Click here for help.

My Genealogy File To Do List Research Locations Data Cleanup Query

Research To Do List 13 Suggestions Displayed

Suggestions for Abel Fike Sorted by Research Priority

- 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 [464]
- Illinois 1840 Census for Abel Fike [464]
- South Carolina 1810 Census for Abel Fike [464]
- Illinois 1830 Census for Abel Fike [464]
- Illinois 1820 Census for Abel Fike [464]
- Kentucky 1810 Census for Abel Fike [464]
- North Carolina 1800 Census for Abel Fike [464]
- Hopkins Kentucky Tax List for Abel Fike [464]
- St. Clair Illinois County Land Transactions for Abel Fike [464]
- St. Clair Illinois Tax List for Abel Fike [464]

Update Research Status, Mark As...

Found Not Found Plan To Search Ignore Revisit Later Clear Status

Research Link Available Online

Comment:

Explanation Illinois 1850 Census for Abel Fike [464]

**Why?**

Researching the Illinois 1850 Census makes sense because his child, Sarah Fike [345], was married in 1849 in (GSEST. St. Clair County, Illinois) and he died in 1852 in Mascoutah, St Clair, Illinois, USA. The 1850 census is important because it was the first U.S. census to list all family members, not just the head of household.

**Hypothesis**

GenSmarts has hypothesized a PLACE for you (indicated by the GSEST. prefix) to come up with this suggestion. The basis for this hypothesis was:

GSEST. St. Clair County, Illinois was estimated because his child, Charity Jane Fike [344], was married in 1841 in St. Clair Co., IL.

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 Priority

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- Illinois War of 1812 Service Records for Abel **Fike** [464]
- Illinois 1840 Census for Abel **Fike** [464]

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

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

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 href="#">A J Fike</a>	42
<a href="#">Abel Fike</a>	6
<a href="#">Andrew Fike</a>	10
<a href="#">Martha Fike</a>	16
<a href="#">Mary E Fike</a>	3
<a href="#">Nancy Fike</a>	37
<a href="#">William Fike</a>	8

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Results List - BLM GLO Records - Windows Internet Explorer

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

Results List - BLM GLO Records

Bureau of Land Management - General Land Office

Search Land Patents

## Results List

Home > Land Patent Search > Results List

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

View Image	Patentee Name	State	County
	<a href="#">FIKE, ABEL</a>	IL	St. Clair
	<a href="#">FIKE, ABEL</a>	IL	St. Clair
	<a href="#">FIKE, ABEL</a>	IL	St. Clair

View Image	Patentee Name	State	County	Patent No.	Date	Location	Acres	Section
	<a href="#">FIKE, ABEL</a>	IL	St. Clair	11730	1833	Kaskaskia	583	IL0020__103
	<a href="#">FIKE, ABEL</a>	IL	St. Clair	1015	1835	Edwardsville	8113	IL0270__119

# 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](http://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?