

Handling Difficult Research

Remember, it is not the quantity of research that is done that is important. *It is the spirit with which the gift is given.* The spirit of Elijah will be there if you have done your best to introduce your friend to family history. In many, if not most, instances, additional family history information may not be readily available on the internet. In these cases we are encouraged to ask ward family history specialists for assistance and/or go to a Family History Center for help.

Some Research Challenges

- Can't find any ancestors on the internet
- My friend has given me limited information
- All of the ancestors my friend has given me are still living
- My friend's ancestors were born in a foreign country

Suggested Solutions:

- **Try to get additional information from the person you are doing the research for.**
 - Ask them for additional information
 - Ask them to make contact with other family members to see if they have more information.
- **Create Pedigree Charts and Family Group Sheets with whatever information you have.** The *organization* of family history information may create interest and motivate individuals to continue their research. Encourage them to go to their nearest Family History Center for assistance in continuing their research.
- **Create a surname distribution map if the family has lived in the United States.**
- **Create a time capsule if the family has lived in the United States.**
- **Use “Google.com” to do a search of a specific country, region or town where the family lived.** You may find maps, pictures, and histories.
- **Use “Google.com” to do a surname search (i.e. “Zehren Genealogy”).** Include several of the website addresses in your ‘Findings & Recommendations’ letter that look like they might contain useful information.
- **Encourage the individual to write their family stories, gather information from family members and use the guidelines in the section titled “Connecting with Your Heritage” found in the packet.**