QUICK TIPS

How can I prevent people from changing MY TREE?

First of all, It’s not just your family and your tree.

Family Tree is a collaborative effort that allows individuals to work together to build a family tree. When descendants contribute what they know to the shared Family Tree and work together to find new information, their collective knowledge becomes more powerful.

Because Family Tree is a collaborative effort, we need to be courteous in our use of it. That means we have a responsibility to be cautious when we add information and make changes. Sometimes information is changed or added that we don’t agree with. All of us working together have a responsibility to other users.

Here are some things we can do to ensure our efforts are collaborative.

- **Follow your ancestors.**
  Following means you are notified when another user makes a change to your ancestor’s record. On the right-hand side of the name banner click Follow. It will then say Following.

- **Use Reason Statements when you add or change information.**
  When users add a reason statement, they communicate to others why they made the change or added the source.

- **Add and tag sources to support information you add, delete or change.**
  People are not as likely to change things if they can see official documents like church or government records, verifying the information.

- **Communicate with other users when you don’t understand a change they made.**
  Every user-contributed piece of information in the Family Tree is tagged with the screen name of the user who submitted the information. Click on Edit in the Vitals section and you will see the Last Changed date and user who made the change. If you click on the username, you will see a box where you can message the user. If you do send a message, keep your tone professional and neutral. Also, remember that not all users of Family Tree are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

- **Collaborate with other users.**
  On the person details page, click Collaborate and add a Note or Discussion. When you add a note, you can select the alert note check box. This warns other users when they go to the person page to double-check the note and other sources before making any changes.

Cheryl Fugal, November 2022