

An Introduction to WikiTree



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Goals:

1. Basic Understanding of WikiTree
2. RoadMap to Getting Started
3. Some Cool Features of WikiTree

What's a Wiki?

“a website that allows collaborative editing of its content and structure by its users.” –
Oxford Dictionary

Examples:

- Star Wars – Wookieepedia - <http://starwars.wikia.com/>
- Movies – Fandom - <http://fandom.wikia.com/>
- Cameras - <http://camera-wiki.org/>
- Genealogy research for topics and locations (not people) - <https://www.familysearch.org/wiki>

What is WikiTree?

*Our community is growing the world's most accurate collaborative family tree
by carefully evaluating sources & incorporating DNA.*

- Free to join and collaborate
- Public global family tree with privacy controls for living and recent ancestors

Who is WikiTree?

- Largely volunteer organization - few paid staff
- Founded by Chris Whitten in 2008
- As of September 2023, by the numbers:
 - o Over 1M registered members
 - o Over 35M unique individuals (profiles)
 - o Over 30M are connected to one another
 - o Over 12M connected by DNA



Team and Leaders at RootsTech 2017. From left to right: Michael Stills, Peter Roberts, Chris Whitten, Abby Glenn, Kitty Smith, Julie Ricketts, Eowyn Langholf, Karen Tobo, and Mags Gauden.

Getting Started

Honor Code is a big deal at WikiTree. It defines who we are and governs what we do.

https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Special:Honor_Code








Our Honor Code

- I. **We collaborate.** When we share ancestors we work together on the [same ancestor profiles](#).
- II. We care about **accuracy**. We're always aiming to improve upon our worldwide family tree and fix mistakes.
- III. We know mistakes are inevitable. We don't want to be afraid to make them. We **assume that mistakes are unintentional** when others make them and ask for the same understanding.
- IV. We know misunderstandings are inevitable. We try to minimize them by being [courteous to everyone](#), even those who don't act accordingly.
- V. We respect **privacy**. We [privacy-protect](#) anything we think our family members might not want public. If that's not enough for someone, we delete their personal information.
- VI. We respect **copyrights**. We don't knowingly copy information that's owned by someone else. If we ourselves want to preserve a copyright, we're clear about what's copyrighted so others don't accidentally copy it.
- VII. We give **credit**. Although most genealogy isn't copyrighted, researchers deserve [credit](#) for the work they've done.
- VIII. We cite **sources**. Without [sources](#) we can't objectively resolve conflicting information.
- IX. We are united in a [mission](#) to increase the world's common store of knowledge. We always respect copyrights and privacy, but we **keep information as free and open as possible**.

This code is a pledge that community members make to each other. The creators and hosts of WikiTree have also made a pledge: [to keep WikiTree free](#).

Privacy

Fine tuning of profile privacy is allowed. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Privacy>

-  **Unlisted**
No public information. Name won't appear in search results or directories.
Not an option for [active members](#).
-  **Private**
Strictly limited [public information](#). Only the [Trusted List](#) can view or edit the full profile.
-  **Private with Public Biography**
Same as Private but anyone can view the biography section.
-  **Private with Public Family Tree**
Same as Private but anyone can view the family tree. Other individuals in the tree can still be private.
-  **Private with Public Biography and Family Tree**
Same as Private but anyone can view the biography and family tree.
-  **Public**
Anyone can view the full profile but only the Trusted List can edit it.
Not an option for living people.
-  **Open**
Anyone can view the full profile and any member who has signed the [Wiki Genealogist Honor Code](#) can edit it.
Not an option for living people.

DNA

- Offers DNA collaboration, not testing.
- Confirm and reject common ancestors
- Contributes to a more accurate global family tree
- Works for autosomal, mtDNA, X and Y and all major testing companies
- For more information: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:DNA>

Making and Keeping the Global Tree Accurate

- Innovative Database Errors project analyze the tree for accuracy
- "Data Doctors" help clean up old profiles
- Automatic comparison to Find-A-Grave, Wikipedia, Wikidata
- "Arborists" help eliminate duplicates - <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Project:Arborists>
- Gedcom import check for duplicates before importing - <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:GEDCOM>
- The Honor Code says "We Cite Sources" and "We Collaborate"

Other Fun Stuff and Socializing

- Source-a-thon - add sources to profiles (annual community event)
<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Source-a-Thon>
- Clean-a-thon - cleanup profile errors (annual community event)
https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Spring_Clean-a-Thon
- Thanking and being thanked
<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Thank-Yous>
- Photo of the Week
https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Project:Photo_of_the_Week
- Profile of the Week (see if you are connected to someone notable)
<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Examples>
- Member of the Week (Highlight interesting members and their interests)
<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Members>
- Earning badges and points
https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Badges_and_Points
- A lively and active WikiTree forum called G2G (Genealogist to Genealogist)
<https://www.wikitree.com/g2g/>
- Lots of volunteer opportunities
https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Help:Volunteers_Needed