

OneGreatFamily Brief Explanation Video

Version 07

Host: So what is OneGreatFamily?

Expert: OneGreatFamily.com is a website that offers an automatic and unique source of research leads to help you build your family tree. As you enter your own information, our system will constantly, automatically try to tie your tree into trees researched by other genealogy enthusiasts. The web site does the difficult work of comparing data, and then it merges obvious duplicates and flags likely matches for *you* to review and merge.

Host: Maintaining control of my work is very important to me. So if your system automatically ties my tree into someone else's, won't that mess up my tree?

Expert: Not at all. The power of OneGreatFamily is that even though we are all working on the same tree, we each have our own unique view of that tree. We call this View Preservation™ and it is a very important aspect of OneGreatFamily.

Host: How does View Preservation work?

Expert: Let's say that you and I share a common ancestor. You believe he was born on January 1st and I believe he was born on January 2nd. In OneGreatFamily, when **you** look at that ancestor you will see his birth date as January 1st, but you will also see that someone else thinks it is January 2nd. When I look at that ancestor, I will see the birth date as January 2nd, but I will also see that someone else thinks it is January 1st.

Host: When I see that you disagree with me, what are my options?

Expert: Well, you can accept my information, or you can collaborate with me to try to resolve it. If we never agree and you are confident in your information, you can ignore mine. And of course, you can always go do more research before making a decision. The one thing you can't do though is change **my** view of the information - and I can't change **yours**. No one can ever change your data in OneGreatFamily.

Host: That sounds great, but what if we disagree about a relationship like a father, spouse or child?

Expert: Great question. View Preservation not only applies to dates and places, but to relationships as well. So you can record a different father for a common ancestor than I do. Or maybe you and I agree about the mother, but another user has recorded a different mother. We call these differences "Conflicts".

Host: So by looking at conflicts, I can see other genealogists' opinions about an ancestor?

Expert: Yes. But there is second aspect of our View Preservation that makes OneGreatFamily a truly unique resource.

Host: What is that?

Expert: OneGreatFamily **automatically** compares every ancestor you give us to every ancestor **ever** submitted to us - looking for duplicates.

Host: How big is your database?

Expert: As of May, 2010 we've had over 218,000,000 ancestors submitted to us. And we get about 400,000 more every week.

Host: That's a lot of ancestors, but can I trust your matching?

Expert: Our unique matching algorithm has been developed over 11 years time and we are confident it is the best in the world today. What makes us confident in our matching algorithm is not just that it considers more than names, dates and places, it also considers relationships.

Host: So your system is looking at a person's father, mother, spouse, children and siblings in addition to all that person's vitals?

Expert: That's right. The best way to determine if two people are the same is to compare their family relationships. Because of all those relationships as well as the size of our database, OneGreatFamily makes over 15 trillion comparisons a week.

Host: 15 trillion comparisons a week? That is absolutely amazing.

Expert: Two years ago we tested our system against a team of genealogists using 1,033 family trees. Our software was more accurate than the genealogists were

Host: That's very impressive.

Expert: Once OneGreatFamily finds two ancestors to be the same person, it will automatically merge, or combine those two ancestors together. And it can do that because...

Host: ...because View preservation means that no one's data is ever changed during a merge.

Expert: Exactly! Most systems have to be incredibly careful about combining people because it can really mess things up. But OneGreatFamily avoids this because of View Preservation. Merges in OneGreatFamily can't mess up your data because your view is always preserved.

Host: And if I don't agree with the merge, I can just ignore it.

Expert: Right. But after a merge, let's say I have the name of an ancestor where you have nothing, where you've hit a brick wall.

Host: Then I have a research lead to go check out. Now I see why you said OneGreatFamily is a great source of research leads.

Expert: Bingo! You are really starting to understand the power of OneGreatFamily. Other genealogists may have found parents, spouses, children, or even whole family lines you didn't know about. OneGreatFamily provides you with a wealth of leads to help you in building your family.

Host: Hey, that submitter might be a relative of mine. It would be great to connect to living distant relatives through OneGreatFamily, especially relatives that are doing genealogy.

Expert: One more thing to consider: Because of our unique matching and merging software, the family tree we have built over the last 11 years is completely unique. No one else has the family tree we have. It has completely unique relationships because of its ability to link your tree to my tree to a third person's tree and so on. You can find relationships in OneGreatFamily that are not recorded anywhere else in the world.

Host: Well, I'm impressed. I definitely want to check out more about OneGreatFamily. How do I get started?

Expert: I recommend you first sign up for the 7-day free trial on OneGreatFamily. You do that by going to OneGreatFamily.com and then click on the big orange button labeled "Free 7-Day Trial". That gives you 7 days to check out the site for free. Be sure at the end of the sign up process to download and review the "Quick Start Guide". It's a big help in understanding OneGreatFamily. Then immediately upload a GEDCOM file or enter as much of your family tree into OneGreatFamily as you know. Let Our matching and merging system do its magic and see what we find. That will get you well on your way.

Host: Great, that sounds simple enough, and I like the idea of a free trial. Thanks for explaining OneGreatFamily to me.

Expert: You are welcome. I've only scratched the surface of what you can accomplish with OneGreatFamily, but this will at least get you started. Good luck and enjoy the hunt.