

GETTING THE MOST FROM HINTS IN ONLINE TREES

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ON LINE TREE HINT ICONS

- Most family tree sites have an “hint” icon
- Computer matching an individual on your tree with an historical record in their databases or a person on another tree.
- Hints can build your tree with your ancestors or fill it with incorrect information

TYPES OF HINTS

- Two types of hints
 - Historical records
 - Other members family trees

USING ONLINE HINTS

- Approach each hint as a clue not a verified fact
- Check to see if there is a source for the fact
- Then check the source listed to see if it is the correct person
- Check to see if there are additional sources for the fact

HINTS TO HISTORICAL RECORDS

- Examine both transcription and digitized image if available
- Remember many people share names and even birth years
- Compare what the records says with what you already know
- Website may have transcription, spelling and other errors
- Examine both transcription and digitized image if available

WARNING – NOT ALL RECORDS WILL BE MATCHED

- In reality, hinting is skimming indexes for matches
- Important databases are not searched
- Many records in the databases require refined skills to find
- New records are always being added
- Search may not pick up a woman's maiden or married name

EXAMPLES

- Death of Harry Coldren
- Marriage of Aquilla Jones

HINTS TO FAMILY TREES

- No independent researcher verifies the accuracy of online trees
- Incorrect data goes viral as trees copy each other
- Do not accept all information but verify each individual fact
- Use common sense about basic data.
 - Wife born after marriage date
 - Children born before mother

EXAMPLES

- Wife of Isaac Coldren

FAMILY SEARCH

- To get hints, you must have information on the tree including names and dates of major events.
- Hints appear as blue icons
- Click on record of interest to receive a transcribed version
- IF the record seems to fit, select view image.
- To add the record to your tree select Review and Attach



+ Add Wife



Thomas Hanna
1838-1912 • LCFX-F8M
Marriage: 18 JUN 1860
Volant, Lawrence, Pennsylvania



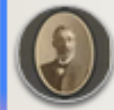
Elizabeth Carter
1839-1909 • LCFX-F61



+ Add Husband



Martha Jane Hanna
1840-1858 • K489-BFT



William Alexander Hanna
1842-1914 • KP4X-Q6V
Marriage: Abt 1863
Shovel City,, Pennsylvania



Record Hints

Thomas Hanna



[Thomas Hanna](#)
Iowa, County Death Records, 1880-1992



[Thomas Hanna](#)
Find A Grave Index



[Thomas Hanna](#)
United States Census, 1880



[Thomas Hanna](#)
United States Census, 1900



[Thomas Hanna](#)
Wisconsin, Marriages, 1836-1930

[Show Details](#)



+ Add Husband

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DS-5KP
6

, Mercer, Pennsylvania(



Charles Vincent Hanna

21 January 1925 – 9 November 2007 • KWZQ-XM2

[View Tree](#) [☆ Watch](#)

Details

Memories **0**

Ordinances **0**

[Vitals](#) | [Other](#) | [Family](#) | [Sources](#) **1** | [Discussions](#) **0** | [Notes](#) **1**

Life Sketch

[Close](#)

[+ Add](#)

Vital Information

[Close](#)

[Open Details](#)

Name
Charles Vincent Hanna

Sex
Male

Birth
21 January 1925
Wellington, Carbon, UT

RESEARCH HELP

Record Hints

-  [Charles Vincent Hanna](#)
United States Social Security Death Index
-  [Charles Vincent Hanna](#)
BillionGraves Index
-  [Charles V Hanna](#)
United States Census, 1940

[Show Details](#)

SEARCH RECORDS

ANCESTRY LEAVES

- Select the personal view of person you want hints for on you tree
- Check hints tag
- Check the review hint to look at the record
- IF hint is not valid, select Ignore Hint link
- Hint is not deleted but moved to Ignore Hint Page

✓ Saved to [AUSTIN, Murray Alva](#) in tree "Austin Family Tree" Remove



 [View blank form](#)

 [Add alternate information](#)

 [Report issue](#)

Name: **Murry Austin**

Age: **8**

Birth Date: **Nov 1891**

Birthplace: **South Dakota**

Home in 1900: **Hamlin, Hamlin, South Dakota**

Race: **White**

Gender: **Male**

Relation to Head of House: **Son**

Marital Status: **Single**

Father's name: **Robert Austin**

Father's Birthplace: **Canada English**

Mother's name: **Mary Austin**

Mother's Birthplace: **Canada, England**


Occupation: [View on Image](#)


Neighbors: [View others on page](#)



Provided in association with
National Archives and Records
Administration

Suggested Records

 [U.S., WWI Civilian Draft Registrations, 1917-1918](#)
Murray Alba Austin

 [South Dakota, State Census, 1905](#)
Murry Austin

 [U.S. City Directories, 1822-1989](#)
Murray A Austin-Hobson

 [Washington, Marriage Records, 1865-2004](#)
Unabelle G Tompkins

 [Washington, Marriage Records, 1865-2004](#)
Munay Austin

ANCESTRY DNA THRU LINES

- Uses public or private and searchable family trees
- Searches other Ancestry trees marked public or private and searchable
- Only you and anyone you have invited can see ThruLines

MY HERITAGE DISCOVERIES


- Two types of matches
 - Smart Matches – from other people's tree
 - Record Discoveries – directly from records and other collections
- Claims to have most accurate hint system





Hi Kathryn,

Good news, MyHeritage found **350 new Smart Matches** for you!

 A Smart Match connects between someone in your family tree to someone who we believe is the same person in a family tree of another MyHeritage member. Good Smart Matches lead your way to discover new relatives and ancestors!

New Smart Matches in your 'Kathryn Austin' family tree



29 new Smart Matches were found in [Strömberg/Henriksson/Samson Web Site / Stromberg-Henriksson-Samson](#), a family tree of 6,436 people created by **Mats Strömberg** from Switzerland and last updated on October 1 2015.

[Contact Mats](#)



In your tree

In matching tree



Clara Elizabeth Seeman



Clara Elizabeth Seeman (born Freestone)

Match quality: 98%



[Learn more](#)



Oscar Anton FREESTONE



Oscar Anthony Freestone

Match quality: 98%

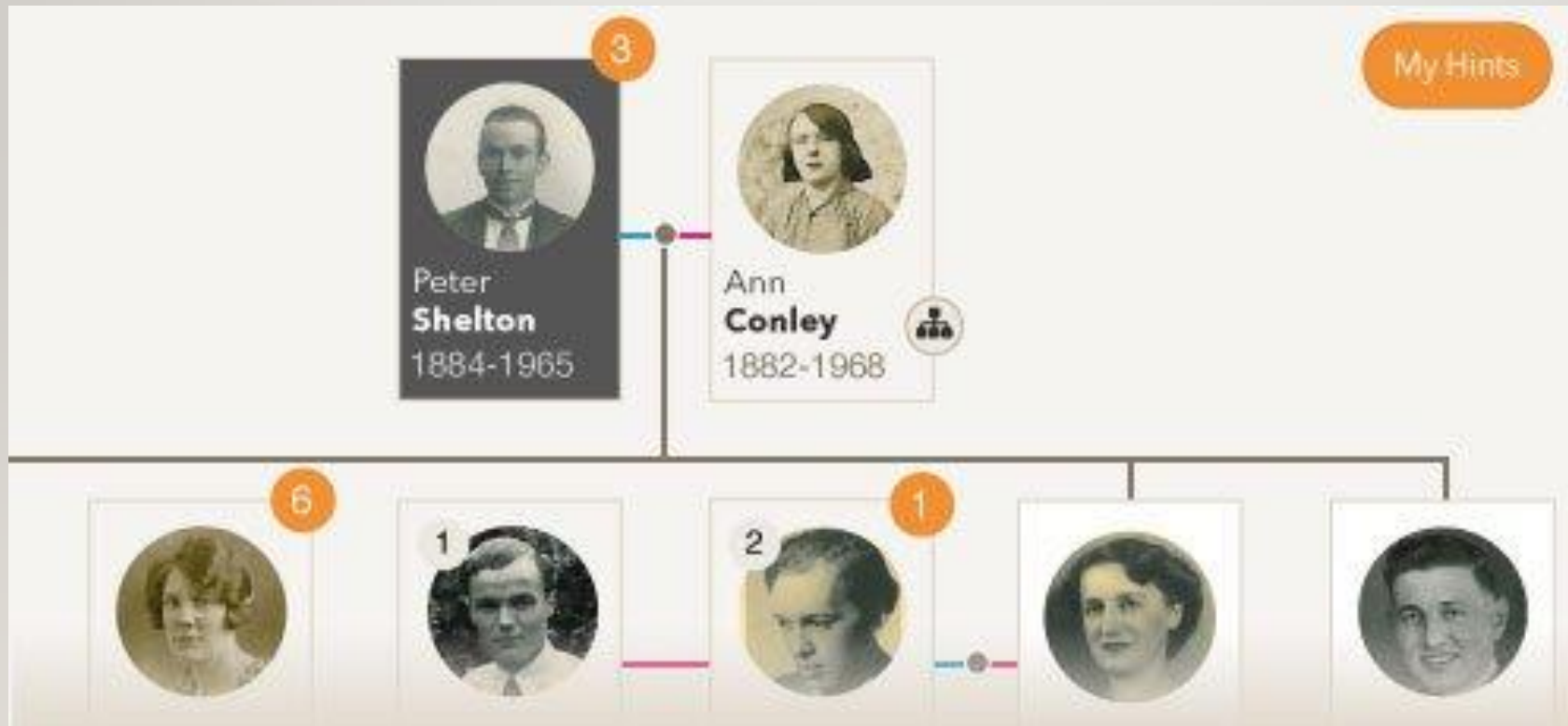


FIND MY PAST

- Very good for English families
- Does not include searchable family trees

1. Find a person with an orange bubble on their name icon and click on that person
2. Click the orange button that says 'Hints'
3. All possible matches will be shown.
4. If a hint definitely doesn't match your ancestor click 'Reject'
5. If it looks like a match, click 'Review'.
6. Decide whether the record is a match or not
7. Click 'No, reject' if it's not a match
8. Click 'Yes, next step' if it is a match
9. If you clicked 'Yes, next step', you will be asked to merge the information (further instruction on how to merge below)

FIND MY PAST



ROOTSFINDER

- New FREE online family tree program
- Owned by Find My Past
- Hints pulled from FamilySearch, Findmypast, American Ancestors and Newspapers Archive and integrated, prefilled searches for Ancestry and MyHeritage.