

## Slide notes for Duplicates in Family Tree

(Partial list with title from the slide)

### Slide # 1. When Using the Possible Duplicates Function

**8-** First, as you're probably aware, Family Tree has a Possible Duplicates link on the person page. When you click this link, FT finds records that have information in common with the one you're viewing: for example, same or very similar name, same birth date, same parents' names.

It's important to be aware that while the Possible Duplicates function finds many duplicates, there are many it doesn't find. We'll be talking more about that later.

**9- When Adding a New Person** Second, you also have a good chance of finding duplicates when you use any of the Add functions (Add Spouse, Add Child, etc.) When you begin the processing of adding someone, FT automatically takes you to the Find Person screen so you can see if they're already in Family Tree.

There is a tab to add a person, but this should be used only rarely after you've already done a careful search. I would say a good 30% of the people I try to add are already in Family Tree, and that includes non-pioneer lines.

So in this case, I'm searching to see if William Bescoby, the son of John and Ann, is already in the system. Born around 1832 in Ingoldsby, Lincs.

**10- When Adding a New Person** So, when I searched for William, a match came up.

If you get a match, verify that it's the right person before adding. You can control-click the person link to open the person's record in a new window or tab so you can review it.

Important caveat: just because someone doesn't come up on this screen doesn't mean they aren't in FT. If you have strong reason to believe they're in the system (for example, most names from the area have been extracted), then click refine and broaden your search--for instance, without the parish/city; also, broaden the years and even remove parents' names. We'll talk more about search strategies later.

**11- When Searching for Someone Else** Third, here's another unexpected but fairly likely place to find duplicates: In the search results when you're searching for someone else! You probably don't want to get distracted from your current search, but if obvious duplicates fall into your lap, make a note of the PIDs so you can merge them later.

**12- 4. When Adding a Source from FamilySearch Historical Records** Fourth: you may spot a duplicate when adding sources found using the Search Records function on the person page. If Family Tree thinks the source might match two people in Family Tree, it's worth checking to see if they are duplicates.

**13- 5. When Viewing a Person Page (Parents, Siblings, or Children)** Fifth: you may notice duplicates on a person page: duplicate children, spouses, or parents.

Duplicate children may result from duplicate christening records, for example, or they may become apparent when parents are merged.

Be careful, though, because some areas of the world had a custom of giving a child the same name as a previously deceased sibling, as seen in this example. I've also had cousins in a small parish born 6 months apart with the same name--so be sure the records really do represent the same person before merging them.

**17- Example 1: Duplicate Not Found by Possible Duplicates Search** So here we have Lidia Herrick, with an exact christening date and location of 26 Sep 1666 in Salem, Essex, MA. Her father is Henry, but we have no other information for her.

**18-Example 1: Duplicate Not Found by Possible Duplicates Search** When I click Possible Duplicates, this is what I see:

**19- Example 1: Duplicate Not Found by Possible Duplicates Search** However, when I run a regular search using Find on the toolbar, this is what I see. The bottom one is our record, but it comes up with two possible matches. Let's take a look at the top one.

**20-Example 1: Duplicate Not Found by Possible Duplicates Search** Let's compare the record for Lidia with the first match:

- \* First name slightly different
- \* Birth on second one, not first
- \* Christening identical
- \* Death on second one, not on first.

**21-Example 1: Duplicate Not Found by Possible Duplicates Search** And let's compare the families:

- \* First one only has father, Henry (no last name, but obviously his name should be Herrick); second has mother and children.

So there were too many differences for the system to consider them a possible duplicate, even though it's clear that they are.

Lesson: FS search algorithms can't possibly predict every situation; they try to do their best for the most common cases. Don't rely on Possible Duplicates to find all duplications. To be safe, run manual searches as well.

**22- Example 2: Duplicate Not Found by Possible Duplicates or Find (Toolbar)** Here's another example. Here is a christening record for someone who married into one of my lines. I want to see if she's already in Family Tree before I add her

**23-Example 2: Duplicate Not Found by Possible Duplicates or Find (Toolbar)** So I do a search in Family Tree using her name and christening date and location, and she comes right up. I also scan over first few unlikely duplicates, but I don't see anything that looks close.

**24- Example 2: Duplicate Not Found by Possible Duplicates or Find (Toolbar)** Also, when I navigate to her person page and click Possible Duplicates, nothing comes up. Am I safe in assuming there are no more duplicates?

Well, let's look. I know from my research that Millicent married John Bescoby. Let's see what happens when I change my search to include Millcent's spouse...

**25-Example 2: Duplicate Not Found by Possible Duplicates or Find (Toolbar)** I ran my own manual search to see if I could find John Bescoby with Millicent Spray. And in fact, she came up near the top of the list as the wife of John Bescoby.

Now of course I want to look at the record to make sure this is really the same Millicent, but when I do...

**26-Example 2: Duplicate Not Found by Possible Duplicates or Find (Toolbar)** I see that this is definitely my Millicent--right spouse, right children.

The secret here was that I had done enough research to know the family. I knew who her husband and children were, so I was able to run a search that enabled me to find a less-obvious duplicate record.