

What Current Programs Don't do

Pedigree Family Descendants People WebSearch Timeline

Father: 2
Judson Higley
 b: abt 1837, Jamestown, Chautauqua, New York, United States
 m: 29 Nov 1860, Ogle County, Illinois, United States
 d: 18 Jun 1912, Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska, United States

Father's Parents:
 Daniel Higley
 Nancy Bentley

Mother:
Ruah Ette Matthews
 b: 13 Aug 1838, New York, United States
 d: 22 Jan 1892, Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska,

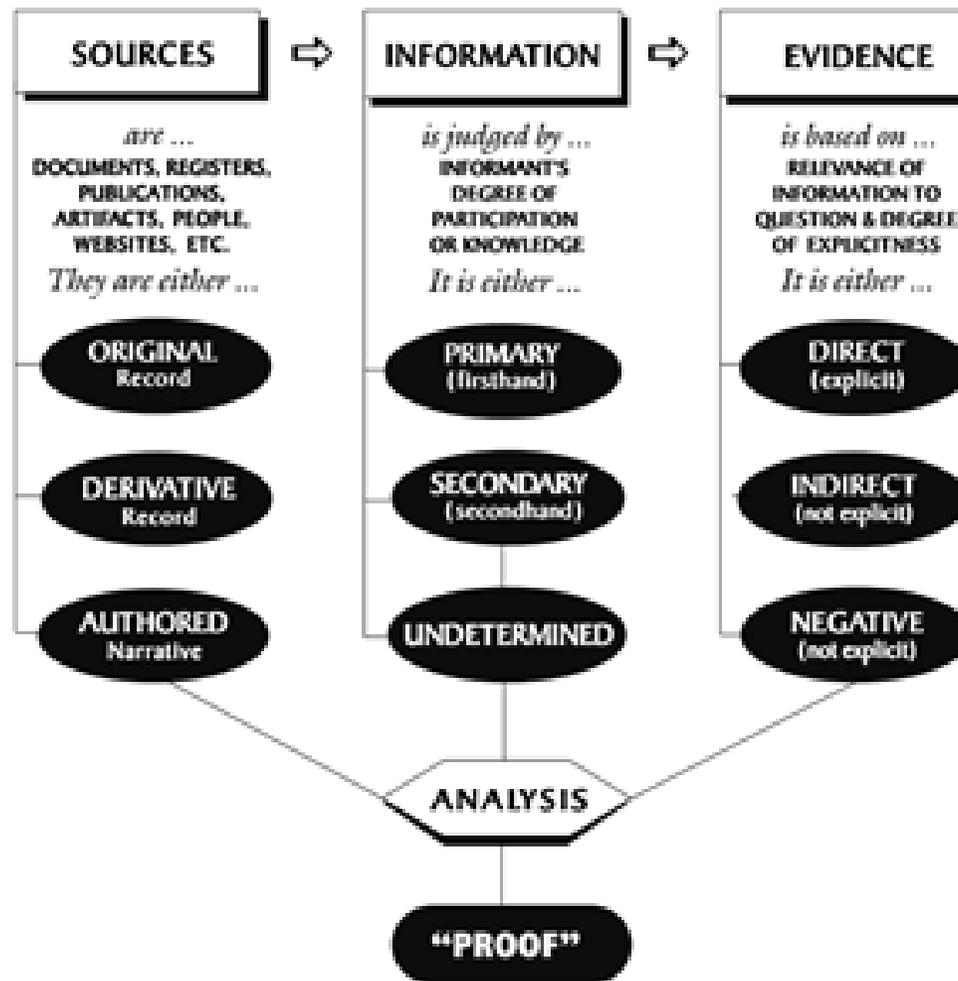
Edit Person
Judson Higley
 + Add a fact X Delete fact Options Address Media ToDo Research log

Children	Sex	Born
1 Cornelia Higley	F	Nov 1861
2 Elmer J. Higley	M	Dec 1867
3 Anna R. Higley	F	3 Apr 1871
4 Harlow Higley	M	Dec 1872
5 Allison Higley	F	abt 1875
+ Click to add a child		

Person	Judson Higley		
Spouse	Ruah Ette Matthews		
Spouse	Anna B. Baddenberg		
Parents	Daniel Higley and Nancy Bentley		
Facts	Date	Details	Age
Birth	abt 1837	Jamestown, Chautauqua, New York, United States	0 ✓ ✓
Census	1850	Buffalo Twp., Ogle, Illinois, United States	13 ✓
Census	1860	Buffalo Twp., Ogle, Illinois, United States	23 ✓
Marriage	29 Nov 1860	Ruah Ette Matthews - Ogle County, Illinois, United States	23 ✓
Census	1870	Warren Twp., Lucas, Iowa, United States	33 ✓
Census	1880	Fairfield, Jefferson, Iowa, United States	43 ✓
Census	1885	Fairfield, Jefferson, Iowa, United States	48 ✓
Marriage	6 Apr 1893	Anna B. Baddenberg - Douglas County, Nebraska, United States	56 ✓
Census	1900	Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska, United States	63 ✓
Census	1910	Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska, United States	73 ✓
Death	18 Jun 1912	Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska, United States	75 ✓

Last edited: 7 Dec 2018 Close

Basic Genealogical Methodology

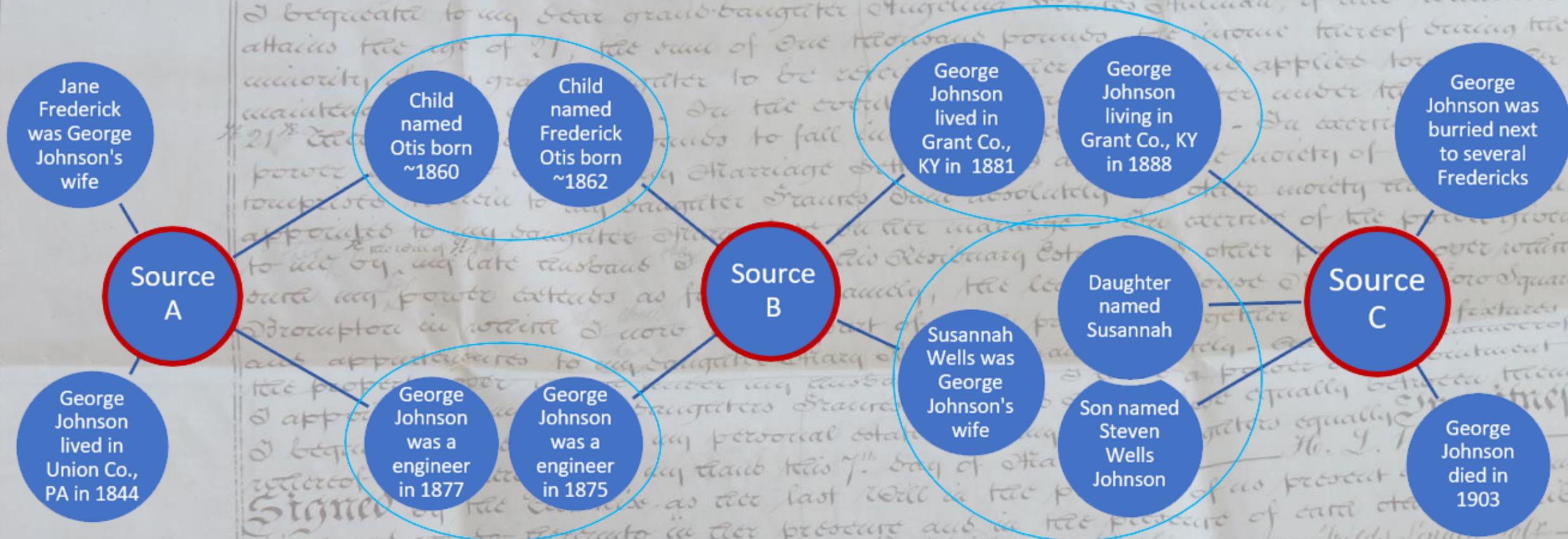


What Genealogist Do to Compensate

- Spreadsheets
- White boards
- Bulletin boards
- Paper
- Intellect



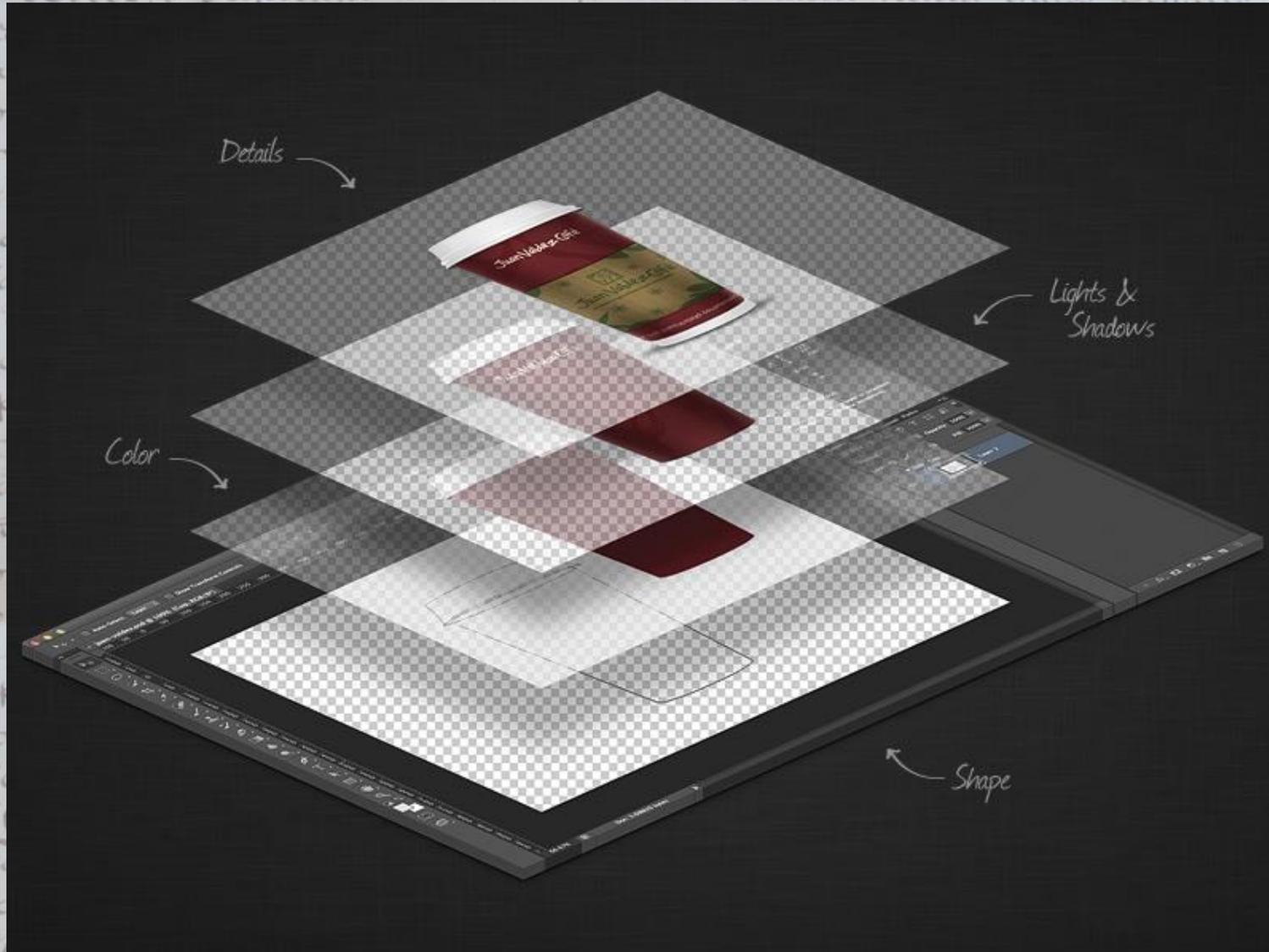
Solution: User-End



Solution: Dynamic Relational Database



Solution: Dynamic Relational Database



My name is Christopher Devenport. I'm majoring in family history and pursuing additional coursework in computer programming. From my perspective as a major of genealogy and someone who is planning on pursuing genealogy as a profession, I have realized some things that I feel are lacking in the family history technology community.

Current family history software do many things. What software don't do is allow genealogist to analyze sources. Current software requires that upon finding a source, you immediately input information to individuals on a family tree.

Genealogical research doesn't work this way. Almost every individual that genealogists research has at least one other individual with a similar bio. There are hundreds to thousands of John Smiths who were born in the early 1800s, for example.

Before genealogists come to conclusions about *their* John Smith, they analyze the sources and sort the various identities. Genealogists do this by collecting and analyzing sources that do not end up pertaining to *their* John Smith. The foundational genealogical research standard requires that genealogists sort the correct John Smith from the incorrect John Smiths before coming to a conclusion.

Presently, genealogists use a variety of ways to analyze information including spreadsheets, paper, and more. It is a shame that this happens when we can use computers to create something to help genealogists become more efficient and effective.

Unlike logic grid puzzles where the information provided is either true or false with no middle ground, the information from genealogical sources are almost never 100% correct. For example, it is almost inevitable that from all the sources collected for an individual, their birthdates and names will vary widely. Things get more complicated when spouses remarry, families relocate, and individuals live with their cousins. Conclusions are made from an analysis of more than just the information in sources. Genealogists take into account the individual who gave the information, the potential motives of the informant, the likelihood of errors, the history of that time and location, and the way the records were kept. Although genealogy isn't a logic grid puzzle that computers can solve in seconds, computers can play more of a key role in helping genealogists analyze information.

This image shows a simplified illustration of how a genealogist's analysis might tentatively conclude that Source A and Source C pertain to the same individual. Pen and paper are good doing this, but computers are even better.

The solution to this problem is a complex dynamic relational database with a simple interface that assists in analyzing genealogical information.

The proposed software which would help analyze genealogical information has a similar function that photoshop has with photos. The proposed software would treat each source as a different layer of the puzzle. Once a sufficient number of sources had been collected, a genealogist could see what various combinations of sources would look like and eventually line up the information in the way that makes the most complete picture. It is a shame that genealogists continue to recreate a way to analyze information when a program could be created that simplified this.

Who is going to create this software? Hopefully someone who knows more than I do, but if not, then I will eventually initiate its creation.