Beyond GEDCOM:
Modeling Genealogical Source Record Data
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What is “record data?”
Structured data that allows the computer to understand what
the record says about the people that it mentions.

Record data:
What we believe the record says
about the people it mentions,
or what it strongly implies

Tree data:
What we believe is true
about the people in the tree

Additional record concepts:
- Parts (day, month, year; city, county; etc.)
- Roles (groom, beneficiary, etc.)
- Self-contained person groups

Using the common structure of record and tree data

Original source document image
Record details view

L. Edgar Merrill
b. 2 June 1906, Utah
d. 5 Oct 1906
Richmond, Cache, Utah

Vernor Hendrick Merrill
b. 2 June 1906, Utah
d. 5 Oct 1906
Richmond, Cache, Utah

Clara Hendricks