

Hiring a Genealogist to Work on an *Ancestry.com* Tree

Option 1: Provide Access to Your *Ancestry* Account

Share *Ancestry* log-in information so the genealogist can access your tree through your account. Invite the genealogist to be an editor (see Option 2 for instructions) on the *Ancestry* tree (or give the genealogist permission to issue that invitation from within the account). The genealogist will sign in to your account to download your tree into a computer program called *Family Tree Maker* (FTM) and then work on that tree using a personal *Ancestry* account (not yours). The genealogist will keep a log of changes made. At the end of the project, the genealogist can sync your *Ancestry* tree with FTM and use that program to easily generate reports and/or book files.

Option 2: Provide Editing Privileges on Your *Ancestry* Tree

Invite genealogist to your tree and provide editing privileges. Genealogist logs into *Ancestry* using a personal account to make updates to your tree. Genealogist keeps a log of changes made. This option does not allow the genealogist to generate reports and/or book files.

Instructions on how to share your tree: <https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Sharing-a-Family-Tree>

Option 3: Provide Temporary Account Access; Editing Done in Genealogist's Account

Briefly share temporary log-in information (change password, then change it back) so the genealogist can pull down a copy of your tree using *Family Tree Maker* (a genealogical program that is installed on the genealogist's computer). The genealogist then uploads the tree to a personal *Ancestry* account (not yours) and all updates are made to that tree; your original tree isn't changed. At the end of the project, the genealogist can easily generate reports and/or book files using FTM. The genealogist will share access to the new tree but there is no guarantee that the tree will be available indefinitely. The genealogist will also provide a GEDCOM that you can upload into your own account at the end of the project. This offers backup and gives you a way to retain the information and expand the tree in the future.

Option 4: Share a GEDCOM

Share a GEDCOM file downloaded from *Ancestry* so the genealogist can import the tree information into *FTM*. This tree can be uploaded to *Ancestry* using the genealogist's account to create a new tree which can then be shared with you. No images are transferred by this process so they will not appear in any reports or book files that are generated at the end of the project.

Instructions for downloading your *Ancestry* tree and creating a GEDCOM file:

<https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Uploading-and-Downloading-Trees>

Option 5: Purchase *Family Tree Maker*

Family Tree Maker (<https://www.mackiev.com/ftm/>) is a \$79.95 computer program that syncs with *Ancestry* trees and provides numerous options for printing reports, including drafts of books for publication. Optional add-ons offer additional publishing capabilities. Owning a copy would

provide an easy way to backup the Ancestry tree regularly, share the full tree with the genealogist without providing log-in information or using a workaround, and independently generate reports and drafts of books for publication on an on-going basis.

This option doesn't allow the genealogist to make changes on your Ancestry tree. You would need to "merge" the resulting GEDCOM into your existing FTM file and then sync it to your online tree. This would open up the possibility of duplicate information, sources, and images that would you would then need to fix.