

2015 OWOFF Conference – Preserving Your Family History Memories Now Through FamilySearch

Outline:

- Mission of FamilySearch
 - Why have a FamilySearch account?
 - Tools: For Preserving Your Family History Memories;
 - Family Tree, Memories-Photos, Stories, Documents, Mobile Apps
 - Resources: To help you find your ancestors;
 - Records, Books, Genealogies, Learning Centre, FamilySearch Catalogue, Family History Centres
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Mission of FamilySearch:

- **Gather, Preserve, and Share** family history information resources
- Been doing this for over 100 years, and the resources are offered around the world for people to use for free either at the main library or at Family History Centres located around the world

Tools for Preserving Your Family History Memories

A FamilySearch Account - Why have a FamilySearch Account? To gain access to:

1. Online Ordering
2. FamilyTree
3. Memories
4. Authoring Wiki articles
5. Books and records

The FamilySearch Website - Navigation Tips:

- Footer of the website to access the FamilySearch Blog, About FamilySearch, Site Map, Feedback, App Gallery (describes and lists 3rd party family history apps for mobile devices), Language (website is hosted in 10 languages), etc
- FamilySearch logo will return you to the home page
- Get Help, Sign in and Free Account (creating an account) are in the upper left corner of the website
- Main sections of the Website: FamilyTree, Memories, Search and Indexing

FamilyTree

- An online collaborative family tree that can be displayed in 3 different formats – Portrait, Traditional (Pedigree), and Fan Chart
- Can attach sources, pictures, stories, documents, audio files to the persons on your tree
- Each person has a person card – click on person to go to the Person page where you can find, edit, and view personal details about an individual in your tree

Memories

- Upload photos, create digital photo albums, stories, add documents and audio files
- Searchable, items can be attached to people in your family tree and shared on social media
- Photos can be tagged in order to preserve image metadata

FamilySearch Mobile Apps (available in iOS and android formats)

- **FamilySearch – Memories:** Allows users to easily add, tag, share, and preserve photos, stories and audio files on mobile devices to your FamilySearch account
- **FamilySearch – Tree:** Makes it easy for users to record your pedigree online, attach photos, and written stories
- Remember to visit the **FamilySearch App Gallery** to view other family history mobile apps

Resources to Help Find Your Ancestors

Search Tab on the FamilySearch Website

- **Records** – Search on an enterprise level or by geographic location
- My personal favorite in the records area is to browse the published collections to view the latest updates and filter by collection name, type, date, and location
- **Genealogies** - Contains 4 main databases of genealogies.
 - **Ancestral File:** A static collection of genealogies submitted by users prior to 2003 (40 million). Submissions were merged to eliminate duplication. Contains – 100,000 pre – 1600s names (= 25,000 families)
 - **Pedigree Resource File:** A growing collection of genealogies submitted by users (220 million). No corrections or merges are made
 - **IGI:** Information from over 430 million ancestors contributed by members of the LDS Church – each record contains one event: birth, baptism (christening), marriage, or death
 - **Community Trees:** A collection of sourced genealogies from specific times and places have been linked according to family lineages and relations – Community Trees are constantly being submitted by the community. Remember Genealogies are static and are corrected by users adding new entire submissions
- Genealogies enable user to view notes, person counts, submission ID numbers, and view contributors entire submission lists via submission ID numbers

- **FamilySearch Catalogue** -Research Tip: Search by – Places, Surnames, Titles, Author, Subjects, Keywords, Call Number, Fiche/Film Number, By FHC; notes provides links to online ordering, media type, and other information about the resource (title, if located at a FHC near you, dates, etc)
- **Books** – Access a digital library through FamilySearch, over 100,000 book on family history available to search and download
- **Research Wiki** – Offers over 82,000 community contributed family history articles, and is a place where you can give back by sharing your expertise on a subject, look for links in wiki articles to FamilySearch Facebook communities

Get Help area of the website – offers access to a variety of online help resources for users

- **Getting Started** – A place to assist beginners in the research process with instructional videos, etc
- **Learning Centre** – Where users can take online course for free through the FamilySearch website. Online Courses are offered in various categories – by place, skill level, subject, most popular, and new courses

Family History Centres – over 4,700 family history centres are located around the world. Find your nearest family history centre through the home page of FamilySearch, and look them up on the Research Wiki for hours of operation, and other details.

Each family history centre offers access to:

- The main collection through online ordering
- A unique local collection
- The Family History Centre Services Online Portal
- Personal assistance in getting started