

Finding Your Ancestors with FamilySearch

A FamilySearch Account - Why have a FamilySearch Account?

- To gain access to:
1. FamilyTree
 3. Memories
 4. Authoring Wiki articles
 5. Books and records

The FamilySearch Website - Navigation Tips:

- **Website Footer:** 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.
- **Website Header:** FamilySearch logo will return you to the home page.
- 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 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

Finding Your Ancestors with FamilySearch

- Remember to visit the **FamilySearch App Gallery** to view other family history mobile apps. Filter and select the apps that are suited to your research.

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
 - Search results now contain views which are links to the Person Card in Family Tree (the pedigree icon), the indexed record (document icon), and the image of the record (camera icon with a square is a link to the image available through a FamilySearch partner website, a plain camera icon is a link to the image on FamilySearch)
- **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 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 enables user to view notes, person counts, submission ID numbers, and view contributor's entire submission lists via submission ID numbers
- **FamilySearch Catalogue** - Research Tip: Search by – Places, Surnames, Titles, Author, Subjects, Keywords, Call Number, and Fiche/Film Number. A new feature is the ability to also filter searches by any, online (online records) and family history centres. Notes within each catalog entry provides links to online records, media type, and other information about the resource (title, if located at a family history centre near you, dates, etc.). Rapid productions of online records are published first through the catalogue and are added later to records under search.
- **Books** – Access a digital library through FamilySearch, over 300,000 books on family history

Finding Your Ancestors with FamilySearch

available to search and download. Remember some licensing restrictions only allow some publications to be viewed within a family history centre depending on the copyright agreement with the copyright holders.

- **Research Wiki** – Offers over 87,000 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

- **Help** area of the website – offers access to a variety of online help resources for users
 - Help Centre – access to frequently asked questions, and a search bar where you can type in topics, icon links provide fast access by topics
 - Getting Started – A place to assist beginners in the research process with instructional videos, etc.
 - Contact Us – ways to contact FamilySearch via phone, email, live chat, 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
 - Community: Access to community groups for family history research, indexing, feedback and suggestions, community help
 - My Cases: A place to track your online case reports with FamilySearch
 - Research Wiki: A quick link to the FamilySearch Wiki
 - What's New: A quick link to the FamilySearch Blog
 - Consultant Resources: Contains the Consultant Planner - Resources for family history centre volunteers (also see Community for further resources)

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 access: e.g. Digitized microfilms or microfiche, digitized books (some collections and books are only viewable online at family history centres or at FamilySearch affiliate libraries).

- A unique local collection

- The Family History Centre Services Online Portal (a variety of premium family history subscription websites like Ancestry.com, FindMyPast, 19th Century British Newspaper Archives, Newspaper Archives, MyHeritage, etc.)

- Personal assistance in getting started