

FamilySearch.org is a free service provide by the Church of Christ of the Latter Day Saints.

THE RECORDS: Genealogical information contained in over 2.4 million rolls of microfilm and 1 million micro fiche. This equals about 3 billion pages of family history records. The vault's library of microfilm increases by up to 40,000 rolls per year. FamilySearch has 6.875 billion historic records on microfilm that are being digitized and eventually indexed. These records contain an estimated 20.6 billion names. FamilySearch has over 200 digital record preservation camera teams in 45 countries who produce more than 100 million new digital images for free online publication each year. Currently less than 5% of the records are digitized. They estimate 5-6 years to complete digitization; 30 years to get it all indexed (the number for indexing was 300 years just 2 years ago).

COST: Everything on the FamilySearch site is free. Registration is requested and allows access to more records. Indexers have even more access.

OPENING SCREEN - changes often. Generally the same things stay on the site, but where to find them changes with each new update.

LEARNING

Currently (Nov 2013) - click on the "get help" tab at top right of screen, then "Help and Learn Center" to get help on specific products, to access the "learning center" area, for individual research assistance. To reach the Help Center directly: <familysearch.org/ask>

- Product support - short video, print handout and place to ask question on FamilySearch products
- Research Assistance
 - Ask a specialist - Individual (by online chat or phone) help on a variety of subjects
 - Search Research Articles - access to articles on every phase of research
- Getting started: Short videos on how to start using FamilySearch
- Learning Center (under get help) - Access to hundreds of online genealogy courses to help you discover your family history. Free webinars from the RootsTech conference. 5 minute genealogy videos.
- Research Wiki: Series of articles on variety of topics; search for information on any topic

HELP: For phone, live chat or email support - click on "help" tab at top.
To locate Family History Centers - click on "help" tab at top, then "In Person Help"

PHOTOS - latest project of FamilySearch - one millionth photo uploaded to FamilySearch on 17 Sept

- Place to back up your priceless photos - they says they'll preserve forever; backup daily
- Also want photos of family documents, memorabilia, heirlooms
- Can be uploaded from computer, tablet or phone
- Can be linked to folks in your FamilyTree - or downloaded to your computer
- Individuals in a photo can be tagged.; Add captions or stories to your photos
- Search for photos uploaded by others. Photos & stories can also be found with a Google search.

FAMILYTREE - A "global family tree"

Family trees from folks all over the world. Started with Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource File. Excellent guide at: broadcast.lds.org/eLearning/fhd/Community/en/FamilySearch/FamilyTree/pdf/familyTreeUserGuide.pdf

- Continually evolving - not perfect, but getting better
- Your complete tree is visible only to you - sign in to see it. Living folks not visible to others.
 - Use "find" to see what's there
 - In person view, see family, vital info, and search for records; tree view for "big picture" & navigation
- Build your family tree online or connect to a tree already there
 - Add new people, connect to those already there or expand/correct records others have posted
 - Add your own documentation, photos, documents, stories, etc
 - Connect with others working on same families
 - Link to information you find on FamilySearch or post info you've found elsewhere
- Anyone can correct or make changes; check "watch" to follow any changes (you can change back).
 - Explanation is expected for any changes
- Use "fan chart" to see a compact view of your family; Print family group sheet, fan chart or pedigree chart

SEARCH: Tab from main screen. To go directly to search <familysearch.org/search> On “Search” screen are: Records, Genealogies, Catalog, Books and Wiki

Search Records: Records span billions of names across hundreds of collections—including birth, marriage, death, probate, land, military, IGI extractions, and more

- Start with name you’re looking for
 - Add filters for birth, death, residence, marriage (places and dates) to narrow search
 - Add a filter for relationship - i.e. spouse, parents or other persons
 - Use the check box for exact search on any field
- Browse by location
 - Use list at bottom of page to restrict your search to a specific location - i.e United States, then Florida
 - Filter by collection name - i.e. social security, Ohio, US Census
 - Filter by date; type collection or for records with images
- The camera icon indicates digitized images

Search Genealogies: User Submitted Genealogies is a set of lineage linked conclusion trees provided to FamilySearch by users. This data comes from the Ancestral File, the Pedigree Resource File and other user submissions. Use with caution.

Search Catalog: Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch. Many items can be loaned to local Family History Centers around the world.

- Search by place, surname, title, author, subject, keyword, call number or film number
- If record has been digitized or is already at your FHC, it will be stated with the record
- Otherwise - follow links until you get to page that has film number
 - Click on film number to order record
 - Pay with debit or credit card or PayPal - \$7.50 for 3 months; \$17.50 for indefinite
 - Films usually arrive to local FHC in 2-3 weeks; notification from FamilySearch on shipment; by local FHC on arrival
 - Use films only at FHC. Many FHCs have printers and can save to flash drive.

Search Books: over 100,000 digitized genealogy and family history publications

- Read online or download to your computer
- Search by author, title, subject, place, etc

Search - Wiki: An “wikipedia” of genealogy - Get research advice, or learn where to find record collections in our **74,981** articles. Continual updates. Wonderful helps!

INDEXING: The Family History Library is digitizing the records, but individuals are indexing them so that they are accessible. Volunteers are always needed. Click on the “indexing” tab to learn more. It’s fun, goes quickly and allows you to pay back for the help you’ve received

- Signing on as an indexer gives you access to more records
- Work in your own home, on your computer, at your own speed and when you choose
- Help is always available for indexers;
- Each record is indexed by two indexers; arbitrators resolve differences.
- You select what projects you wish to work on
- Volunteers have indexed almost a billion records; 1 million this year

OTHER HINTS:

- ◆ There is a tab for feedback at the bottom of most every page. They do listen, so use it
- ◆ The page can be viewed in any of 8 languages - tab at bottom to switch languages
- ◆ They are not yet making corrections to records or indexing, but it’s in the plans
- ◆ New partnerships with Ancestry, MyHeritage, FindMyPast to add new records & speed up indexing & searching
- ◆ If your search finds an indexed record (rather than an image), note the film number. There is usually more information than was indexed. Order the film to see what else there is.

Check back often - New records are added each day !