

FamilySearch Basics

Get started with searching

1. Visit familysearch.org.
2. **Sign in** or create a free account.
3. Click “Search,” then select “Records”.

Try searching for your ancestors in different ways:

Search Historical Records

Search over 2.6 billion records in the FamilySearch database using your ancestor’s:

- Name
- Date/place of birth, marriage, death, and residence
- Relationships

Filter searches by location, date, and record type to further narrow your results.

View, print, or download records, or add them to the shared family tree.

Research By Place

Select a specific country, state, etc., to search record collections from that location.

Browse indexed collections, unindexed images, research guides, and classes for that location.

Find a Collection

If you know the name of the collection you want to view you can search for it specifically.

Otherwise, use filters to browse for collections based on place, date, and type (e.g., birth, marriage, and death; census and lists; probate and court; etc.)

Also explore Genealogies, the Catalog, and Books to find books, histories, and unindexed records.

You can even search the shared FamilySearch family tree!

Add Ancestor Information

NAME ALTERNATE NAME SEX

First Names Last Names

Add Life Event

ANY BIRTH MARRIAGE RESIDENCE DEATH

Place

City, County, State, Province, or Country

Year (Range)

From

To

Add Family Member

SPOUSE FATHER MOTHER OTHER PERSON

Add Record Options

LOCATION TYPE BATCH NUMBER

FILM/FICHE/IMAGE GROUP NUMBER (DGS) PRINCIPAL

Country or Location

State or Province

☐ Show Exact Search

What is FamilySearch?

FamilySearch is an international, nonprofit organization created by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and based in Salt Lake City, UT.

You can create a free account to search for records in the FamilySearch records database, contribute to the shared family tree, and explore the Research Wiki for research guidance related to specific locations, record types, or events.

The FamilySearch Family Tree

The FamilySearch Family Tree differs from many other tree-building websites. When using the FamilySearch tree, you are contributing to a shared global tree rather than constructing an individual tree. Every person entered into the family tree is given a single profile and ID, and modifications are collaborative.

Add Yourself

Click on Family Tree and select Tree from the menu. Your name appears as you entered it during account creation. Select your name and you can add details in the info pane.

Work Backward

Click the caret (^) icon to add your parents and continue working backward. FamilySearch will suggest potential matching profiles that have already been created by other users.

View and Edit Ancestor Profiles

Click on a name to access that ancestor's profile. View additional details, attach records, add photos and narratives, and collaborate with other users to discover and document your ancestor's story.

Note: Information about living people, including yourself, is not visible to other users.

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Other users may have already constructed a significant portion of your family tree through common ancestors. While this is an opportunity to share research, it is important to first verify the completed work of others.

Learn more about FamilySearch

FamilySearch Learning Center

familysearch.org/help/helpcenter/learning-center

FamilySearch Research Wiki

familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page

FamilySearch YouTube channel

youtube.com/user/FamilySearch

The Research Wiki

This online genealogical guide will provide guidance and research strategies while also directing you to relevant genealogy databases, websites, and record repositories.

To access the Wiki from familysearch.org, click on Search and select Research Wiki. Some of the features of the Research Wiki include:

Wiki Home

From here you can search by location or topic. E.g. searching for "civil war" brings you to a page with a wealth of information about conducting genealogy research related to the American Civil War.

You can also browse by locality to find information on researching that specific location.

Online Genealogy Records

This page provides links to various genealogical records available online by type and location.

Guided Research

The wiki can provide guided assistance with finding birth, marriage, and death records for specific locations.

Research Resources

On this page you can find beginner guides, wiki help guides, links to community help, and research tools.

FamilySearch Library, FamilySearch Centers, and FS Affiliate Libraries - These pages provide contact information for FamilySearch Centers and Affiliate Libraries where you can access databases, research help, and restricted collections that are not available from home. *PPLD libraries are FamilySearch affiliate libraries!*

TOP
TIPS



When using the Research Wiki, search for places and topics, not people. The Wiki will help you navigate records from the locations where your ancestors lived.