

FamilySearch

What is FamilySearch? - the genealogical “arm” of the LDS (Mormon) church. It is the present day name of what was for 100 years the Genealogical Society of Utah. In 1894 the GSU started collecting historical records to enable their church members to connect with their ancestors; in 1938 they started microfilming these records, collected from all over the world by camera crews.

To date FamilySearch has collected over 4 billion records and this year (2018) reached a milestone having digitized 2 billion of those. Of these 2 billion, about 1 billion have been indexed, but all 2 billion digitized records are online. The goal is to complete the digitization of all the records by 2020.

How to find those records –

From the home page, familysearch.org, tap the search button and see what appears in the dropdown menu:

This brings up a choice of:

- Records
- FamilyTree
- Genealogies
- Catalog
- Books
- Research Wiki

Records

Our “usual” method may be to insert a name of an individual. We may get some results this way – perhaps even lots of good results. But we don’t get the items that are not yet indexed – being image-only.

These results can be organized by using the “Collection” tab at the top of the page. Again, these will only be those records that are indexed.

We can use the map in the records page and click on the geographical area in which we are interested. After putting in the name in which you are interested you will again get all the indexed results for this name in this particular area.

What about records that are not yet indexed? Return to the map, select an area and scroll down the page. You’ll find an area called “**Image Only**” Review those and select any that interest you, then Browse

**Note that whenever you pick a geographical area, FamilySearch will show you on the left some learning courses about that area and a Wiki page or pages*

Family Tree






What may other researchers have entered for your ancestors. These may include many sources, contact information for submitters. You can also make changes to any trees you see there. The same caveat applies here as at Ancestry, MyHeritage, etc. You still need to verify the information for yourself.

Genealogies

This contains information taken from the former Pedigree Resource Files, the Ancestral File, the IGI, community trees, oral genealogies, guild of one-name studies. Most is user-submitted information.

Catalog

What is available for your particular area of interest? Has it been digitized? Indexed? Understand these symbols:

| | |
|---|--|
|  | These records are available on FamilySearch for home viewing. These records may be indexed or unindexed. |
|  | These records are found on a partner website. Often you can search the index on FamilySearch but will be directed to another website to view the image. |
|  | Access to these records is restricted. Often a message will pop up, explaining what you need to do to see the records. This may include going to a FamilySearch affiliate library, or going to a family history center . |
|  | The index is available to search, but access to the actual records on FamilySearch is restricted. |
|  | The records are available on microfilm at the family history center indicated (usually the Family History Library in Salt Lake City). |

Books

Family History Books is a collection of more than 350,000 digitized genealogy and family history publications from the archives of some of the most important family history libraries in the world. The collection includes family histories, county and local histories, genealogy magazines and how-to books, gazetteers, and medieval histories and pedigrees.

Research Wiki

Current number of articles (11 Jun 2018) is 87,992. Especially helpful if researching a new area to you.

**On the wiki we saw interactive maps of the U.S. These can be found independently at: Mapofus.org

