



# Navigating Your Way Through FamilySearch

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*FamilySearch is so much more than just a family tree hosting platform. FamilySearch is a massive web site that is made up of dozens and dozens of different research tools. The site includes tools for learning and for reference. It is home to the world's largest digitized collection of records and sources for our research. And all of this is free for everyone to use. We will explore each of the features that FamilySearch offers, and we will hone in on how to dig through the site from a variety of entry points to find what we need.*

## FamilySearch – The Overall Web Site

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- FamilySearch—the web site located at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org)—is *FREE* for everyone, worldwide, to use. As is the [Family History Library](#) in Salt Lake City and the [Family History Centers](#) worldwide.
- Often people will refer to FamilySearch when they are talking about specific parts of the web site, especially the family tree function on the site.
- It is important for everyone to know that FamilySearch is made up of so much more than that one function.
- Multiple parts, multiple tools, and billions of records.

## Create Your Own Free User Account

<https://www.familysearch.org/help/helpcenter/article/how-do-i-create-a-free-familysearch-account>

- A user account is free to anyone worldwide.
- They allow you to access all parts of the FamilySearch site and use the built-in tools and features to make your research experience easier.
- The Source Box stores records to look at later.
- Once you have a user account and add yourself to FamilySearch Family Tree your home page on FS will be customized with new connections, photos and hints for your research.
- You must be logged into your FS account to see some images in the historical records collection.
- Remember to sign in each time you access FamilySearch.

## Mobile Apps

FamilySearch Tree and FamilySearch Memories are both available for iOS and Android in the App Store and on Google Play. See: <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/mobile/>

# Family Trees

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## FamilySearch Family Tree

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree>

- One large family tree that we can all contribute to.
- More than 1.2 billion ancestors.
- A crowd-source tree that anyone in the world can update and alter.
- You cannot have your own personal tree within this tree.
- You can connect yourself and your branch of the family to the overall tree.
- Living people are marked as private and you can control those that you add yourself until they are no longer private.
- You cannot control what others do within this tree.
- FamilySearch Family Tree Overview, <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/overview>
- How to Use Family Tree, <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/how-to-use-family-tree/>
- Correct Mistakes on FamilySearch Family tree, <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/correct-mistakes-family-tree/>

## FamilySearch Genealogies

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/family-trees>

- A collection of individual genealogies contributed to or collected by the church. They include:
  - Guild of One-Name Studies
  - Community Trees
  - Oral Genealogies
  - Partner Trees: MyTrees.com
  - Partner Trees: RootsFinder
  - Partner Trees: American Ancestors
  - Pedigree Resource File
  - Ancestral File
  - International Genealogical Index (IGI)

# Records

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## FamilySearch - Search Historical Records

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/>

- Currently more than 3,033 databases of records
- Choose Search, Records. This takes you to the "Search Historical Records" page.
- From this one form at the top of the page you can search across all the records that are currently indexed and searchable. Under the four search fields there are "more options" to expand the search form and add more fields for Life Events, Family Member, and Record Options.
- Toggle the "Show Exact Search" function to display next to each field boxes that you can click to restrict your results to exact spellings and dates.
- Once you get a set of search results you can further refine your search by adjusting the fields in the right-hand menu.
- At the bottom of the page, there are two search boxes. Search by collection title or search by location. You can also browse both:
  - Browse the Collection List, <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list/>
  - Browse by Place, <https://www.familysearch.org/search/location/list>

## FamilySearch Catalog

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/search/>

- The Family History Library (FHL), located in Salt Lake City (SLC), has the world's largest collection of genealogical research materials.
- Search the catalog which includes genealogical records, books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and other publications.
- The goal at the FHL is to get everything they can digitized and online for everyone to access--FREE. There is a lot here behind the catalog that is already digitized, but not yet indexed or searchable.



## FamilySearch Digital Library

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/>

The Family History Library is actively digitizing its book collection of family histories, local histories, and other topics to make them searchable and available online to researchers worldwide.

## FamilySearch Indexing

<https://www.familysearch.org/indexing/>

The volunteer indexing project running worldwide to index all the record collections on FamilySearch.

# Learning

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## FamilySearch Wiki

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page)

A free, online genealogy and family history guide that lists websites, provides research strategies, and suggests records and resources to help you find ancestors from all over the world.

## FamilySearch Learning Center

<https://www.familysearch.org/help/helpcenter/learning-center>

How to videos and articles for education.

# Extra Stuff

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## Memories

<https://www.familysearch.org/photos/>

The Memories Gallery is a place where all the photos, stories, documents, and audio recordings that you add to FamilySearch are collected. The Memories app helps you work with your memories directly from your mobile device.

## Discovery

<https://www.familysearch.org/discovery/>

Described as Family History Activities designed for the whole family. Some of the things to check out would be Compare-A-Face to do photo comparisons. And Record My Story to record stories from your life. And a lot of activities here will get your kids interested too!

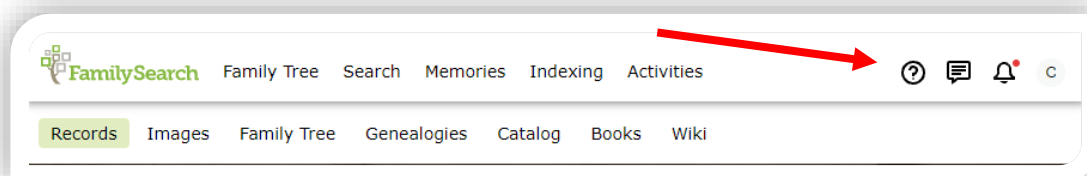
# FamilySearch Help

How can you get more help with using FamilySearch?

## Finding Help at FamilySearch—A Simplified Menu

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/familysearch-simplified-help-menu/>

The question mark at the top right of your screen gets you right into the pop-up Help Menu.



## FamilySearch Help Center

<https://www.familysearch.org/help/helpcenter/>

The help center has an FAQ and help for common topics on the site: Family Tree, Memories, Searching Records, FamilySearch Account, Indexing, the FamilySearch Wiki, Family History Centers, and more.

## FamilySearch Blog

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/>

Search the blog or browse categories.

## FamilySearch Community

<https://community.familysearch.org/>

Join a community group (like a message board) to get help from fellow users of FamilySearch.

FamilySearch Community Receives New Look and Improvements,

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/familysearch-community-update/>

## FamilySearch YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/familysearch>

## Legacy Family Tree Webinars – FamilySearch category

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar-library/?category=familysearch>

