

Introduction to FamilySearch.org

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Saddlebrooke Genealogy Group

Familysearch.org

- Free and as of 13 Dec 2017, everyone needs an account.
- Not just for LDS members

Get Help

- Top right corner of screen.
- Make sure you are signed in first.
- Click on **Get Help**
- Click on **Help Center**
- A group of **icons** will show on the screen. They are for all the different sections of Familysearch.org.
- Click on the icon of the section you need help with.
- You can also call the **Helpline** 1-866-406-1830.

Messages

- Message sent to you through the websites messaging service. This is how you contact someone or someone contacts you when their personal email has not been made public

By Your Name

- Source box=like shoebox at ancestry.com. Only YOU can see the contents and make changes
- Settings-Contact=it shows it but until you put a check next to it, it will not be public. I would ALWAYS make sure my email address is public so that others can contact me, otherwise their messages go through the website messaging service. There is NO place that tells you this, so when someone registers for the website, they do not know they need to make their email public. No public email makes it so hard to collaborate with others.

Parts of FamilySearch.org (across the top)

What you see on “your home page’ will be different than what I see, so don’t get nervous if you see something a little different than what you saw in the class. It is customized to what you have done in the past.

Family Tree

- The goal of Family Tree is to create the best sourced public genealogical Family Tree in the world. A place where collaboration takes place for researching and documenting ancestors.
- Everyone sees the SAME tree. There are not individual trees.
- Anyone can make changes to a person’s page. EVERY change is recorded and can be seen by everyone.
- People adding or making changes can be contacted either through their personal email address (if given) or through the websites messaging system.
- Make sure you make your email public under settings
- It is set up so that sources can be added to document every name, date and place that shows up for an individual.

Search

- Historical Records—original records from all over the world. Some are digitized images. Some are indexed.
- Genealogies—Family trees submitted to FamilySearch. Some are from long ago and were known as the Ancestral File, the IGI and Pedigree Resource File. You can upload your family tree and make it

available here to help other researchers. Your submissions remain in your control, preserved indefinitely, to review or remove as you see fit.

- Family Search Catalog—Find what books, film and microfiche are at the FHL and local FHCs. It also shows which ones have been digitized. There are 600 million digitized images that are only listed in the FS Catalog and can only be found there.
- Books-- 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. Many of them are only available to read at the FHL or at a FHC.
- Research Wiki--World's largest genealogical wiki containing over 80,000 articles on research advice. There are no names or trees but it is the place to learn where to find record collections.

Memories

- A place where you can collect and add all your photos, stories, documents, and audio recordings. They can be attached to people in the tree. It can also be a place to archive your photos, stories, documents, and audio recordings. that you do not attach to someone in the Tree.

Indexing

- Where to go to learn, step by step, how to index records in a safe and easy way.
- With over 100 projects from all over the world, you can find a project that helps you and others.
- Once indexed, these records become part of the searchable record collections online at FamilySearch.org.

I will be teaching a class on the Research Wiki at the Pinal County Genealogy Workshop on Sat., Jan 26 in Casa Grande and classes on each section for the Family History Fair in Tucson on Sat., Feb 2. The Tucson fair is FREE.

Searching Historical Records

Six kinds of searches—

- Search boxes (Indexed Records)
- By Location
- Family Search Catalog—new this year but VERY important
- Find a Collection
- Browse all published collections
- Record Hints from a person page or pedigree chart on FamilySearch Family Tree

1. Search using search boxes (Indexed Records): only about 30% of the records are indexed

- Used most often
- NOT case sensitive
- Start with a name
 - Remember: LESS is MORE You might add too much and miss your person
 - The FamilySearch.org search engine functions best by starting wide and then narrowing the search by adding filters. Each additional detail becomes a narrowing function. The filters are on the left side of the screen.
 - FamilySearch.org search engine will search for only those documents that contain all the details given. This may cause documents, which contain only part of the details, to be excluded from the results.
 - FamilySearch encourages people to use other websites, such as Ancestry.com, to help in their searches because the other search engines use all the entered details to include all possible results.

This is a major reason that FamilySearch has gone into agreement with partner websites—the build on each website’s strengths.

- For women, use both maiden and married name
- Exact search—be careful
- Familysearch is really good about automatically showing different spellings
- * = wildcard for more than 1 letter Thom* would show names like Thomas, Thompson, Thomilson, etc. ANY name that starts with Thom
- ? = wildcard for 1 letter Ols?n would show Olsen, Olson, ANY letter between the s and n
- You can start with a wildcard Looking for the surname Gard but having a hard time because sometimes the G looked like other letters

What do we do now?

- Click on the person’s name OR the Details icon—it is the same
 - ✓ Tools
 - Add to Sourcebox—where you store images until you attach them to a person in the Tree. It is not meant to be a permanent storage area. Everyone has a Sourcebox. Up by your name. Only you can see your Sourcebox and only you can make changes.
 - Copy to Clipboard
 - Print
 - Email
 - ✓ Attach to Family Tree—it attaches a link to the image on the Tree
 - ✓ View the original document
 - Sourcebox
 - Print
 - Download
 - ✓ Document Information—citation information

2. Research by location:

- Click on area of the world on the map
- Choose a location
- On the location page you will see—
 - Learning courses
 - FamilySearch Wiki
 - Available indexing projects—if there are any for the particular place you have chosen
 - Indexed Historical Records—can be searched by a person’s name.
Lots of the same info as the search boxes on the home page
 - Big camera—index can always be searched on FamilySearch but the images are on a partner website. Some you can view for free from your home computer but they are always free at a FHC
 - Small camera—index and images on FamilySearch
 - No camera—index only by person’s name, no images available
 - Image Only Historical Records
 - No boxes because you can’t search by name
 - Waiting to be indexed
 - Like scrolling through a roll of microfilm.
 - Way points to make it easier
 - Catalog Material—the categories listed are NOT the same as in the catalog so I find it hard to use these

- Once you find an image, what are your options--
 - Add to your Source Box
 - Attach to a person in Family Tree
 - Print
 - Download
 - Show Citation (Information tab under the image)

3. Search using the FamilySearch Catalog

- This is a new way and not well known
- There are way more than 600 million digitized images on FamilySearch.org that are NOT included in the Historical Record Collections and can ONLY be found listed in the catalog!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- THIS IS HUGE.
- Two ways to find the items from the catalog
Both ways have their advantages and shortcomings!
 - On each Search by location page
 - Search Tab=Search Catalog
- Search by location page
 - The categories listed are NOT the same as the catalog categories
 - Shows the top 5 in new categories
 - If you click on the Show All ___ link it takes you to the entire catalog
 - Good place to start but you need to also go thru the Search Catalog
- Search by Catalog (under the Search tab)
 - Place is default
 - Goes from largest to smallest but just type in the place you want and a bunch of results will show. You can then choose the location.
 - Be sure and check all jurisdictions (like town, county, state, federal in the USA and town, parish, state or province, country in foreign countries) because you never know where a record may be kept

4. Find a Collection

- Type in a state, country, record type or year
- Can be a little tricky but once you get used to it, a quick way to find record collections

5. Browse all published collections

- Alphabetically by location, ALL collections
- Slow but can use filters to help it go faster

6. Search using Record Hints from person page or pedigree chart on Family Tree

- Person page
 - Research Help box—shows hints if there are any
 - Search Records box—goes to the determined website and takes information from the person page to fill in the search boxes
- Pedigree Chart
 - Turquoise icon showing next to the person on the pedigree chart (all but the fan chart)

Family Tree

- **Four different views**

Traditional Descendancy Fan Portrait

- To find out all about a person, click on their name, a box will pop up. Choose Person at the bottom of the box OR click on their name. That will take you to their individual person page

- **Person Page**
 - View Tree
 - Watch—if you highlight the star you will be notified when ANY changes are made to that person’s page. I watch all my direct line and any other people who are important in my research
 - View My Relationship
 - Details
 - Life Sketch
 - Vital Information
 - Other Information
 - Family Members= Spouse & Children Parents & Siblings
 - Time Line—Life events shown on a map
 - Sources
 - Documentation of a person’s life from original records found and attached from FamilySearch.org or other websites
 - Record Seek is an app, you put on your computer, that creates record source links you find on websites and attach to FamilySearch or ancestry.com
 - You can choose to add sources you find to your source box
 - Collaborate
 - Notes
 - Discussions
 - Memories
 - Shows pictures, stories, documents and audio files that you AND OTHERS have attached to the person.
- **Research Help**
 - FamilySearch.org shows you any data problems there might be for that person and record hints on FamilySearch.org (like the shaking leaf on ancestry.com)
- **Search Records**
 - Uses the information for the individual to help search for records on the website you choose. If you have a subscription to the other websites, you will be able to see the records from the website. If you do not but you are at the FHL of a local FHC, you will be able to see the records.
 - You can use filters to narrow the search.
- **Latest Changes**
 - ANY change to a person will show up here with the name of the person making the change and if they have chosen, it will give their contact information
- **Tools**
 - Edit Labels
 - Labels identify that a person in Family Tree was part of a well-known group or participated in a historical event.
 - You cannot create labels
 - Click on Attach Label and choose the one you want to attach
 - Possible Duplicates—there may be another record for the same person. You can check both records side by side and if they are for the same person, you can merge the duplicates.
 - If you know there are duplicates but they do not show up under possible duplicates, you can search by their ID numbers and merge that way
 - Report Abuse—if someone is abusing the site it can be reported
 - Delete Person Unavailable—there may be places where you can delete a person on the website. **PLEASE, DO NOT, EVER DELETE A PERSON.** Instead delete a relationship.