

Maximizing LDS Genealogical Information Resources By: Shirley-Ann Pyefinch

Searching in FamilySearch:

2 main ways to search:

- 1st – doing an **enterprise search**; done from the **Search** screen
- 2nd – doing a search by **geographic location**; go to **Browse All Published Collections** near the bottom of the Search screen
- Apply **filters** and **sub-filters** in doing your searches
- Searches can be done by:
 - Event- Birth, Marriage, Death,
 - Relationships – Spouse or Parents
 - Match all terms exactly if desired
 - By Residence, Residence Year, etc.
- Filters can be set to geographic locations, date ranges, collections, etc.
- Apply sub-filters to refine and narrow your search results. For example a sub-filter of Birth Year would be 1800, 1900, 2000
- View the **Historical Record Collections** page often to see what's new
- Sort the page headings, and filter by collection, utilize the filters and sub-filters available
- **Camera icon** = images are available for the collection
- *** symbol** = recently added or updated
- Before placing an online order check to see if the item is available in digital format in **Historical Records**
- Browseable images are usually arranged for viewing within the collection by a geographic search
- **Historical Records** comes from 4 sources:
 1. FamilySearch Indexing
 2. Digitization of the GMRV (Scanstone Project)
 3. Acquisition Program
 4. Agreements with 3rd parties (record custodians and commercial companies)
- In your search results in the record screen always note the **GSU film number** so you can take a look at the original image. Also note the **Source Citation**, the wiki article links in the **About this collection**, the links to **Search Collection** links for searching other names in the same collection and the link to the image of the record if available. Remember you can add the item to your **Source Box** and attach the record to a person in your tree.

Genealogies, the sources for Genealogies come from:

1. **Ancestral File**: began in 1979 which replaces the 4 generation project, info should be verified by users except for Pre-1500 information which has been carefully scrutinized prior to inclusion in Ancestral File (submissions no longer accepted since 4 January 2003).
2. **Pedigree Resource File**: (online Gedcom submissions made to FamilySearch) began in May 1999, information should be verified by users, but can provide a good guide in your

research. Living people not included in the online version as well as source details, but both are available in the disc collection at FHCs.

3. **Patron submitted IGI:** (International Genealogical Indexes) files submitted to IGI by patrons, the extracted IGI files are not in the Historical Records Collections.

- Searches in **Genealogies** will also result in automatic system search results from **Historical Records**
- Look for and use the **Submission #**
- Searches can be performed by Relationship, AF Number, Life Events, Residence and by Submission #
- **Genealogies** is where you go to submit your Gedcom file format (this is the standard file format used in genealogical data exchange) and upload it to FamilySearch. Go to the bottom of the page and click on **Submit File**. This is the link where you can submit your tree.

Catalog: Search by place names, last names, titles, author information, subjects, call number, film number, and keywords (beta). Online film ordering is at <https://film.familysearch.org>

Historical Books: Over 100,000 digital books available on the digital library at FamilySearch. Collection includes family histories, county and local histories, genealogy magazines, how to books, gazetteers, medieval histories and pedigrees. Published indexes to parish records and much more to discover!

- **Historical Books** sources are from partner institutions such as Allen County Public Library, BYU Harold B. Lee Library, BYU Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library, Church History Library, Family History Library, Houston Public Library and Mid-Continent Public Library.

Information Resources:

1. **Get Started:** 5 minute video clips showing genealogy basics.
2. **Research Wiki:** access to thousands of research articles by SMEs. Note new feature of wiki pages for FHCs. Wiki articles can be for beginners, by place, research tools, Wiki Groups, Wiki News and Build the Wiki. Take a look at the featured articles on the Wiki.
3. **Learning Centre:** online free genealogy training courses in offered in a variety of languages and at varying levels of difficulty. Courses are also offered by place, subject, most popular and new courses. Online courses also offer a variety of formats – audio, video, interactive slides, video slides and videos.
4. **Blog:** view the latest articles and news announcements from FamilySearch, read past articles, includes categories of articles – remember to read TechTips, the blog can be followed on social media.
5. **Indexing:** view the page to see what the past, current and future projects are maybe you would like to get involved? It is hosted in 11 languages.
6. **Get Help:** Help options available: In person at FHC, by phone call 1-866-406-1830, via live chat, via email and for further assistance see the Help Centre.
7. **Help Centre:** Product Support – where you can get problems solved through for example FAQs and account problems. Research Assistance – Wiki, Ask a Specialist – General Research Help.

FamilySearch Tools for the Genealogist:

1. Remember to **Sign In** to maximize your access to FamilySearch tools. Some 3rd parties require authentication for access to their collection on FamilySearch and you can set your preferences, contact information, and notifications. Remember to give **Feedback**, share your ideas and report problems using the **Feedback** feature.
2. **Source Box**: create, move, attach sources to Trees, sources can be from within and outside of FamilySearch.
3. **Trees**: a web tool that allows you to have free cloud storage of your pedigree online, enables collaboration, sharing and discussions. Can add, edit, delete and merge people with the ability to print out pedigrees and family group records. Trees can be viewed in Pedigree format or in a Fan Chart format. Print out your fan chart using your familysearch sign information at createfan.com. The website allows users to save, print and share their fan charts.
Nodes are the basic family unit in the tree, from the tree you can pop up the **Person Card** and click on the **Person Details screen**.
4. **Photos**: Store your family's photos on FamilySearch for free. Can store up to 5000 photos per user. Each photo cannot exceed 5mb and must be in PNG or JPEG format. Uploads are screened for appropriateness and can be tagged and attached to your tree and shared through social media. After tagging, related family members can be viewed and you can see your relationship to the ancestor. Can also create photo albums and share on social media.
5. **Stories**: attach stories about an ancestor and link to **Trees**, has the ability to also attach or link to **Photos** and share on social media.

BYU Websites:

- **Centre for Family History and Genealogy** <https://familyhistory.byu.edu>
- Provides access to multiple databases and references
- **BYU Immigrant Ancestors Project** <http://immigrants.byu.edu/> : Indexed records from an ancestor's country of origin, this includes Germany, England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Spain, Portugal, Italy and France.
- **Nauvoo Community Project** <https://familyhistory.byu.edu> : Do you have LDS Ancestors? Mormon pioneers who lived in Nauvoo, Illinois from 1839 to 1846 are being researched and documented by BYU students. Searchable database is available.
- **Bertram Merrill's Index of English Marriages 1730-1836**: Contains over 40,000 marriage entries that include over 190 Lanashire parishes south of the River Ribble, 129 Cheshire parishes, Welsh parishes of Overton, Iscoyd, Holt, Bangor, Hammer, and Yorkshire parishes – Whitewell and Saddleworth.
- Script Tutorials: Resources for reading old handwritten documents in seven languages: English Script, German, Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese.
- Discovering English Ancestors: Created by Emeritus Professor of BYU which teaches you how to begin your English research.

- Welsh Mormon History: Many LDS pioneers are of Welsh ancestry, this site provides users with access to a wealth of Welsh Mormon History items such as journals, photos, books, biographies, etc.
- BYU Family History Library: contains lots of resources and links to search through.
- For PAF Users: BYU hosts a PAF Tutorial website at <http://paftutorial.byu.edu/>

Family History Centres (also referred to as FamilySearch Centres):

- Over 4700 family history centres in over 134 countries.
- Centres are free to use and everyone is welcome to use the facilities.
- Staffed by volunteers who are always willing to help.
- See the wiki for details about your nearest FHC.
- Ottawa Ontario Stake Family History Centre hosts its own website at www.ottawastakefhc.on.ca
- View our hours of operation, use our search engine to see what is in our permanent collection and download handouts and past presentations.