

Researching Your Ancestry Using FamilySearch.org

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FamilySearch.org

Site Map clickable at bottom of home page,

Note: Family History Center (FHC) users can access many other online resources by using computers provided in FHC libraries, including ancestry.com, [findmypast](http://findmypast.com), and myheritage.com

Set Up an Account

- You can use the familysearch.org web site without signing in. Setting up an account and signing in does provide access to more features and additional databases.
- Click on Create an Account to the right of the Sign In field, in the upper right area of the home page.
- Provide information for the account set up fields. Answer yes or no as to whether or not you are a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS). FamilySearch is a project of the LDS Church. The Church is respectful and doesn't proselytize non-Church users of the familysearch.org web site. If you are a LDS member, you can access additional subscription genealogy web sites and databases, and participate in Church activities around family history.
- FamilySearch will send you an email or make a cell phone call to verify your account. Click the Complete Registration button in the email. When you receive a thank you web page appears in your browser, signaling the account registration is complete. You choose important privacy settings when setting up an account. Read text thoughtfully and select your preferences.

Family Tree – Family trees appear only as pedigree trees, including the beautiful fan formatted tree. See Person below to view extended family.

TREE – Choose Landscape, Portrait, Fat, or Descendancy formatted family trees. View tree segments for extended family members by clicking on tree icon on a Person page.

PERSON – Under Family Members, view Spouses and Children, and Parents and Siblings. To the right, click Family to print a family group sheet for a person.

- Choose **Watch** for a person you want to learn of updates about.

FIND – Offers a quick search path for a person of interest.

LISTS – Add people of family history interest that you want to watch. ???

WHAT'S NEW – a means FamilySearch uses to introduce and explain changes to the web site.

Search – Search for information about ancestors in five types of sources.

RECORDS – Historical records include census, immigration and naturalization, military, and vital records.

- US Probate and Court Records encompass estates and wills, land, naturalization, tax, and vital records. Most of these records are *not* indexed and won't be included in search results.
- Search>Records>**Historical Record Collections** allow familysearch.org users to browse databases that haven't been indexed.
- Use the **Source Box** to document and organize the information you find or enter into

GENEALOGIES – Allows you to search user-submitted genealogies. Considered secondary sources, confirm findings with primary sources.

CATALOG – A genealogical reference compendium of materials available from FamilySearch.

BOOKS- Comprises 200,000 digitized genealogy and family publications from US partner libraries: books, magazines, gazetteers, histories, and pedigrees.

WIKI – a research strategy advisor, offering explanations and resources.

Messages

Send messages to other familysearch.org users who have contributed information to an ancestor. Select Send A Message.

Get Help – When familysearch.org invites a user to seek help, the welcome is genuine. Call for help at 1-866-406-1830.

Self Help – Resources to support you working on your own.

Contact Us – Call 1-866-406-1830 for a live person who wants to help you discover your family history and welcomes your question(s). Numbers for other lands come up if requested. Other avenues for interactive help appear, as well.