

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

How to Get on to FamilySearch.org

1. You do not need a flash drive.
2. Turn on the computer – upper left on the keyboard.
3. You will be shown the home page.
4. Click on the icon of Chrome.
5. Type in: www.familysearch.org
6. You will then come to the Start Page of FamilySearch.org



2 options:

The image shows a form titled "Tell Us a Little About Yourself". It has a progress indicator with three steps, where the first step is highlighted. The form is divided into "Account Information" and "Password" sections. The "Account Information" section includes fields for "First Name", "Last Name", and "User Name". The "Password" section includes fields for "Password" and "Confirm Password", along with a "Show Password" checkbox. There are two help icons with text: "Use one of the suggestions or create your own unique name containing a combination of letters and numbers, no spaces." and "At least 8 characters with any combination of letters and numbers with no spaces." A "Continue" button is at the bottom.

For a helpful video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KLea_DPxb4&index=4&list=PLD22C493E525CC8D7 (5 minutes)

Start Page

Sign in

Top Menu

Bottom Menu

Your Pictures Can Be Here

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website home page. At the top left is the FamilySearch logo. To its right is a navigation bar with links for 'Family Tree', 'Memories', 'Search', and 'Indexing'. Further right are links for 'Sign In' and 'Free Account'. A red star is placed above the 'Search' link, and a red arrow points from the 'Top Menu' label to it. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a man and a woman looking at a tablet. A blue box with white text says 'Make Discoveries' and 'Search for your ancestors in millions of historical records. You can also search in the catalog, books, genealogies, and the Wiki.' Below this is a green button that says 'Search historical records'. Below the banner is a horizontal menu with icons for 'Fan Chart', 'Photos', 'Family Tree', 'Search', 'Indexing', and 'Family Booklet'. A red box highlights the 'Search' icon, and a red arrow points from the 'Bottom Menu' label to it. Below the menu are two promotional banners: 'RootsTech Registration is Live!' and 'My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together'. At the bottom is a section titled 'Genealogy: Ancestors Remembered' featuring five circular images: two portraits of men, a person on a bicycle, a person on a skateboard, and a person with a dog. A red arrow points from the 'Your Pictures Can Be Here' label to the first two portraits. Below the images is the text 'Celebrate and share your family heritage in a way that is only possible through photographs.' and a blue 'Get started' button.



S.C. Computer / Genealogy Special Interest Group
Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

Karen Ristic

Strategies for Finding your Ancestors on FamilySearch.org

Wouldn't it be great if FamilySearch could read your mind and find the exact information you need about your ancestor? Do you ever get frustrated when you put in your search terms and the results are not what you expect or want? As good as FamilySearch is at anticipating your needs, there are some things you can do to get better and more accurate results. This presentation provides seven expert strategies for finding your ancestors on FamilySearch. They are:

HISTORICAL RECORDS:

1. Searching for Names
2. Searching for Life Events
3. Searching for Relationships, Batch Number, Exact Matches, and Using the Reset Form
4. Try Different Combinations of Searching
5. Additional Tips: Research the Entire Family
6. Anticipate Spelling Variations
7. Some Other Record Collections



Afterward, there will be time for you to try out In the lab classroom to search for your ancestor using these strategies.

1. Searching Historical Records for Names

Records Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Search Historical Records

Search for a deceased ancestor in historical records to uncover vital information from their life.

Deceased Ancestor's Name

First Names Last Names

Search with a life event:

Birth | Marriage | Residence | Death | Any

Birthplace Birth Year (Range) From To

Search with a relationship:

Spouse | Parents | Other Person

Restrict records by:

Location | Type | Batch Number | Film Number

Country State or Province

Match all terms exactly

Search Indexing

Records This month

Genealogies

Catalog

Books Next month

Wiki



1.a. Searching for Names

Option	Instructions	Tips
First Names	Enter the first and middle names of the individual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try adding or omitting middle names.• Try nicknames.• Try spelling variations.• If the individual moved to a new country, try spelling the name as it is spelled in the old country and in the new one.• Try using wildcards. (Enter * to replace zero or more characters. Enter ? to replace one character.)• Leave this field and the Last Name field blank. Then click Spouse or Parents, and enter the names of the individual's parents or spouse.
Last Names	Enter the last name of the individual.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try spelling and language variations.• Look for women using both a maiden name and married name.• Try using wildcards. (Enter * to replace zero or more characters. Enter ? to replace one character.)• Leave this field and the First Name fields blank. Then click Spouse or Parents, and enter the names of the individual's parents or spouse.• If you do not know a woman's maiden name, enter her first name, and leave the last name blank. Then click Parents, and enter the names of her father and mother.
Check boxes in name and place fields	Click the check box of each field for which you want to perform an exact search .	If you use this option and do not find what you need, try your search again without it. Repeat the search even if you think you know exact names and places.

2. Searching for a Life Event

Records

Family Tree

Genealogies

Catalog

Books

Wiki

Search Historical Records

Search for a deceased ancestor in historical records to uncover vital information from their life.

Deceased Ancestor's Name

First Names

Last Names

Search with a life event:

Birth | Marriage | Residence | Death | Any

Birthplace

Birth Year (Range)

From

To

Search with a relationship:

Spouse | Parents | Other Person

Restrict records by:

Location | Type | Batch Number | Film Number

Country

State or Province

Match all terms exactly

Search

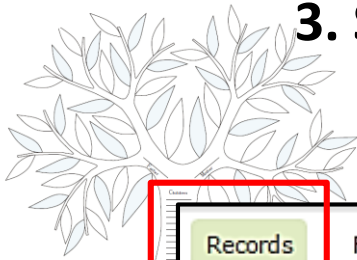
Reset



2. a. Searching for Life Events

Option	Instructions	Tips
Add a life event <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Any Birth•Marriage•Residence•Death	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Click the type of life event that you want to include in your search.•Enter the place and estimated year range.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try your search with different events.• Try your search with no events.• Use the Residence event to find records that identify where a person was living. For example, a record might contain an address or identify the individual's "last place of residence." Birthplaces, marriage places, and death places are not the same as residence places, because someone may have been away from home when these events happened.• Use the Any event if you know a date and place for an event other than birth, marriage, death, and residence. For example, a search with an Any event might find dates of military enlistment or immigration.• In the place field, try these tips:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Try searching at a more or less specific place level. For example, if you searched for a town, try the county, state, or district instead. Try entering just the country name.- Try using wildcards in place-names. (Enter * to replace zero or more characters. Enter ? to replace one character.)- Remove the place from your search. Instead, use the filters on the left side of the search results to narrow your search by place.• In the year fields, try these tips:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Increase or decrease the year range.- Try searching with no years. Instead, use the filters on the left side of the search results to narrow your search by year.- Try either a beginning year or end year.• You can include multiple events in your search. However, do this when you are looking for a specific type of record that contains all of those events. For example:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To find a death certificate, you might want to search with both birth and death events. Death certificates often include both birth and death information.

3. Searching for Relationship, Batch Number Records, Match Exactly, and Reset Form



Records Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Search Historical Records

Search for a deceased ancestor in historical records to uncover vital information from their life.

Deceased Ancestor's Name

First Names Last Names

Search with a life event:

Birth | [Marriage](#) | [Residence](#) | [Death](#) | [Any](#)

Birthplace Birth Year (Range) From To

Search with a relationship:

[Spouse](#) | [Parents](#) | [Other Person](#)

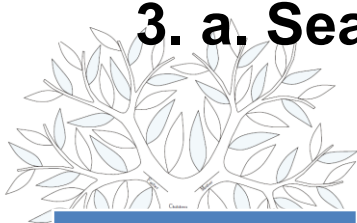
Restrict records by:

[Location](#) | [Type](#) | [Batch Number](#) | [Film Number](#)

Country State or Province

Match all terms exactly





3. a. Searching for Relationship, Batch Number Records, Match Exactly, and Reset Form

Option	Instructions	Tips
Add a relationship <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Spouse•Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Click the type of relationship that you want to include in your search.•Then enter the first, middle, and last names of the father, mother, or spouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Use the same tips as for the individual's first and last names•When entering the names of mothers or wives, try searching by the woman's married name and maiden name. If you do not know her maiden name, leave the Last Name field blank.
Search by Batch Number	Enter a batch number from the International Genealogical Index. This limits your search to records from the collection with that batch number.	If you do not know a batch number, don't worry about finding one. Instead, use the links under Browse by Location to find a specific collection and search it.
Match all exactly	Click this option to have the system find only records that match everything you entered exactly.	If you use this option and do not find what you need, try your search again without it. Repeat the search even if you think you know exact names and places.
Reset form	Click this option to remove everything that you have entered into the search fields	



4. Try Different Combinations of Searches

If you are not successful in your initial search, you can change your search criteria and increase your chances of finding information. Put in different search information to narrow or broaden your search. If you understand the way the options on the search screen work, you have a better chance of finding the record you need. You do not need to enter information in all fields. You may get better results if you leave some of the fields blank. Try using the following combinations:

If you want to . . .	Then:
Find an individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search the name only• Add or omit middle name• Search name and place (More or less specific place level)• Search name, place, year (Expand or decrease the date range)• Search name, place, year, relationship
Find a person that has a less common name	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search with no year• Omit first or last name• Anticipate spelling variations and use wildcards for spelling (see page x)

5. Additional Tips: Research the Entire Family

You can find information by searching other family members. You can also find maiden names and married names of women. Use the following:

If you want to...	Then
Find parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you don't know the names of the parents, search for all of the children
Find spouses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search the name of the spouse you know• Search women by both the maiden and married name• Search a single collection (place and record type) and filter by marriage year
Find children and/or siblings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you don't know the names of the children, search for both names of the parents—this may bring a list of possible children and their siblings• Search for children's death records
Find maiden or married names	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use an event, such as marriage to find maiden and married names• Use wildcards
Find where a couple was married	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you don't know where a couple was married, search the place where the bride is from• If that doesn't work, try where the groom was from
Find when a couple was married	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you know when a couple's first child was born, estimate that the couple married about one year earlier• Search a single record collection, such as marriage records from where you think the couple lived

6. Anticipate Spelling Variations

You cannot count on the spelling of names and places to be correct or consistent. Record keepers often misspelled name or those providing information did not know how to spell. Sometimes names are indexed incorrectly. There are things you can do to get better results.

a. Use Wildcards for Spelling Variations

If a name or place can be spelled in many ways, use wildcards to represent the characters that might vary. You can use two types of wildcards:

- **Type a question mark to replace any one character. This search finds Johnson ending with “en” and “on.”**
- **Type an asterisk to represent zero or more characters. In this example, you get all last names that begin with the letters “J-o-h-n.”**

b. Build a List of Spelling Variations

As you search for ancestors, keep a list of the different ways their names were spelled as well as the names of places.

- Use the **Standard Finder**. You can use the Standard Finder, labs.familysearch.org. With **Standard Finder (now called [Place Research Tool](#))** you can search for a standardized name, date or place based on your input. The **Standard Finder** will interpret your input and provide a long list of possible name matches.
 - Spellings from old and new country. If the person moved to a new country, try spelling the name as it was spelled in the old country and the new one.
 - Experiment with nicknames. You can also experiment with using nicknames. For example, for the name William, use the name Bill, Will, Wm. or Wilhelm.
 - Search for married and maiden names. For women, search by both maiden and married names.

7. Some Other Record Collections



Filter by collection name

Collection name

Place

United States (791)

- ▶ Alabama (14)
- ▶ Arizona (7)

Date

- ▶ Pre 1700 (40)
- ▶ 1700 - 1749 (66)
- ▶ 1750 - 1799 (137)
- ▶ 1800 - 1849 (298)
- ▶ 1850 - 1899 (609)
- ▶ 1900 - 1949 (626)
- ▶ 1950 to present (377)

Collections

- ▶ Census & Lists (70)
- ▶ Birth, Marriage, & Death (329)
- ▶ Probate & Court (117)
- ▶ Military (110)
- ▶ Migration & Naturalization (86)
- ▶ Other (80)

Availability

Only collections with images

Historical Record Collections

792 collections

*= Recently added or updated

Title	Records	Last Updated
Alabama, Births and Christenings, 1881-1930	6,841	12 Mar 2012
Alabama, Civil War Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865	1,213,534	21 Apr 2012
Alabama, Civil War Service Records of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865	31,582	21 Apr 2012
Alabama, County Marriages, 1809-1950	891,810	20 Sep 2013
Alabama, Deaths and Burials, 1881-1952	105,825	26 Feb 2013
Alabama, Deaths, 1908-1974	1,858,819	02 Mar 2013
Alabama, Estate Files, 1830-1976	25,297	13 Dec 2013
Alabama, Jefferson County Circuit Court Papers, 1870-1916	Browse Images	14 Aug 2012
Alabama, Madison County Chancery and Circuit Court Records, 1847-1950	Browse Images	07 May 2013
Alabama, Marriages, 1816-1957	1,516,339	22 Mar 2012



S. C. Computer / Genealogy Workshop
Next Genealogy Computer Workshop
Tuesday, 10:00 am, March 14, 2017
Karen Ristic

Strategies for
Searching Genealogies, the
Catalog, Books, and the Wiki
at
FamilySearch

