4+
Ways to Search

Be sure to register for a FREE account with FamilySearch and be logged in to have access to all the records available on FamilySearch.

Select Records from the pull-down menu.

There is some duplication in search methods in the following three ways, but you may not have success in one of the search methods, but you may have in one of the others.

Search #1 - Methods
Search Indexed Records (with and without images)
- Search with given name, surname, birth date, birth place with and without specific location
- Search with complete name add additional information a little at a time
- Search with surname only, with filters
- Search with given name only, with filters
- Search with name of spouse
- Search with names of parents (with and without mother’s maiden name)
- Search with variations
- All of the above with “Collections” tab for specific types of sources
- Use Wild Cards: * = 0 to ∞ letters; ? = 1 letter

Check out the “Learn More” under the “Filter your results by”. Watch the video by Robert Kehrer, and for more search helps watch his 2018 RootsTech video found at:
Search #2

Search Collections by Location

Search Indexed Historical Records by Location, Collection Type & Image-Only Historical Records

Check out the “Learning Courses” shown for each location. Be sure to check the Research Wiki (found under the Search tab for detailed information about your location – when the location was organized, who was the parent location, when records began to be recorded, if there was a record loss, etc.

This search gives the ability to search Indexed Historical Records the same as in Search #1. In this search you can select the specific state and specific record type before the search begins. Separately it shows Image Only Historical Records. And finally shows the Catalog Material in a little different arrangement than in the FamilySearch Catalog, i.e. “Birth, Marriage, and Death” are listed under that topic rather than under Vital Records.

Search #3

Search Historical Record Collections

- Can search by specific location and collection desired
- Not all collections have images
- Can browse images of unindexed collections – “way pointed” collections are divided into smaller groups for easier individual image searching

Do not be afraid to Click on “Browse through (large numbers of) images”. They are broken down into smaller locality segments and/or name segments.

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Search #4

Catalog – Search for record images (indexed & unindexed) 8 ways online and in any Family History Center

- **Place**: Look for a record by the name of a place where an ancestor lived.
- **Surname**: Find family histories and more by a family name
- **Author**: Find works of an author by name
- **Subject**: Find works based on the topics they cover
- **Keyword**: Get a record using any words or phrases in significant parts of its catalog entry
- **Call number**: Catalog entries by finding their book, compact disc, or pedigree call number
- **Film/Fiche Number**: Catalog details by finding the Library's microfilm or microfiche number

Search #5 – Search Books

- One word search works best
• Multiple word search will search for any title with any one of the words in the title, using quotation marks does not help
• All books titles are also in the catalog
• Can view snippets of in-copyright books
• Can download out of copyright books same as in catalog

FamilySearch Research Wiki - Guided Research

Select location from those available for Guided Research for Birth, Marriage & Death resources.

The Research Wiki has over 90,000 articles to assist in researching locations and topics.