

FAMILYSEARCH FINDING WHAT YOU NEED & WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEED



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After 83 years of filming the world's historical genealogical records, *FamilySearch* has completed digitizing its 2.4 million rolls of microfilm. Over 200 countries and principalities and more than 100 languages are included in the digitized documents...more than 11.5 billion individuals [are included].

Laurie Bradshaw, 21 Sep 2021.

Friendly *FamilySearch* Disclaimer Tips

1. **There is no guarantee that the information in Family Tree is accurate.** Data comes from many sources, and anyone can edit the information in Family Tree. It is our responsibility to verify names, dates, places, and family relationships, and to provide sources when available.
2. Remember that our data on the tree will be subject to editing by other searchers. (See below.)
3. Someone unknown (or known) to us may merge our person with someone else without checking places, parents, and years—or just change everything about what we have done.
4. Everything on the Wiki is not up to date, and all links don't work.
5. **Use FamilySearch's tree but also use a personal family tree software to record your information.**
6. Lastly, if finding a particular group, site, or information on *FamilySearch* proves frustrating, use *Google*. I use it frequently to find what I'm looking for. *FamilySearch* has done a wonderful job creating easy-to-find links offsite linking everything working with an old site with too much information to move

21 Search Tips Potpourri

1. Sign in for two weeks and see if it works.

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch 'Sign In' page. It features a title 'Sign In' at the top. Below the title are two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password'. A link 'Forgot username or password?' is positioned below the password field. There is a checkbox labeled 'Keep me signed in for 2 weeks'. At the bottom of the form are three buttons: a blue 'Sign In' button, a grey 'Create a Free Account' button, and a dark blue 'Sign In with Church Account' button.

2. The absence of indexing for some records is a blessing in disguise—the only errors made might be ours.
3. The **Browse Only Collections** are digitized but not indexed. Using these records is truly Old School/ New School Technology.

The screenshot displays a page titled 'Category: FamilySearch Historical Records Browse Only Collections'. Below the title, it says 'Pages in category "FamilySearch Historical Records Browse Only Collections"'. A note indicates 'The following 200 pages are in this category, out of 623 total.' There are links for '(previous page)' and '(next page)'. The page lists various record collections under the letter 'A' and 'D'. Under 'A', there are links for Alabama Probate Records, Alabama Freedmen's Bureau Field Office Records, Alabama Madison County Chancery and Circuit Court Records, Alabama Sumter County Circuit Court Files, Argentina Córdoba Miscellaneous Records, Argentina Santa Cruz Catholic Church Records, and Argentina Tierra del Fuego Catholic Church Records. Under 'D', there are links for Czech Republic Northern Moravia Opava Archive Church Books, Czech Republic School Registers, Czech Republic Southern Bohemia Trebon Archive Church Books, Delaware Orphan Court Records, Denmark Deeds and Mortgages, Denmark Estate Records, and Denmark Copenhagen City Civil Marriages. On the right side, there are links for Germany Prussia Brandenburg Heegermühle Church Records, Germany Prussia Brandenburg Landkreis Ostprignitz-Ruppin Miscellaneous Records, Germany Prussia East Prussia Königsberg Index to Funeral Sermons and Memorials, Germany Prussia Pomerania Labes Church Records, Germany Prussia Pomerania Stralsund Church Book Indexes, Germany Prussia Saxony Halle Miscellaneous City Records, Germany Prussia Saxony Nordhausen City Directories, and Germany Prussia Saxony Various Protestant Church Records.

4. Searching on the main page **will not** grant access to all potential information pertinent to your ancestor.

5. Search for less individual information, then gradually add more information if necessary—or search with more and gradually decrease in the search.
6. Searches can be run in large groups of records; if this is not successful, try one record group at a time.
7. Try searching in a **year range** since birthdates don't often match between documents.
8. Search spelling variations—better yet, use a **wild card** in spaces instead of letters. (Question mark for 1 letter; Asterisk for 0 or many letters.) Or both.

Ancestor Information

Name
+ Alternate Name
+ Sex

First Names

Last Names

9. Check **regularly** on the updated records available for searching. Under the Search tab, click Records, then enter the necessary information.



Monthly Record Update for September 2021

FamilySearch expanded its free online archives in September of 2021 with over 26 million new indexed family

10. **Switch browsers**, if needed. Copy and paste the URL of the record into a different browser window.

11. Keep track of your searches on your own or with a form. (See after Resources)

Online Search Tracker

Collection Name: Website:

Name		Keywords
First and Middle Names	Last Name	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

Events			Relationships		
	Date	Location	Relationship	First Name	Last Name
Birth	<input type="text"/>				
Arrival	<input type="text"/>				
Lived In	<input type="text"/>				
Marriage	<input type="text"/>				
Death	<input type="text"/>				

12. The **icons** next to the record mean something—but not always. The **camera icon alone** usually means a digital image is attached and available to download; a camera icon on a paper indicates an image outside of FS website. a **magnifying glass icon** indicates that the microfilm is indexed and searchable by name; the **film roll icon** indicates that the film has not yet been digitized and can only be viewed at the Family History Library. The triple box represents a family tree; the page represents record information (indexed information),



Film/DGS	Format
1888589 Item 1	
30309 Item 3	

The key over the camera indicates these digital images are only available to LDS members who are logged into their FamilySearch.org accounts, patrons at a family history center, or patrons at a FamilySearch affiliate library.

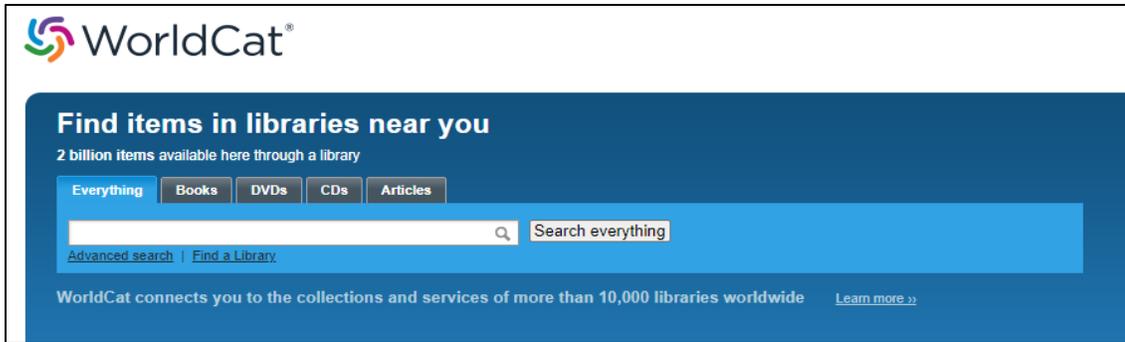
13. Sometimes clicking through to the document we end up at a paid site. There is only one free way around it—go to SLC’s Family History Library or an LDS Family History Center. This is not the fault of *FamilySearch*, but a requirement of the record owners/holders.
14. There is a difference between a Family History Center and an Affiliate Library—different icons, different real estate.
15. The **FamilySearch Blog** is our friend to everything updated on *FamilySearch*.

		
<p>Find Your Ancestors Quickly Using FamilySearch's New Discovery Search Experience</p> <p>If you find yourself struggling to know how to find your ancestors, FamilySearch has a new search experience that can help you...</p>	<p>Monthly Record Update for September 2021</p> <p>FamilySearch expanded its free online archives in September of 2021 with over 26 million new indexed family history records from all over...</p>	<p>40+ Journal Prompts to Capture Memories and Discover Yourself</p> <p>Have you ever pulled out an old puzzle only to realize at the very end that you're missing pieces? The same thing...</p>

16. The **FamilySearch Wiki** is our personal coach—this site is not to be undervalued!



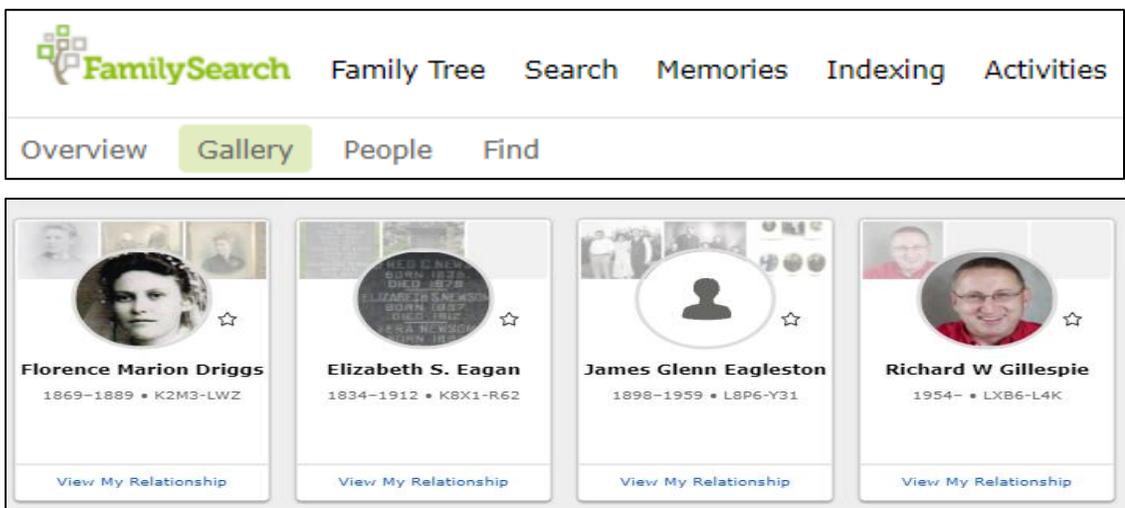
17. Search the Wiki sometime for fun and information. If a book is interesting to you, and since all books are not digitized by *FamilySearch*, click on the link to *WorldCat* to determine if it is available nearby or available through interlibrary loan.



18. Search the digitized books in the **FamilySearch Digital Library**. Browse and search at <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/>. Consider using the advanced search. Some books can only be viewed in the FH Center/Affiliate.



19. Search *FamilySearch* for family photos. Click the Memories tab, select Find, fill in and enter.



20. Search user-submitted preservation copied of their personal family trees by entering the Genealogies portal and/or *FamilySearch* Genealogies.



21. Continue learning with free webinars (classes) stored on the *FamilySearch* site, free RootsTech (sponsored by *FamilySearch*) presentations available online. There are even lessons available for many, many topics on *FamilySearch*—beware the older ones!

2106	FamilySearch Community	Debbie Gurtler, AG	English
2109	German Paleography Seminar: Introduction	Charlotte N. Champenois	English
2110	German Paleography Seminar: The Alphabet	Charlotte N. Champenois	English
2111	German Paleography Seminar: Paleography Websites	Charlotte N. Champenois	English
2112	German Paleography Seminar: Key Words	Charlotte N. Champenois	English
2113	German Paleography Seminar: Key Abbreviations	Charlotte N. Champenois	English
2114	German Paleography Seminar: Process of Deciphering Records	Charlotte N. Champenois	English
2115	German Paleography Seminar: Practice Reading A German Church Record	Charlotte N. Champenois	English
2116	German Paleography Seminar: Practice Reading A German Civil Record	Charlotte N. Champenois	English
2117	German Paleography Seminar: Spelling Variations, Names, and Places	Charlotte N. Champenois	English
2118	German Paleography Seminar: Practice Reading Using FamilySearch Community	Charlotte N. Champenois	English

A total of 2118 lessons are available on *FamilySearch*; updated on 23 June 2022

Resources

--. "Find a Family History Center and FamilySearch Affiliate Libraries" *FamilySearch*, 6 Apr 2021, (<https://www.familysearch.org/fhcenters/locations/>).

--. "Free Genealogy Forms from Family Tree Magazine," *Family Tree Magazine*, no date, (<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/freeforms/>).

Bradshaw, Laurie, "FamilySearch Completes Massive Microfilm Digitization Project," 21 Sep 2021, FamilySearch Blog, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/familysearch-microfilm-collection-digitized/>).

“FamilySearch Tips & Tricks”, *FamilySearch*, no date,
(<https://community.familysearch.org/en/group/70-familysearch-tips-and-tricks>).

FamilyTree Editors, “How to Use FamilySearch.org,” no date, *FamilyTree Magazine*,
(<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/familysearch/familysearch-guide/>).

Gurtler, Debbie, “I Didn’t Know You Could Search Like That!” Video, June 2018, *FamilySearch*
(<https://www.familysearch.org/help/helpcenter/lessons/i-didnt-know-you-could-search-like-that-introduction>).

Lee, Devon Noel, “Family Search Isn't the Problem - Interview with James Tanner”, *Family History Fanatics*, 24 May 2019, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jC7pO-mwthHQ>).

Lee, Devon Noel, “How to Use FamilySearch.org Hints to Easily Do Genealogy - Beginner Basics,” *Family History Fanatics*, 30 Mar 2020, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8hiWs7VYcl>).

Lee, Devon Noel, “Newbie's Guide to Navigating the FamilySearch.org Website,” *Family History Fanatics*, 1 Dec 2019, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrdnavEibVE>).

McCullough, Dana, *Unofficial Guide to FamilySearch.org: How to Find Your Family History on the World's Largest Free Genealogy Website*, Family Tree Books, 4 Aug 2020.

McDermott, Marc, “Best Genealogy Software,” *Smarter Hobby*, 26 Feb 2021,
(<https://www.smarterhobby.com/genealogy/best-genealogy-software/>).

Morton, Sunny Jane, “How FamilySearch Obtains and Digitizes Genealogy Records, *Family Tree Magazine*, no date, <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/familysearch/familysearch-digitize-records/>).