

Introduction to FamilySearch

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This class will explore the features of the largest website for free genealogical records on the internet: **FamilySearch.org**. Supported by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, this site includes vast international historical records, the Family Tree- a repository of submitted family connections linking generations, a Research Wiki with tutorials and helps, an opportunity to volunteer in record indexing and more.

1. **The Home page:** sign in or create an account here. If you ever need to get back to the home page, click on the tree logo. You can search the historical records without creating an account, but you will not be able to view all the images nor access all the features without signing up. The Help icon (looks like a circle around a ?): Clicking this will open the Help Center box where you can learn more about that page in addition to other pages and sections. There are FAQ's and contacts for phone help, live chats, and email contacts.
2. On the Home page along the top ribbon, there are 5 tabs: **Family Tree, Search, Memories, Get Involved and Activities**. Each of them has a drop-down menu with specific areas within that section. Also on the Home page, there are items of interest including new features and learning opportunities. This is where a new user will sign-up for an account and everyone signs in. At the bottom of the home page are links to various topics including the Blog, DNA, and the Solutions Gallery. It is here that the entire site can be changed to a different language.
3. The **Family Tree** tab will put you into member submitted pedigree lines. Clicking on **Tree** will give you the view of the tree in 5 different styles. You can add living people to the tree, but only you can see these people, for privacy reasons. Information about deceased people is searchable and viewable to the public. Clicking on **Person** will open a page of details for that person, along with family relationships. **Find** searches only within the tree. You can search by ID number or by filling in the template boxes. **Following** is where the people you are interested in will be listed. **My Contributions** will record the additions and changes you have made in the tree.
4. The **Search** Tab is where historical records are found and searched. Under **Records**, you can use the dialog box and enter information for a search in these records. **Images** are a collection of digitized historical records that are not yet indexed. They are browsed like the old microfilm rolls used to be. **Family Tree** lets you search for individuals in the Family Tree specifically. **Genealogies** are submitted records from a variety of older sources, such as the IGI. There are also read-only pedigree files which are searchable. The **Catalog** refers to the holdings of the Salt Lake Family History Library. **Books** covers items in this library and several others that have significant digitized genealogical holdings. The **Wiki** is the research area for locations, forms, chats, and a wide variety of other topics.

5. The **Memories** tab is the section where you can upload photos, stories, documents, and audio clips, etc. and then connect these to people in the Family Tree. You can organize these items into albums and share them with others.
6. The **Get Involved** tab explains the Indexing program in which you can volunteer to be a part of the genealogy world. Helping to index records, such as the 1950 US Federal Census, brings more names and data to this site and preserves these important records for the future generations. Click on this tab to sign up and watch a 'how-to' video. There is also a great need for translators of foreign records.
7. **Activities** allows you to explore your heritage with fun games and activities such as Compare-A-Face, Picture my Heritage, and Surname Origins. They draw on the connections you have in the Family Tree. Share these with family and especially the grandkids!

Notes: