

# FamilySearch.org Research Wiki Presentation

By Celia McNay June 20, 2023

- I. What is the Research Wiki?
  - a. The FamilySearch Research Wiki is a free, online genealogical guide created and maintained by FamilySearch, a non-profit organization, supported by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It contains links to genealogy databases, websites, other resources, research strategies, and genealogical guidance to assist in the search for your ancestors. Articles included are locality pages for countries around the world and topic pages that include pertinent genealogy record types, explaining how to use the record, what it contains, and how to find it.
  - b. To find the Wiki: log into familysearch.org; click on the Search tab; scroll down to the last item in the drop-down menu – Research Wiki - and click on that. This will take you to the home page for the Research Wiki
  - c. Search Places and Topics, not People
    - i. The Wiki does not contain specific individuals but instead lists genealogical resources that may list an individual. When searching the Research Wiki, search for the place your ancestor was born, lived, and died. Or search for topics related to your ancestor like occupations or Native Americans.
    - ii. *Country pages*: These are alphabetical listings of current countries, accessed by clicking on “List of all localities” button or clicking on the map. Clicking on the country name gives more information for that country.
    - iii. *Content or Topic pages*: Here is an alphabetical listing of subcategories.
      1. Type in a topic or short phrase. Some items will auto-fill for you.
  - d. Additional Research Help: Three categories in this area on the left-hand menu.
    - i. Resources for Individual help, including the location of Family History Centers and the resources of the Family History Library in Utah. Individual consultations are available at the Family History Library page.
    - ii. Online Research communities: Community on familysearch.org and Research groups on Facebook. Click on a link to narrow the location.
    - iii. Research Resources: Lots of links for ‘how to’ information, ‘where to find’ tips, and ‘what to do next’ ideas.
  - e. FamilySearch Place Names: [www.familysearch.org/research/places](http://www.familysearch.org/research/places) is where to enter a place name and get information as to its jurisdiction, spelling, current status.

- f. Online Genealogy Records: Online Genealogy Records Wiki pages contain links to online records for different states, provinces, or countries. Go to <https://www.familysearch.org/en/about/more-genealogy-resources/>
- g. Wiki Wizard Videos: 5-minute videos on how to use the Wiki and research in different countries. The link is [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Wiki\\_Wizard\\_Videos](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Wiki_Wizard_Videos)
- h. Other resources:
  - i. The Family History Guide – <https://www.thefhguide.com/> Primarily about using FamilySearch.org but Ancestry, MyHeritage, or Findmypast are covered, also. You will find computer tips on using laptops, tablets, or smartphone computing for genealogy.
  - ii. The FamilySearch blog – www. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/>
  - iii. FamilySearch Solutions Gallery for partners with FamilySearch to help you organize and better use your information. <https://partners.familysearch.org/solutionsgallery>
  - iv. Interested in DNA as a research tool, check into this link: <https://www.familysearch.org/home/dna-testing>
  - v. Eastside Genealogical Society – [www.eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org](http://www.eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org) We hold online help sessions co-hosted by KCLS, weekly for genealogy questions and once a month on Ancestry use. Go to our website for more information or the KCLS.org events page for the Bellevue Library to sign up for a consultation.
  - vi. Social Media: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and other social media outlets are forces that can be utilized to document and share a family's history in the here and now. They are modern methods to journal our activities and, unlike handwritten diaries and journals, they are accessible to multiple "friends" or "followers" at the same time. Often the history is accompanied by photographs.
  - vii. Facebook groups for US and international locations. See this Research Wiki page: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/FamilySearch\\_Genealogy\\_Research\\_Groups](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/FamilySearch_Genealogy_Research_Groups) Also included here are specialty groups of different ethnicities.
  - viii. Instagram: use #familyhistory or #genealogy to find like minded individuals. Also, try using # with other topics, locations, surnames, and photos.
  - ix. YouTube – subscribe to the FamilySearch channel and search through 100's of videos and tutorials on a variety of subject such as a 3-part series on Scandinavian Patronymics, or Extract Ancestors from City Directories Using Ancestry or FamilySearch into Excel Spreadsheets.