



ONE BRANCH AT A TIME GENEALOGY

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Fantastic and Fun Filled World of the FamilySearch Wiki and Catalog

What is the FamilySearch Wiki?

“The FamilySearch Wiki is a tool for finding information about subjects, records that may have been generated about your ancestors, and the places in which the records might be found. It is a vast information depository.”¹

The FamilySearch Wiki contains information from 244 countries, territories, and islands.

On the Wiki you will not find specific information about your ancestors, instead you will find information about the region where your ancestor may have lived as well as information and links to records that may pertain to your ancestor.

There are a few things that you should start with before you begin your FamilySearch wiki adventure.

- Think about what you want to find about your ancestor. Be specific.
- Consider the location where that event might have happened. The more you can narrow your search, the more successful you will be.
- Think about which specific records might contain the information you are seeking.

You will want to use the FamilySearch wiki before you begin research and during the research process since it will help you better understand the area your ancestor lived in and what records are available and what information they may contain.

You can find the FamilySearch Wiki at www.familysearch.org

Click on search and use the drop-down menu to click on Research Wiki. From here you can search from three places, the top right corner, search by topic in the middle, or you can click on the map.

Once you have determined where you want to search, you can click anywhere on the page that is blue (it is a hyperlink) and it will lead you to either a new wiki page or in some cases a searchable database.

Remember: The sidebar on the right contains topics; such as record types, and research strategies.

¹ *FamilySearch Wiki* (www.familysearch.org/wiki), “FamilySearch Wiki: About Us,” rev. 17:18, 10 December 2018.

Anything in blue is a hyperlink and will lead you to another page.

Use the record finder to help plan your research!!

Don't be afraid to explore. You can always start over.

What is the FamilySearch Catalog?

“The Catalog is a guide to birth, marriage, and death records; census records; church registers; books; periodicals; family histories and many other records that contain genealogical information. These records may be searchable online, on microfiche or microfilm, in a book or in a computer file.”²

Before you search the catalog, you need to decide whom you will be researching and what you want to know. This will help you narrow down a location and the records you will be looking for.

You can access the FamilySearch catalog much the same way as you would the FamilySearch wiki except you click on catalog in the search drop-down menu.

DO THIS TYPE OF SEARCH ³	TO FIND THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF CATALOG ENTRIES
PLACE SEARCH	Look for a record by the name of a place (locality) where an ancestor lived.
SURNAMES SEARCH	Find family histories (and more) by a particular family name.
TITLES	Search Find a record by its title.
AUTHOR SEARCH	To find the works of an author by his name (individual or corporate).
SUBJECTS SEARCH	To discover works based on the topics they cover.
KEYWORDS SEARCH	Get a record using any words or phrases in significant parts of its catalog entry.
CALL NUMBER SEARCH	See catalog entries by finding their book, compact disc, or pedigree call number.
FILM/FICHE NUMBER SEARCH	See catalog details by finding the Library's microfilm or microfiche number.

Remember to do your places searches from the largest jurisdiction to the smallest

- Example: United States, Indiana, Hendricks, Plainfield
- England, Somerset

If you see a key over the camera icon you will need to visit a Family History Center or Family History Library Affiliate

² *FamilySearch Wiki* (www.familysearch.org/wiki), “Introduction to the FamilySearch Catalog,” rev.7:40, 22 November 2018.

³ *FamilySearch Wiki* (www.familysearch.org/wiki), “Introduction to the FamilySearch Catalog,” rev.7:40, 22 November 2018.

If you see a magnifying glass, you can search the collection, however, it may not all be indexed so you may not find the targeted individual. In this case, search the images before assuming that they are not there.

Helpful Links

FamilySearch Wiki Information

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/FamilySearch_Wiki:FamilySearch_Research_Wiki

How to use the FamilySearch Wiki (Tutorial)

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page?walkme=446767

Introduction to the FamilySearch Catalog

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Introduction_to_the_FamilySearch_Catalog