

Finding Records on



FamilySearch



Register/Sign In

Sign In

Free Account

Many copyright owners require users to be registered and logged in to FamilySearch to access their images. FamilySearch International does not own the images, but are allowed by agreement to post them online for use of the public conditional to the terms of the agreement. Some records are only available in the Family History Center.



Search

Search Historical Records

Search for a deceased ancestor in historical records to uncover vital information from their life.

Deceased Ancestor's Name

First Names Last Names

Search with a life event:

Birth | Marriage | Residence | Death | Any

Birthplace Birth Year (Range) From To

Search with a relationship:

Spouse | Parents | Other Person

Restrict records by:

Location | Type | Batch Number

Country State or Province

Match all terms exactly

Research By Location

Click an area of the world to start researching in a specific location.

Find a Collection

Researching within a specific collection? Find it here.

Collection Title

View all Historical Records in the Collection

Filter your results by:

[Learn more](#)

Collections

Birthplace

Birth Year

Marriage Place

Marriage Year

Residence Place

Residence Year

Death Place

Death Year

Other Place

Other Year

Gender

Search Records –

- **Global Name Search** will search all indexed records for entries matching search parameters
- **Spouse Search** can find information on the person desired when spousal information is included
- **Parent Search** can find data for all children of a couple
- may be selected by clicking “Collection”, remove the check mark in front of the collection searched and click on another collection hyperlink.
- **Basic global name search** then use search filters
- **Location** can be entered to narrow collections searched.

Search Filters will appear on the left side of the screen after a search is submitted and can narrow the search parameters without adding too much information and eliminating desired results.

Browse All Published Collections– 2244 (as of 17 Aug 2017)

FamilySearch

Family Tree Memories Search Indexing

Volunteer Get Help

Sign In Free Account

Records Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Filter by collection name

Collection name

Place

- Africa (26)
- Asia & Middle East (58)
- Australia & New Zealand (34)
- Canada (99)
- Caribbean and Central America (71)
- Continental Europe (520)
- Mexico (65)
- Other (6)
- Pacific Islands (9)
- South America (111)
- United Kingdom and Ireland (131)
- United States of America (1063)

Date

- Pre 1700 (450)
- 1700 - 1749 (551)
- 1750 - 1799 (733)
- 1800 - 1849 (1134)
- 1850 - 1899 (1773)
- 1900 - 1949 (1717)
- 1950 to present (894)

Collections

- Census & Lists (192)
- Birth, Marriage, & Death (1274)
- Probate & Court (213)
- Military (157)
- Migration & Naturalization (191)
- Other (122)
- Miscellaneous (36)
- Ethnicity (9)

Availability

Historical Record Collections

2194 collections

* = Recently added or updated

Title	Records	Last Updated
Massachusetts, Revolutionary War, Index Cards to Muster Rolls, 1775-1783	216,415	*27 Jan 2017
Arizons, Maricops, Mess City Cemetery Records, 1885-1960	12,192	*27 Jan 2017
Ohio, Crawford County Obituaries, 1860-2004	60,441	*26 Jan 2017
Peru, Puno, Civil Registration, 1890-2005	1,004,081	*25 Jan 2017
Sweden, Västernorrland Church Records, 1501-1940; index 1650-1860	38,185	*24 Jan 2017
Spain, Province of Granada, Municipal Records, 1607-1955	177,572	*24 Jan 2017
South Carolina, Delayed Birth Certificates, 1766-1900	58,903	*24 Jan 2017
Georgia, County Marriages, 1785-1950	779,774	*24 Jan 2017
Netherlands, Archival Indexes, Miscellaneous Records	2,877,451	*24 Jan 2017
Wyoming Marriages, 1869-1923	4,054	*24 Jan 2017
Rhode Island Town Marriages Index, 1639-1916	127,161	*24 Jan 2017
Oregon Marriage Records, 1849-1952	12,742	*24 Jan 2017
Hawaii, Marriages, 1826-1954	52,852	*24 Jan 2017
Alabama County Marriages, 1818-1936	80,469	*24 Jan 2017
New Hampshire, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1636-1947	19,442	*24 Jan 2017
Pennsylvania Civil Marriages, 1677-1950	1,007,595	*24 Jan 2017
Russia, Tatarstan Church Books, 1721-1939	Browse Images	*20 Jan 2017
Ukraine, Kiev Confession Lists, 1799-1911	Browse Images	*20 Jan 2017
Nicaragua Civil Registration, 1809-2013	1,266,857	*20 Jan 2017

Listing above indicates which collections have been indexed and which are available for browsing. The number of names indexed for each collection is listed and the date last updated.

The small camera on the left of the listing indicates that images are available online; the camera image in a box indicates that the image is on a FamilySearch partner's website.

The collections that are not indexed are categorized as "Browse" and are broken into groups in a process called way-pointing. One example follows.

FamilySearch

Family Tree Memories Search Indexing

RECORDS GENEALOGIES CATALOG BOOKS WIKI

Alabama Probate Records, 1809-1985

Description

This collection includes digital images of various probate records created in the county courts in Alabama. It includes wills, administrations, guardianships, estate inventories, bonds and other records.

[Learn more >](#)

View Images in this Collection

[Browse through 322,058 images](#)

Citing this Collection

"Alabama Probate Records, 1809-1985." Images. *FamilySearch*. <http://FamilySearch.org> : 14 June 2016. County courthouses, Alabama.

Alabama Probate Records, 1809-1985

County			
Autauga	Chilton	Hale	Monroe
Baldwin	Clay	Lamar	Perry
Bibb	Cleburne	Lowndes	Pike
Blount	Elmore	Madison	Russell
Bullock	Etowah	Marion	Shelby
Calhoun	Geneva	Marshall	St. Clair
Cherokee	Greene	Mobile	

Alabama Probate Records, 1809-1985

Lowndes

Volume Title and Year			
Administration records 1870-1892 vol A	Minutes 1864-1868 vol 15-16	Minutes 1897-1906 vol D	Probate records 1835
Administration records 1892-1944 vol B	Minutes 1868-1884 vol 17-18	Minutes 1906-1915 vol 21-23	Wills 1830-1936
Minute index 1832-1878 vol A	Minutes 1870-1872 vol A	Minutes 1917-1935 vol 24-25	Wills 1899-1940
Minutes 1853-1857 vol 9-10	Minutes 1870-1938 vol A-B	Minutes 1938-1945 vol B	
Minutes 1857-1861 vol 11-13	Minutes 1872-1897 vol B-D	Petitions 1860-1866 vol 1	
Minutes 1861-1864 vol 13-14	Minutes 1878-1906 vol 19-21	Petitions 1868-1901 vol 2-3	

Genealogies (shown separately, but are also included in the FamilySearch Family Tree) – made up of submissions to:

- **Ancestral File – submissions made by paper pedigrees and family group sheets or GEDCOMs between 1970 and late 1990s. Identical individuals merged by computer, no sources shown**

- Pedigree Resource File – Submissions made by GEDCOM between late 1990s and about 2010. All submissions maintained their integrity, showing sources, if any, and submitter.

Catalog – not just for ordering films and viewing holdings of Family History Library.

Digitized but unindexed films may be found online and accessed through the catalog – if a camera image is shown the film may be accessed online at home or in a Family History Center by clicking the camera. Images will appear in thumbnails and can be searched easily.



Books – Books held in the Family History Library and other listed libraries - can also click a link to the WorldCat to find a book in a library closer to home. Some books may be accessible from home. See “Books” below.

Wiki – More than 84,000 articles containing information on research principles, localities and their records and record types. Got a question – check out the Wiki

Online Genealogy Records – Free and Pay sites are listed for locations all over the world.

Catalog

Eight searches of the 2.4 million rolls of microfilm, more than 700,000 microfiche and hundreds of thousands of books (more than 345,700 books are online) are available through the catalog. Those may be found by searching by: Place, Surnames, Titles, Author, Subjects, Keywords, Call Number, and Film/Fiche Numbers.

Many microfilms are online, which have not been through way-pointing. These are available only through searching the catalog.

Most states’ counties have their probate records online. Some states’ counties have all or partial land records online. Some county’s marriage records are online. Most of all the above have indexes included separately or within the individual books.

All Federal census records are online through way-pointing. US Census Records can be found by searching through the catalog locality search under United States, then scroll down to the year desired, then go to the last listing, Click [here](#) >

Notes

Records of United States Census, 1850 are available online, click here.

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website interface for the United States Census, 1850. The page title is "United States Census, 1850" and it includes a description: "Name index and images of population schedules listing inhabitants of the United States in 1850. This was the seventh census conducted since 1790. Searchable data and browse are available for all states and territories." The search interface includes fields for "First Names" and "Last Names", dropdown menus for "Gender" (set to "Any") and "Marital Status" (set to "Any"), and a "Residence Place" field with an "optional" checkbox. There are also sections for "Search by Life Events" (with "Residence Place" and "Birth" options) and "Search by Relationships" (with "Any Household Member" option). A "Restrict records by" section includes a "Film Number" field and a "Match all terms exactly" checkbox. The "Search" and "Reset" buttons are at the bottom. A link "View Images in this Collection" is highlighted in a green box, with the text "Browse through 489,683 images" below it. The footer includes a citation: "United States Census, 1850." Database with images. FamilySearch, http://FamilySearch.org : 14 June 2016. Citing NARA microfilm publication M432. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

While you can search the record, not all year's images are available to the viewer through the search feature. By Browsing the images, you can select the state desired, then the county desired, and then possibly the community, township, precinct, ward, etc.

Books

The screenshot shows the Family History Books website. The page title is "Family History Books" and it includes a search bar with "Search" and "Advanced Search" buttons. Below the search bar is a list of partner institutions: Allen County Public Library, Brigham Young University Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University Idaho David O. McKay Library, Brigham Young University Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library, Church History Library, Family History Library, Houston Public Library - Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, Mid-Continent Public Library - Midwest Genealogy Center, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Onondaga County Public Library, University of Florida, George A. Smathers Libraries, and Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records.

More than 345,700 books have been digitized, as of 18 Aug 2017. May search for books on locations, surnames topics, etc. If searching for an individual, put name in quotes for search on both names in tandem,

Books out of copyright may be downloaded at home. Books in copyright (published after 1923) must be viewed in a Family History Center. Downloaded books may be searched by using Ctrl+F. Can search books online using Edge (formerly Internet Explorer) or Firefox. Chrome does not allow a search option.

Copyright © 2017 Lynell Bennett Moss. All Rights Reserved. Permission is granted to copy or publish this material provided it is reproduced in its entirety, including this notice.

Books are not a primary source of information, but should be used as clues for seeking primary sources of evidence.

Final Word

Collect ALL the data available – period – end of sentence!

Data is power and in tackling genealogical research problems, you need multiple reference points to correlate and validate your conclusions. If done correctly, additional data discovered later should add to, not detract from your conclusion – there should be little reasonable doubt when you are through.

**----David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer, FamilySearch, “Mining the Data”,
National Genealogical Society Conference, 2014**