

FamilySearch: Meet the Most Important Member of the Four Titans of Family History Research Websites

Now that you have been introduced to the Four Titans of family history research websites., you might be questioning why is there a need to actively be engaged with possibly more than one of these landmark genealogical resources. Namely, why are there so many research tools available. To put things into perspective, these options are based on principles and practices. Technology innovations are opening up so many windows of opportunity for unprecedented original family history explorations of ones ancestors. As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we have the principal end-goal of researching our ancestors for the purpose of creating our genealogical family lines together with their historical records and memories with the end-goal of submitting our ancestors to the temple to be sealed for time and eternity as families together in the hereafter. In this perspective, FamilySearch.Org is the very gateway to obtaining this goal as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints because it allows one to submit fully researched and verifiable records to our temples for sealing ordinances with eternal implications.

The Need for All Four Titans of Family History Research Websites

Of the Four Titan websites recently featured, the other three titans, Ancestry, MyHeritage and Findmypast all contain rich historical collections to learn from in researching your ancestral roots because they not only have significant historical collections but also have abundance of individual family trees on-line that might also link your ancestors to others which represents a fantastic networking practice tool opportunity through Internet connectivity. To make this possible, you can import your Family Tree as contained in FamilySearch into all of these other titans to literally share your family history with the entire world who don't necessarily have accounts with FamilySearch.

This unique networking opportunity is the very essence of obtaining additional knowledge about your family history. This sharing is an incredible opportunity to expand your family history pursuits at "warp" speed in terms of connectivity with others who you do not even know about.

FamilySearch Best Meets These Needs

As members of the Church, you can bring back these potential family history discoveries to your Family Tree FamilySearch account as the master copy account for your family history because FamilySearch has the best documentation citations that can be recorded and will guide future generations to your family history pursuits and at the same time make it the central point for submitting family names to the temple. So please do explore all of the other titans in order to more thoroughly research, update and expand your Family Tree records. This collaboration system is the very genius of networking in the 21st century with technology tools of all the other Titans together with FamilySearch. For those of you who are not members of our Church, consider reading

this pamphlet entitled "Families and Temples" which is located at: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples/families-and-the-temple?lang=eng> that correlates the purpose of doing family history and submitting it our temples. Consider perusing the following topics covered in this pamphlet for understanding the importance of temples in this dispensation of time.

- Families Are Sacred
- Why is Family So Important?
- How Can My Family Return to Live with God?
- What is the Purpose of the Temple?
- What is a Temple Sealing?
- What About My Family?

Contents of FamilySearch Web Site

The FamilySearch website contains a small fraction of the original records and information available to researchers. FamilySearch consists of three types of records:

1. Information submitted to us by patrons: This includes such records as the Ancestral File and the Pedigree Resource File.
 - The Ancestral File was our first attempt to create a way for families to submit family history information. Then, with other submitted family information, link their ancestors to other family groups, finding common ancestors. The Ancestral File was discontinued in 2003.
 - The Pedigree Resource File began in 1999. The information in this file cannot be changed. Updates and new family information can be added to this file by sending a new submission through the "share" process.
2. Information extracted from civil and church records.
 - Civil records of many types have been extracted from a wide variety of areas (state, county, city).
 - The International Genealogical Index (IGI) is a database that contains primarily births/christenings, although in a few cases, deaths or other events appear on the records. websites
 - Many religions have allowed us to extract records from their holdings. These records usually predate civil records.
3. Government records such as:
 - All Federal Census records 1790-1940 have been transcribed and indexed
 - a. Many state, birth and death certificates
 - b. Many county marriages records
 - c. Many military records
 - The Social Security Death Index (SSDI). This database contains some vital record information since 1962. It was compiled by the Social Security Records Administration and we have permission to add it to our site.

If your family does not appear on the FamilySearch Family Tree site it is because:

1. No one has submitted your family information to us.
2. Your ancestors did not live in an area where the records have been extracted.
3. Your family members are still living. Living people do not appear on our site.

To peruse the contents of FamilySearch available on-line, go to

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

The Family History Guide: Offers The Most Thorough Tutorials for Using FamilySearch and for the Other Three Titan Sites

If you desire more tutorials, look no further than to **The Family History Guide** which offer some straight-forward on-line tutorials that are excellent as primer-level for newcomers and beyond. But don't let me generalize this because there are a total of 71 impressive step-by-step tutorials included in the following 11 pull-down menu offerings for learning how to use FamilySearch through **The Family History Guide**. The parenthesis below indicates the number of tutorials within each pull-down menu.

- Family Tree (14)
- Memories (12)
- Descendants (4)
- Discover Knowledgebase (9)
- Indexing (7)
- Help (6)
- Technology (5)
- DNA (8)
- Family Tree App (7)
- Memories App (6)

Closing Comments

Here's a sample list of tutorials in the Discover Knowledgebase tutorials contained in the FamilySearch tutorials in **The Family History Guide**. Note: all of them have "hot" links below for you to peruse with a few video tutorials interspersed as well.

1: Get Organized 2: Identify a Line 3: Form a Strategy 4: FamilySearch Record Searches (FS) 5: FamilySearch Research Tools (FS) 6: Develop Search Skills 7: Solve Problems 8: Family History Trips 9: FamilySearch Places, Solutions Gallery

Do not underestimate the power and usefulness of all of the Four Titans of Family History Research as introduced in [the October 17th](#) posting. Fortunately, all members of our Church can register for free membership through their FamilySearch.org account. But non-members can also use all of them for free at any of our 5,100 family history centers in 140 countries throughout the world. See [the October 19th](#) posting to learn

where and how to find these local family history centers in your locality that are readily available to both our members and the general public.

Remember: V.I.P. assistance is only a mouse click away with these well-organized and throughout on-line tutorials as recently posted in this Facebook group for the Four Titans of Family History Research Websites for [FamilySearch](#), [Ancestry](#), [MyHeritage](#) and [Findmypast](#).