

[How FamilySearch has become the largest genealogy organization in the world!](#)

FamilySearch, formally known as the Genealogical Society of Utah, recently celebrated its 125th anniversary. Today, the genealogical Society of Utah is known as FamilySearch International, and it stands as the largest genealogy organization in the world. Over the past hundred and 25 years, FamilySearch has worked to publish and grow its family tree to more than 1.2 billion people. As of last month, 7.21 billion searchable names are now available via FamilySearch.org's historical records as well as 1.4 billion digital images and 4.84 billion searchable records. Today, there are more than 5,000 family history centers in 129 countries.

“From a small, humble beginning in an upstairs room with 190 donated books 125 years ago, we today are moving forward at an ever accelerating pace,” said Elder [Kevin S. Hamilton](#), executive director of the Family History Department, during an anniversary celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 13.

At the recent RootsTech 2019 London Conference, there were over 10,000 attendees, nearly 200 vendors and exhibitors, and more than 100 classes and workshops; which is astounding when considering this was the Church's very first International family history conference. One of the key purposes of RootsTech London dealt with records — vital information, including names, life events, dates and places, and collecting, documenting, storing, preserving and sharing those records. Strong recommend you consider attending the RootsTech 2020 Conference in Salt Lake City, February 26-29, 2020 at the Salt Palace. Roslyn and I will be there.

Elder Hamilton further commented on the future of FamilySearch during the anniversary celebration. He mentioned the interest in computer-assisted indexing, machine learning and artificial intelligence to speed up the indexing process. He also said FamilySearch is beginning to look at the potential of using computer-assisted tree building which is exactly what my three beta testing algorithm projects in Poland are all about with FamilySearch! Elder Hamilton further said, “We're just beginning our strategy for DNA research and DNA utilization,” he added. “The technology is new and we do not yet completely understand how this all works. But the potential is there for us to reconstruct the family tree of humankind using DNA.” This is quite a statement which considering the Family Tree in FamilySearch that is a shared tree and does not belong to anyone person and can be a dynamic platform through the collective efforts of others in which temple ordinances are achieved without errors so families can be intact in the hereafter for the eternities!

If you desire to read a feature article on the 125th anniversary of FamilySearch, there is a feature article both in the November 17th edition of Church News on pages 9, 10 and 11 and at this URL:

<https://www.thechurchnews.com/history-revisited/2019-11-13/salt-lake-city-familysearch-family-history-library-anniversary-166783>.