

FamilySearch.org

Presented by Bob Goode
bob.goode@stlgs.org

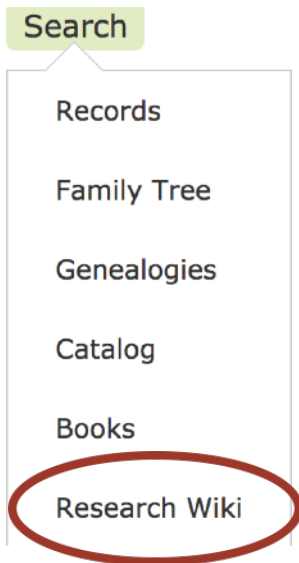
22 August 20

Create an account: You must have one!

Creating an account is free and simple to do. Click on Free Account, if you do not have one. If you already have an account, be sure to sign in before proceeding. This website is constantly changing and updating.

First area of website to explore: Family Search Wiki

Definition: a website that allows collaborative editing of its content and structure by its users.



You may click on the map or use the search box. It is your preference. I tend to use the search box. Enter a word or phrase. Do not ask a question.

Try a different search approaches for the same topic.

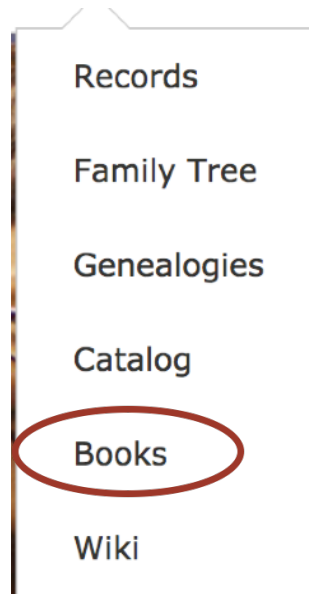
This is a wiki – topics will greatly vary in quantity and quality.

Some of the links are outside FamilySearch.org website.



Second area of website to explore: FamilySearch Books:

At least fifteen libraries are participating in the digitization of over 494,458 publications.



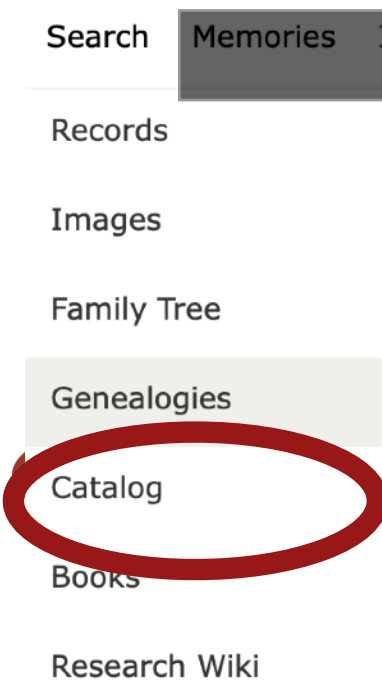
Once your search item loads you can download to your computer, if you results have “public.” “Protected” indicates copyright not granted to post online.

Occasionally, you receive notification that states that you do not have “sufficient rights” to view the item you selected. In many cases this item is only available at the Family History Library or maybe a Family History Center or affiliate library. I download several publications the last few years while on the StLGS research trip to Salt Lake City.



You can use World Cat to try to find the publication in a nearby library if the item is classified as “protected.”

Third area of website to explore: FamilySearch catalog



The best way to use the catalog is to start with “Place,” or “Keyword.” Start with a broad based search, then narrow down.

Do NOT put the words “state” or “county” in the search box. As an example... Daviess but not Daviess County.

If the item in the catalog is a book then you will see a Dewey Decimal call number.

If the item in the catalog is a microfilm or microfiche you will see a film reel icon.

If you see the camera icon, then you click on the camera.

If the item in the catalog is an image available online you will receive a camera icon and usually a red word phrase such as **“To view a digital version of this item click here.”** Consider yourself lucky if you find an indexed set of records. While FamilySearch has a robust indexing group of volunteers, many more images are being placed online that are not indexed.

More records are now found in the catalog than can sometime be found in the “Records” section. You will need to explore both sections: Catalog and Records.

A relatively new feature available from the pull down Search menu is **Images**.

Fourth area of website to explore: Family Tree

Unlike Ancestry, this is a tree for everyone and you can add, modify and delete items. A criticism of the world tree is that individuals can change your data. You also have the ability to change information on the world tree.

Key point: this is a potential place to find photos and documents that have been added by others. In addition, many people have links to documents.

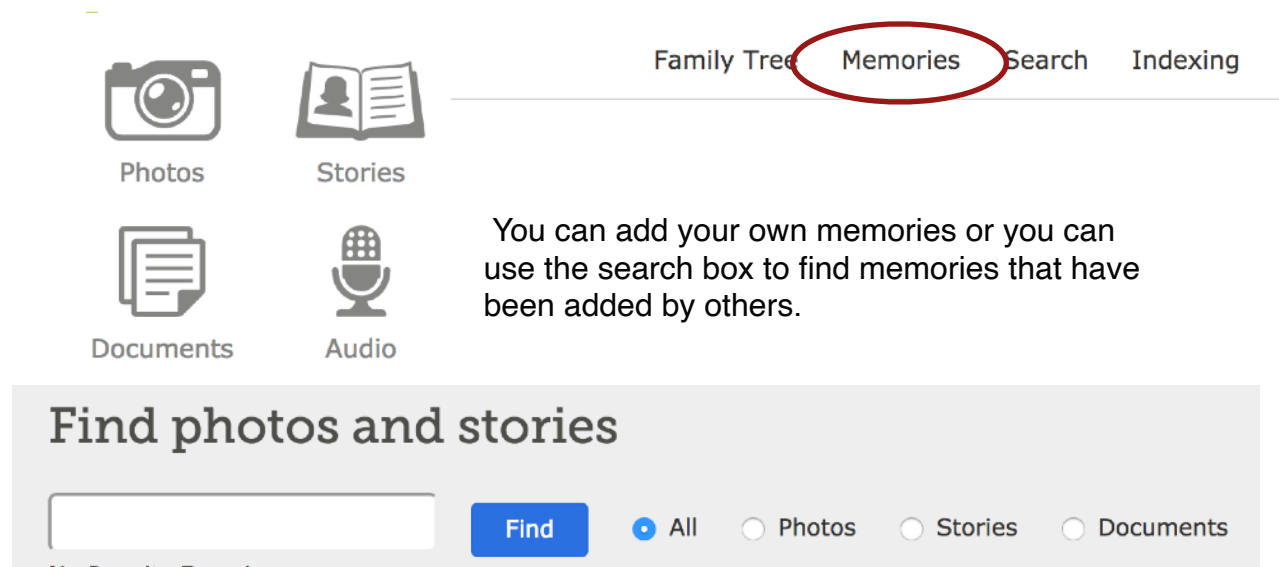
You can create a “watch” for individuals and FamilySearch will email you with the update that has been entered for an individual that you have selected for “watch.”

Be selective, unless you want your email box to fill with watched items. I speak from experience.



During the slideshow, I will skip the Genealogies section due to time considerations. Individuals can upload their gedcom and are doing so by the thousands. As with Ancestry, some of these family trees are good but others “not so much.”

Fifth area of website to explore: Memories



Sixth area of website is relatively new: Images

This is not an area to do a surname search. According to FamilySearch, “Images” is a tool to help you locate an image out of over four billion documents that have been digitized but not indexed.

You will need to play and enter various terms for place, date or date range, life event, record type and other options.

The Url for explanation of the digital filming numbers:
<https://tinyurl.com/y33ykerc>

Seventh area of website to explore: Records

Some of the record sets are indexed but most are not indexed.

There are two sets for most places: (1) Indexed Historical Records and (2) Image-only Historical Records.

I recommend using the map and the popup menu to select the geographic area. Then select the specific record set. Play with the restriction options to narrow your search hits.

Once you see the digital record, you can manipulate the image with the various tools available. Then you can download.

Be sure to source your record !!!

Lessons: if time allows, otherwise explore on your own. Pick out a lesson and play the video. Found in upper right hand corner of a page, especially the home page.

Key Point: Explore...you can not break anything.

Key Point Number Two: FamilySearch.org is constantly changing. You should keep a record of what and where you have searched and then return again and again.

Upcoming StLGS Family History Library Research Trip to Salt Lake City.

St. Louis Genealogical Society's next research trip to Family History Library in Salt Lake City will be 3 October 2021 to 10 October 2021. Watch for specifics in the spring of 2021.

Copied from the Family History Library site in Salt Lake City.

Collection:

Our collection includes about 1.4 million rolls of microfilm on-site, along with over 600,000 books, serials, and maps. In addition, guests have free access to billions of additional record images online. The Family History Library has 550 internet-enabled guest computers and over 200 microfilm and microfiche readers. The Library also offers free access to film, book, and photo scanning equipment to help our guests digitally preserve and share family records.