

Quick Sheet 004 – Using FamilySearch

What is FamilySearch?

<https://familysearch.org/search/>

FamilySearch is the family history site of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). It offers free access to the world's largest family history collection (4+ billion searchable names and 2+ billion digitised records). The records, resources and services available include:

- Worldwide records that have been gathered, preserved and shared on microform or online
- Worldwide historical record collections (2361+ and growing) with many linked to online digital images of the original record (most free). (Click on *Search*)
- Over 4,745 family history centres worldwide
- Research Wiki with 88,000+ articles.
- FamilySearch catalog
- User submitted genealogies
- Family Tree – See what is online or create a family tree
- Submit photos, stories or create a family booklet
- Digitised books and journals (350,000+)
- Online articles, lessons and how-to video tutorials (Click on *Help*)

TIP: Use these lessons, articles and videos to help you begin your family history research, learn some new techniques or brush up on your skills.

Note: You need to log in with a free FamilySearch Account to use FamilySearch.

FamilySearch – Research by location

www.familysearch.org/search/

You can use the world map and select a location, for example Africa, and you will be taken to the Africa research page. You can then choose a country, such as South Africa, and search all South Africa indexed historical records plus there are links to the Learning Center courses for South Africa, FamilySearch Catalog for South Africa and FamilySearch Wiki for South Africa.

FamilySearch - Browse Historical Record Collections

The Historical Record Collections are arranged by location. These collections include indexes and original images of birth, death and marriage records; census; probate and court; military; migration and naturalisation records and more. Access to the original records is mostly free but fees do apply for some collections. Check this site often as new material is being added all the time.

Currently there are 2361 historical record collections

Region	Number
Africa	30
Asia and Middle East	58
Australia and New Zealand	39
Canada	99
Caribbean and Central America	72
Continental Europe	589
Mexico	66
Other	7
Pacific Islands	11
South America	115
United Kingdom and Ireland	148
United States	1127

TIP: Browse to see what is new or updated on *FamilySearch*

- Click on *Browse all Published Collections* – these are listed alphabetically by placename
- Click on *Last Updated* (RHS of screen) – collections are arranged by date added or last updated.

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FamilySearch - Historical Record Collections for Continental Europe

Currently there are 578 collections available:

Country	No	Country	No
Albania	1	Liechtenstein	1
Armenia	1	Luxembourg	7
Austria	15	Moldovia	2
Belgium	14	Netherlands	36
Croatia	2	Norway	5
Czech Republic	10	Poland	6
Denmark	28	Portugal	35
Estonia	3	Russia	17
Finland	5	Slovakia	2
France	45	Slovenia	2
Germany	64	Spain	45
Gibraltar	2	Sweden	29
Hungary	6	Switzerland	21
Iceland	3	Ukraine	8
Italy	174		

FamilySearch Historical Record Collections for United Kingdom and Ireland

Currently there are 148 collections for the United Kingdom and Ireland covering Channel Islands, England, Ireland, Isle of Man, Scotland, United Kingdom and Wales. Collections are available for the English counties of Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cornwall, Cumberland, Derbyshire, Devon, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, London, Middlesex, Norfolk, Northumberland, Rutland, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire and Yorkshire. For further details see CoraWeb Quick Sheet 005 which details the historical collections for the United Kingdom and Ireland arranged by countries and counties at

www.coraweb.com.au/qs5familysearch-uk.pdf

FamilySearch Catalog

www.familysearch.org/catalog-search

The Catalog offers place, surnames, titles, author, subjects, call number, film/fiche number and keywords searches across the entire collection of books, microform and online digitised material, including digitised books. Any online material is identified and linked.

TIP: Do a place and also a keywords search for places of interest. Keyword searches can return more results.

FamilySearch Books

familysearch.org/search/

Click on the *Books* link to access a collection of 350,000+ digitised family history books including family histories, county and local histories, genealogy magazines and how-to books, gazetteers, and medieval histories and pedigrees. All titles are fully searchable and can be downloaded as PDF files. Digitised book titles are also linked to the FamilySearch catalog.

FamilySearch Genealogies

familysearch.org/family-trees

FamilySearch Genealogies are trees submitted to FamilySearch. Please note that the accuracy of the data in these genealogies varies from tree to tree so you should document and validate the data.

A search offers access to:

- Ancestral File - genealogies submitted by users, prior to 2003

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- Pedigree Resource File - growing collection of genealogies submitted by users
- International Genealogical Index (IGI) - information from 430 million+ indexed birth, marriage and some death records plus records contributed by LDS members. Originally published on microfiche 1973-2008
- Guild of One-Name Studies - A collection of lineage-linked sourced genealogies from the Guild of One-Name Studies.
- Community Trees - a collection of lineage-linked sourced genealogies for specific communities and time periods (see below)
- Oral Genealogies - spoken lineage-linked genealogies from localities throughout the world

Other FamilySearch Products

familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Community_Trees_Project

Community Trees project for Australia (SA and Vic), British Isles, Canada, Costa Rica, England, Europe, French Polynesia, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Jewish families (Knowles collection), Latin America, Liechtenstein, Mexico New Zealand (Maori), Norway, Pacific Islands, Peru, Scotland, Switzerland, Tonga, United States of America and Wales is no longer in existence. The material has been left intact for historical reference and has been added to Genealogies on Familysearch.org where it can be searched. See above.

maps.familysearch.org

England Jurisdictions 1851 offers searches for localities in England. Enter a place name in the search box and the location is displayed on a map of England. Select a name from the search results and a county map is displayed. Use the three tabs for extra information. The *Info tab* has information about the parish, the date parish registers began and if other records such as Bishops' transcripts and non-conformist records exist. The *Jurisdictions tab* lists the county, civil registration district, probate court, diocese, rural deanery, poor law union, hundred and province. The *Options tab* lists contiguous parishes and offers radius, Family History Library Catalog or FamilySearch Wiki searches.

www.familysearch.org/research/places/

FamilySearch Place Name provides access to standardized information about locations and can assist researchers in searching for exact spellings, checking whether locations exist, as well as determining alternate name spellings/variants to expand research.

TIP: Use this site to find the correct way to record place names.

FamilySearch Newsroom

media.familysearch.org/

FamilySearch Newsroom is a dynamic source for news and what's new in family history records, products, services, technology, classes, and events. It features Collections Update, In the Blogs, Featured Articles, FamilySearch Spotlight and In the News.