



FamilySearch Research Wiki: What You Need to Know

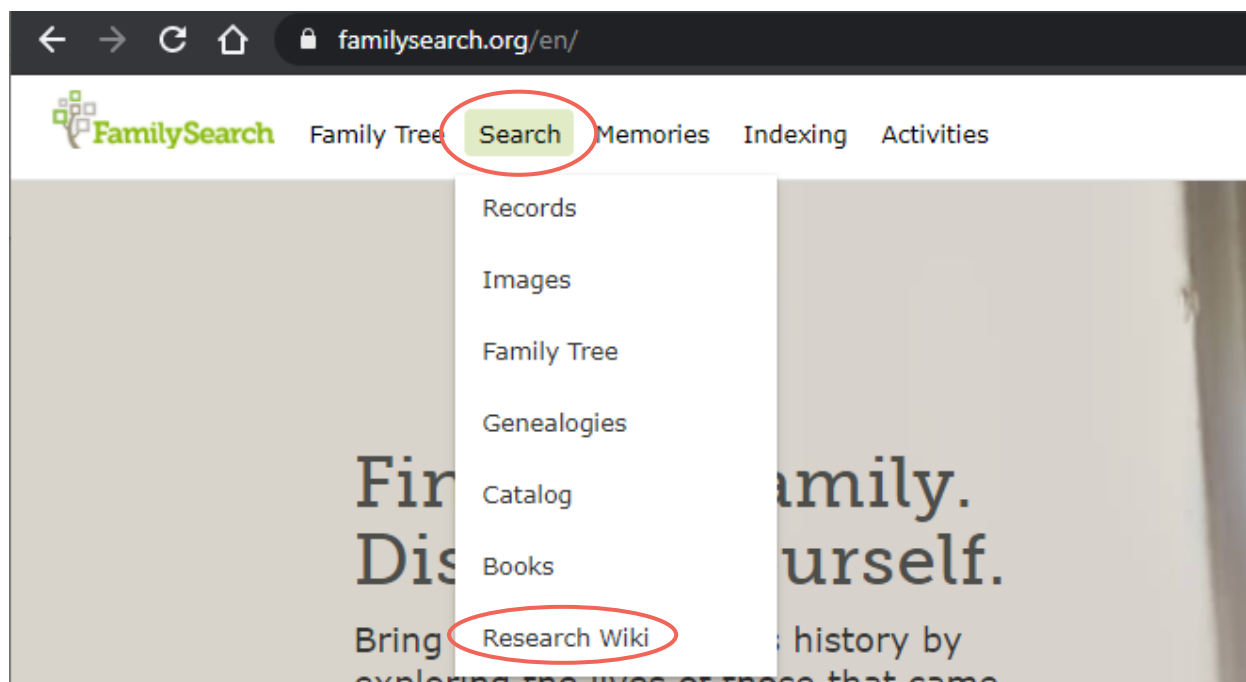
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WHAT IS THE WIKI?

The Research Wiki is a free, online genealogical guide that lists websites, explains records, gives research strategies, and suggests other resources to help you find your ancestors from countries around the world. The Research Wiki is a community project where anyone can contribute.

HOW TO ACCESS:

- You can access the Wiki by using the URL: <https://www.wiki.FamilySearch.org>
- Or, go to <https://www.FamilySearch.org> and access the Wiki through the Search menu in the top left side of the screen.






TO SEARCH THE WIKI

Use the Search box in the middle of the page to type in a place or genealogy topic. Examples include “England” or “Norway Church Records.” You can also click on the, *List of all Localities* button to navigate to a country or locality.

WHAT CAN YOU FIND IN THE WIKI?

- Genealogy databases and online resources
- Genealogy strategies and guidance
- Explanation of genealogy record types and their uses
- Locality pages for countries, states, counties and parishes with relevant resources
- Topic pages about genealogy, such as, “Organize Your Genealogy” or “Gazetteers”
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NAVIGATING THE WIKI:

- **TO NAVIGATE:** Navigate by using the Wiki Search box in the top right of the screen, breadcrumbs, Table of Contents links, and internal links found on each Wiki page.
- **COUNTRY/STATE SIDEBARS:** Sidebars found on a country/state page contain all topic pages relating to that place and can include record types, background information and local resources.
- **EXTERNAL LINKS:** External links are indicated by a blue arrow at the end of the link:
 When clicked on, they open a new tab in the browser and exit the Wiki to the new website.
- **INTERNAL LINKS:** Internal links do not have a blue arrow and when clicked on navigate to a new Wiki page. To go back to a Wiki page, use the back arrow in the browser.
- **OTHER LINKS:** A dark blue or purple link indicates you have visited the Wiki page or website before. Red links indicate this page does not yet exist and no content will be found.

HELPFUL WIKI PAGES USED FOR RESEARCH:

- **COUNTRY WIKI PAGES:** A country page is a landing page to all things related to the locality. Each country page includes a sidebar on the right side of the page with links to

topics Wiki pages regarding the country. The country page includes a link to the Online Genealogy Records page for the country, Getting Started section, Clickable map, and a list of lower jurisdictions with links to the Wiki pages. These types of pages are also available for states of the U.S., Canadian provinces, and counties in the United Kingdom

- **COUNTRY TOPIC WIKI PAGES:** Topic pages cover different record types and other topics for a country. Information included on these pages are online databases and important websites, where to find the records if they are not online, why to use the record, how to use the record, and what the record may contain.
- **ONLINE GENEALOGY RECORDS WIKI PAGES:** These pages are for country or state-wide databases that are organized by topic. Links go to free and subscription websites. They are found as blue buttons on country and other Wiki pages. A master list of these pages is found under the Research Wiki menu on the left side of the screen on each Wiki page called, Online Genealogy Records. Or use this URL:
https://www.FamilySearch.org/wiki/en/Online_Genealogy_Records_by_Location
- **GUIDED RESEARCH WIKI PAGES:** The Guided Research experience was created to assist genealogists starting research in a country they are not familiar with. Guided Research provides prioritized lists of genealogy resources for birth, marriage, and death records for selected countries. It is found under the Research Wiki menu on the left side of the screen on each Wiki page called, Guided Research. Or use this URL:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Guided_Research_for_Online_Records

STRATEGY TO USING THE WIKI:

- **DON'T LOOK BY NAME:** You won't find information about individuals in the Wiki, but you will find links to databases that may contain information about your ancestor.
- **DO SEARCH BY LOCATION:** Search the Research Wiki by location, such as a country, state, county, or parish.
- **CHECK ALL JURISDICTIONS:** Start on the country page and work your way down to lower jurisdictions, if known. For example, start at United States and go down to Ohio; then, check the county level, such as Muskingum County.
- **CHECK ALL RECORD TYPES:** See what record types are available for a country or other jurisdiction (county or state) and review them to see the type of information provided and resources to find them.
- **USE LINKS TO DATABASES:** The Research Wiki links to free and subscription databases and includes large databases as well as small local databases, such as a county courthouse online database. Subscription databases are indicated by a dollar sign at the end of the link entry.

WORK IN PROGRESS: The Wiki is a work in progress! Keep coming back to the Research Wiki to see what information is added. If it's not there today, a link to the database with your missing ancestor may be in there tomorrow!