

Let's Explore FamilySearch

www.FamilySearch.org

What is FamilySearch?

FamilySearch is a free website. You can access it anywhere there is an Internet connection. FamilySearch offers what has been described as the largest amount of free genealogical resources currently available. Digitized source documents and indexes are being added to the web site from the extensive collection of microform holdings in Salt Lake City. The collections on FamilySearch include documents such as civil registration records; religious records; and probate, census, land, tax, and military records. The collection also contains compiled sources such as family histories and local histories.

What's new on the FamilySearch site?

- The **Family History Library Catalog** has been expanded and now includes digitized materials available online as well as in books and microform.
- A new feature called **Family Tree** will show what others have found about your ancestors, will enable you to collaborate on shared family lines, and preserve your genealogy for years to come.

Let's explore!

Go to the home page and look at the top right corner of the screen. (Be sure your screen is maximized.) You should see the words **"Sign in"** and **"Create an Account"**. You'll also see **"Volunteer"** and **"Get Help"**. Clicking on **"Get Help"** takes you to a page where you can get advice on how to begin working on your family history, view video demonstrations, and get research assistance. The **"Volunteer"** page will explain how you can help FamilySearch add records to the website.

Return to the home page (by clicking on the Tree logo) and click on **"Sign In"** before you begin searching. If you don't already have an account, create one now by entering the required information. **Write down the user name and password that you've chosen**, as you must sign in the same way every time you visit FamilySearch.

Return to the home page and select **"Search"**. On the drop-down menu, you'll see **"Records"**. This may be a familiar page if you've been using FamilySearch for research. Fill in the required information and click on **"Search"**. Sometimes the search is more productive if you fill in only a few of the boxes. You can refine the search in several ways as you go.

Return to the home page, click on **"Search"** and select **"Genealogies"**. Fill in the required information to do a search. If your ancestor doesn't appear in the list of results, try variant spellings of the name. Be forewarned -- the results of searches in

"Genealogies" include *user-submitted information*, which may not be documented or even correct.

Return to the home page. Click on "**Catalog**". Under "**Search by**", select a category. If you select "Places", type in the name of a place (e.g., "Windham, Vermont", not "Windham County, Vermont") and hit "Search". The next screen will list some choices, so you can select the appropriate one. Click "Search". On the next screen is a list of all the materials about Windham that the Family History Library owns. From this list, you can select microfilm or microfiche to rent from the Family History Library.

Return to the home page. Click on "**Books**", then type a book title in the search box. This links to actual page images of books.

Return to the home page and select "**Search**", then "**Wiki**". The FamilySearch Research Wiki is a free online guide explaining how to find ancestors in different time periods and places all around the world. Originally based on the Family History Library's Research Outlines, the FamilySearch Research Wiki has expanded over the past several years to help you learn how to use records filmed in various cities and countries.

Select a specific geographic area, such as "Windham, Vermont". On the next screen, click on any topic shown in blue to see what is available in the FamilySearch record collection.

Other FamilySearch Services

Photoduplication Services: FamilySearch does not loan the books they own, but they can make copies (electronic or paper), provided you furnish exact information about the source material you need. On www.FamilySearch.org select "**Search**", then click on "**Wiki**". In the box underneath "Search by place or topic", type in "Photoduplication Services". On the next page, click on the article titled "Photoduplication Services". Scroll down to read the entire article before proceeding.

Online Film Ordering: FamilySearch has a rental program for obtaining microfilm and microfiche in their collection. If you are new to the Online Film Ordering program, go to www.FamilySearch.org select "**Search**", then click on "**Wiki**". In the box underneath "Search by place or topic" type in "Online Film Ordering" and on the next page select the article "Ordering Microfilm or Microfiche". You must be signed in to FamilySearch before ordering microfilm.

All ordering of microfilm or microfiche is now done online from any place with an internet connection. Payment is via credit card, debit card or Pay Pal.

Prepared by Carolyn Ford – February 2014 – for classroom use only.