

FAMILY SEARCH WIKI GOLDMINE

Introduction

Is Family History, for you, an experience like Laman and Lemuel's returning for the brass plates – arduous and unpleasant? Or is it an adventure because you enjoy the journey?

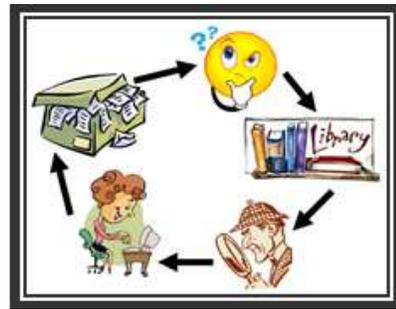
What makes the difference? The pleasure comes from putting for the effort and eventually having success. The Family Search Wiki can help you have SUCCESS!



How does the Wiki Augment Research?

5 Basic Steps of Research

1. Gather and organize what you and other family members already know.
2. Decide what additional information you need and what records are available to help you find it. **(This is where the Wiki shines!!!)**
3. Search compiled and original records.
4. Analyze and evaluate your findings.
5. Record, document and share your findings



Step 1: What Do You Know?

Select **1** family or individual to work on. On a family group sheet, enter everything you know about the family or individual. (To really learn this process, select an ancestor born in the U.S. in the late 1800's or early 1900's and PRACTICE on them. The tools you learn will strengthen your skills and give you more confidence for the more difficult research on your brick walls.)

Step 2: What Do You Want to Learn?

Look over your completed family group sheet and circle the blanks. Pick **1** to begin researching.

TIP: Do you have documentation for each of the pieces of information already on your family group sheet? **If not, this is where you start, not on the blanks.** There will be many clues on those documents and the key to your brick wall may very well be one of them!

When you've determined your goal, for example – my grandmother's death date, go to the Wiki –

https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page

In the search box enter the TYPE of records

you are searching for and WHERE the event occurred. Example: death Michigan

Research Wiki

Free family history research advice for the community, by the community

Learn from our 45,733 articles.

record selection table



Keyword example: Iowa cemeteries

Browse by country

List all countries

REMEMBER: The wiki will help you locate what RECORDS are available and WHERE, **NOT** individuals.

TIP: As you are starting out you may want to enter the words, *record selection table*, in the search box. The 1st hit will be the United States Record Selection Table. This table lists all the types of information you may want to search for and what records would be best to use for each.

United States Record Selection Table Edit This Page

United States > United States Record Selection Table

This table can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for post-1800 research in the [United States](#).

1. In column 1 find the goal you selected.
2. In column 2 find the types of records most likely to have the information you need.
3. In column 3 find additional record types that may be useful.
4. Then look for the record type you need in the Place Search of the Family History Library Catalog.

Note: Records of previous research (Genealogy, Biography, History, Periodicals, and Societies) are useful for most goals, but are not listed unless they are especially helpful.

1. If You Need	2. Look First In	3. Then Search
Age	Census , Vital Records , Cemeteries	Military Records , Taxation
Birth date	Vital Records , Church Records , Bible Records	Cemeteries , Obituaries , Census
Birthplace	Vital Records , Church Records , Census	Newspapers , Obituaries
City or parish of foreign birth	Church Records , Genealogy , Biography , Naturalization and Citizenship , Societies	Vital Records , Obituaries , History , Emigration and Immigration
Country of foreign birth	Emigration and Immigration , Census , Naturalization and Citizenship , Church Records	Military Records , Vital Records , Newspapers , Obituaries
County origins and boundaries	History , Maps , Historical Geography	Gazetteers
Death	Vital Records , Cemeteries , Probate Records , Church Records , Obituaries , Societies	Newspapers , Bible Records , Military Records , Town Records

The first column lists the type of information you are looking for, the second lists the type of records you would most likely be able to find that information in and the third column lists other types of records that may contain the information you are looking for. The words are all links to more detailed information. Try every link until you find the information you are searching ☺, or exhaust the list ☹.

When you click a link, you will be directed to a page that describes what is available and gives links to where you might find it. Remember, it is still information about what types of records are available and where, NOT individuals. Follow the links to search the databases where you might find your answers.

Those databases are NOT part of Wiki. The Wiki only contains links to help you find them.

Michigan Birth, Marriage and Death Records Online

The following is a list of online resources useful for locating Michigan Vital Records which consist of [births](#), [adoptions](#), [marriages](#), [divorces](#), and [deaths](#). Check **Michigan Vital Records Online** for more information about the resources listed below. Most online resources for Michigan Vital Records are indexes. After locating a person in an index always consult the original record to [confirm the information](#) in the index.

- [Michigan Links](#) [from fhlfavorites.info](#) - Free
- [Michigan Databases](#) [listed on Rootsweb.com](#) - Free
- [USGenWeb.org Michigan Site](#) - Free
- Search for Michigan Collections on [FamilySearch Record Search](#) under [Canada, USA, and Mexico](#) - Free
- [The Vital Records Search and Information Directory for Michigan](#) - Free/\$
- [Wee Monster Links for Michigan Birth & Marriage](#) [and Death](#) Records - Free/\$

Step 3: Search compiled and original records.

Search the databases you are guided to or follow the instructions for writing to agencies to obtain the information or visit the places where the records are available or arrange for someone to visit for you.

RAOGK can be a great help for genealogists who can't visit all the places they would like. Go to <http://raogk.com/listing.htm> to find volunteers who will check courthouses, cemeteries, libraries, newspaper offices, etc. in their area. Their service is free, but they are allowed to charge for copies, gas, etc. if they feel it is necessary.

Step 4: Analyze and evaluate your findings.

As you find evidence of the information you are searching, analyze and evaluate your findings. Always try to find more than one document that substantiates the information.

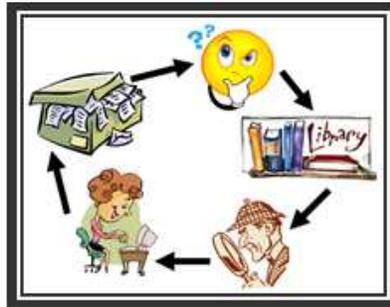
Step 5: Record, document and share your findings

Record all the information you found on your family group sheet, including the source of each. Attaching a digital copy of the information will allow you to review it at any time as you continue your research. Share your information with your family and get their input.

Now, start over with Step 1.

Select another goal and repeat the process.

It's that easy. Just 1 step at a time.



Enjoy the Journey – Feel the Joy



Wiki: Basic Searches

Anyone may search for articles in the FamilySearch Research Wiki. You only need to be registered to edit an article or add information of your own. This article will provide some helpful hints on efficiently searching the Wiki and contributing information you find helpful and think others would as well.

Further information: [Search Tips](#) and [Advanced Searches](#)

How Search Works

- **Keywords**, Search the FamilySearch Wiki the same way you would search Wikipedia, by keywords like DAR or Daughters of the American Revolution.
- **Not Phrases**, You will not receive the best results if your searches include phrases like "How do I find records for the DAR," are used to search the FamilySearch Wiki. Phrases can be used to search both Google and Yahoo but the Wiki search engine is not designed for this type of search.
- Enter the **place, subject, record type** or the **name of the article** in the search box. (Family names and information on specific families are not found on the FamilySearch Wiki. Go to [FamilySearch](#) to look for your deceased family members. Go to Forums to ask questions about your family history research.)

The FamilySearch Wiki search engine locates the keywords in Wiki article headings, titles, and in the content of the article. The resulting articles may contain one or all of the keywords searched. Articles containing the keywords many times throughout the article will rank higher in the search results than those that contain the search terms once or twice.

Step-by-step Search Instructions

Use the following steps to search for articles on localities or topics in the Wiki.

1. Locate the "search box."
2. Type the keywords, search terms, or the title of the article you want to find into the search box. You do not have to enter the exact title of the article. For example, you may type "United States census" or "New York City birth records."
3. Click the **Search** button.
4. After clicking the **Search** button, a list of search results will appear.
5. Shown below, the number of results is displayed for the search. To see more results than those shown on the first page, click on Next 20 or 20, 50, 100, 250 or 500.



Locate the title of the article you want to read and click on it.

To return to the previous page and select another article, click the back button on your Internet browser.

Note that:

- Results with keywords in the Article Titles will always be listed first.
- Results with keywords in the body of the article will be listed next.

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Contributing to FamilySearch Wiki

What Information Can I Contribute?

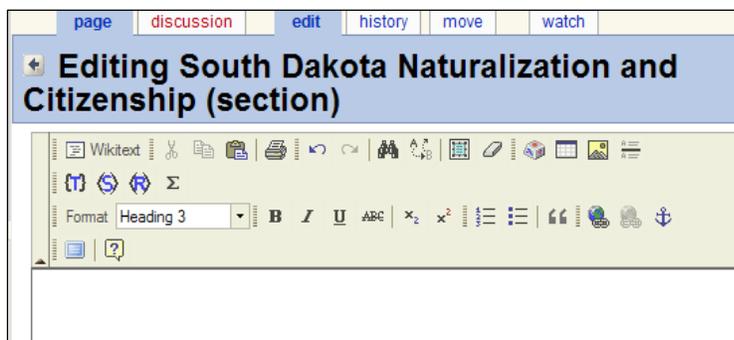
- Research advice for a particular locality
- How, where, why to search a particular record or type of record
- Write stub articles and/or iterate
 - You don't have to be an author or editor.
 - You don't have to have perfect English.
- Best comes quickly, perfect comes too late

What Information Should I NOT Contribute?

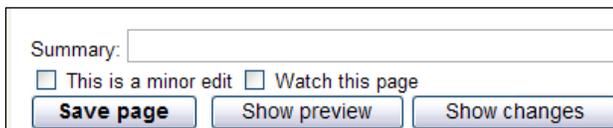
- How to use FamilySearch products
- Data on a specific ancestor
- Discussion of religious doctrine

Creating an article - Before authoring a new article, search to see if one is already in the Wiki. Type directly in the Wiki or paste an article from another electronic source. Follow these steps to create an article:

- Search for the article you want to author. Be sure the terms you use in your search are the exact terms you want in the title of your article. For example, you search for New York Newspapers to add a new article titled New York Newspapers. The wiki will show the search results in the main part of the page. If the article does not exist, the wiki will return a notice that the article does not exist, and the title of the searched article (New York Newspapers, for example) will appear in red above the search results. Click on the red word to begin creating the new page.



- Add text in the body. Using the formatting box in the main editor toolbox, titles and headings and other formatting may be added.
- Create an internal link (see below) to link to a page within the Wiki.
-  Create an external link (see below) to link to a Web site.
-  Add anchors to take you to a different section of the current page.
- Add one or more categories to the article. (see below)
- Add other page elements as desired.
- Click "Show Preview" to see if the screen contains all of the desired elements. The page will need to be saved before the changes take effect.
- Click Save at any point in the process to save the changes made to the article. If you want to change an article after it is saved, click Edit.



Steps to Create External Links

1. Find the article that needs the link to a Web site outside of FamilySearch Wiki. Click the **Edit** tab.
2. Highlight the text in the article to be linked.
3. In the toolbar at the top of the Edit page, click the **Insert/Edit link** icon  (the

4. A pop-up window will appear. In the Link field, type or paste the Web site URL, including the http://
5. Click the **OK** button.

Steps to Create Internal links

1. Navigate to the page where the link will be created.
2. Click the **Edit** tab or link so you can add your link.
3. Enter or find the text to be made into the link.
4. Add two square brackets at the beginning and end of that text. **[[]]**
5. To link to an article in this wiki, the link text must exactly match the article title (including spelling and punctuation). If there are any differences, the link will create a new blank article with the title you entered.
 1. If the page exists, the link will be blue.
 2. If the page has not yet been created, the link will be red. Click on the red link to create the page and begin adding text.
6. To create a link whose text does not match the article title you are linking to:
 1. Enter double square brackets **[[**.
 2. Enter the text of article you are linking to, then the pipe symbol **|**, then the text that you want to appear as the link.
 3. Enter double square brackets **]]**.

Adding the category to the article

1. Click the edit tab of the article you will categorize.
2. Go to the bottom of the page.
3. Paste the category title into the page.
4. Add two square brackets before and after the category text. For example, if you want to add the category "United States" to an article, type **[[Category:United States]]** at the bottom of the article.
5. Multiple categories can be added. Separate each bracketed entry with a space. For example, if you wanted to categorize a page under "United States" and "Indians of North America," the entry you would add to the page would look like this: **[[Category:Indians of North America]] [[Category:United States]]**
6. In the **Summary** field in the edit screen, add the text "cat." This will allow others viewing the History of the article to quickly see what change you made.
7. Click **Save Page**

Summary: cat

This is a minor edit Watch this page

Save page