

QUICK TIPS

What's the difference between Ancestry and FamilySearch?



FamilySearch.org is a nonprofit organization and website offering genealogical records, education, and software. It is operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and is closely connected with the Church's Family History Department.

Ancestry.com is a private genealogy company based in Lehi, Utah. It was started by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints but has never been owned by the Church. It is the largest for-profit genealogy company in the world.

FamilySearch and Ancestry work together on certain projects. For example, Ancestry.com has digitized many of the records owned by the Church in exchange for the right to use those records on its own website. Both are working together to digitize the 1950 US Census. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can get a free Ancestry account. Anyone can use Ancestry Library Edition at any of the Church's Family History Centers.

Here's a brief comparison of similarities and differences:

- Both FamilySearch and Ancestry are valuable online family history services.
- FamilySearch is free and Ancestry is a paid subscription site, although members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have access to a free subscription.
- Both sites serve as a place to keep your family tree. FamilySearch's Family Tree is a collaborative effort so information you add may be edited by others. A tree on Ancestry can only be edited or added to by the owner of the tree so it is a secure place to keep your data.
- Both sites give users the ability to message other users working on the same lines.
- Both sites have similar data bases of records but use different search engines to find records.
- Both sites provide you with record hints that may pertain to your ancestors.