



HOW DO I ...

Find Records of LDS Ancestors?

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BYU Library Family History Center



Why Search LDS Records?

- Find and verify information about ancestors who joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- Compile or write family histories of your LDS heritage.
- Learn what ordinances have been completed for an ancestor and when they were first completed.
- Find primary and secondary sources concerning family members' Church membership.



Types of Available Records



Membership

Church Census
Ordinance records
Priesthood records
Ward membership

Life Histories

Biographies
Migration/Immigration
Missionary records
Military records

Memories

Patriarchal blessings
Letters, journals
Periodicals
Photographs

Historical Info

Church History
Family History
Photographs
Minutes of meetings

Family Trees

Family Group
records

First Things First



- **Know** names, times and locations. *Hint: Search Google, gazetteers, Mormonplaces.byu.edu, church history books, and the Research Wiki.*
- **Find** family stories, pictures, etc. *Hint: Ask relatives!*
- **Search** Family Tree, the Ancestral File, Pedigree Resource File, and IGI in the “Genealogies” section of FamilySearch. (Be aware: these files are not always accurate.) *Hint: Watch my video “Using Compiled Genealogies on FamilySearch” on YouTube and/or see “Search the Pedigree Resource File and other Genealogies” in FS Help.*



Online Records



FamilySearch Databases

- Vital Records
- Biographies
- Census
- Church History
- Church Records
- Family Group Records Collection
- Court and Criminal Records
- Diaries and Journals
- Immigration/Emigration Records
- Military Records
- Ordinance Records

Ancestry Card Catalog

- Search under “Mormon” for histories, migration records and *Conquerors of the West, Vol. 1-4+*
- Search under “Latter-day Saints” for membership records, 1830-48, Nauvoo marriages, tombstone inscriptions and cemetery records and LDS Member Name Index.
- Also has early membership records of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Research Wiki



Beginning Research	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tracing Latter-day Saint Ancestors• Record Finder	
Record Types	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Census Records• Church Records• Directories• Emigration & Immigration• Membership Records• Military Records• Missionaries• Newspapers• Obituaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online Records• Patriarchal Blessings• Perpetual Emigration Fund• Priesthood Records• Temple Records• Vital Records• Ward Membership Records
By Country	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sweden• Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wales
Compiled Sources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biography• Genealogies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History• Preliminary Survey
Background Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colonization• Historical Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Periodicals• Polygamy
Finding Aids	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Archives and Libraries• Finding a FamilySearch Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further Reading• Online Records• Record Finder

Main Wiki Page:

Search "[The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#)"

Church Records Church records of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints include membership records, census records, temple records and various other records. For more information, go to the [Church Records Wiki page](#).

Research Strategy Resources

- [Tracing Latter-day Saint Ancestors](#)
- [LDS Church Records Class Handout](#)

The [Church History Library](#) collects the Church's historical records from around the world.

Other major repositories holding records which can be used for documenting Latter-day Saint ancestors are described in [Archives and Libraries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](#).

Latter-day Saint Online
Genealogy Records

Important Databases



- Early Church Information File
- Ward Membership Records of the Church
- Family Group Records Collection
- Temple Records
- Nauvoo Records
- Church Census
- Church History Biographical Database

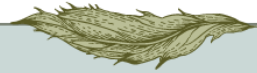
Early Church Information File



The *Early Church Information File* (ECIF)

- Is an alphabetical card index of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) along with some of their neighbors.
- It covers the years from 1830 to 1914.
- Entries may contain MANY different types of sources.
- Each card for an individual cites a different source document. Most source documents contain further details about that person.
- Cards for any one individual may be under variations of his or her name.
- The file name in FS is mislabeled as “Utah, FamilySearch, Early Church Information File.” It is NOT limited to Utah.

Early Church Information File cont.



The *Early Church Information File* (ECIF)

- Includes the records of Living Endowments from December 1845 to February 1846 and Sealings to Spouse and Parents from January through February 1846 in the Nauvoo Temple. These records are available at the FamilySearch Library on Films #183371 and 183372 and fiche #103397.
- Sources include ward, family, and local histories; journals; biographies; priesthood and missionary records; periodicals; cemetery records; immigration records; and western states marriages.
- Indexes referenced include, among others:
 - *Mormons and Their Neighbors* (An index to over 75,000 Bios 1820-present) Physical Books in FS and BYU Library
 - Guide to Mormon Diaries and Autobiographies,
 - Membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (1830-1848) available online at Ancestry.com
 - Mormon Manuscripts to 1846
 - Nauvoo Temple Endowment Register, and
 - Genealogical Surveys of LDS members : Autobiographies and Ancestors (34 volumes, at FS Library).
 - LDS migration sources

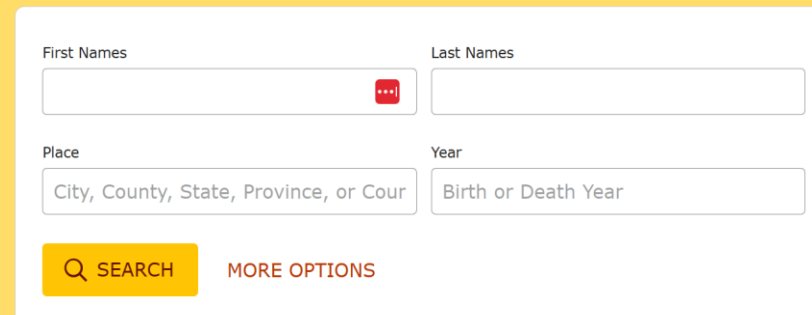
How to Search the Early Church Information File



- In Historical Records type in the collection title or type Keyword: ECIF in the Catalog search bar.
- Catalog contains three references: the digitized index, a resource guide on microfilm, and the physical collection.
- In the collection search bars, type in the name, place, and birth or death year.
- Click on the appropriate person that comes up in the list.
- Click on View Original Document. There may be up to a dozen cards for a single person, so look on either side.
- The card will give the ORIGINAL source of the information. The cards are SECONDARY sources.

Utah, FamilySearch, Early Church Information File, 1830-1900

Images of index cards in alphabetical order for some members of the LDS Church. The names on the cards come primarily from sources from 1830 to the mid-1900s. The Early Church Information File (ECIF) was created using various sources including LDS church records, journals, biographies, cemetery records,



A search interface with four input fields: First Names, Last Names, Place (City, County, State, Province, or Cour), and Year (Birth or Death Year). Below the fields are two buttons: a yellow 'SEARCH' button with a magnifying glass icon and a 'MORE OPTIONS' link.

Tip: Be sure to click the How to Use This Collection button!

LDS Membership Records



LDS Membership Records

- Records available from 1830 to the present.
- Record names, birthplace, birth date, names of parents, spouses, and children, baptisms and confirmations, blessings of babies, marriages, deaths, priesthood ordinations, tithes and offerings, and movement in and out of wards.
- The FamilySearch Library has membership records through 1948. The Church History Library has additional membership records of 1949-1983.
- Most of the early records are not indexed and not all of them have survived.
- Different forms were used from 1877 until 1941. These have been indexed.

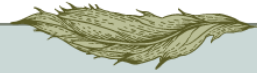
LDS Membership Records cont.



LDS Membership Records

- Starting in 1941 each member's record was kept on an individual card. These records are not available for research. If the member died, the card was placed in the Deceased Members File, which is indexed on microfilm #415443.
- Since the mid-1970s the computerized membership records have been kept the United States and Canada. Privacy rules are in effect for these records. To view your own membership record, contact your ward clerk.
- Annual Reports E or Form 42FP (1907 – 1983) only include entries about people who were blessed, baptized, ordained to priesthood offices, sent or returned from missions, married, divorced, or died during the year.
- You must search the Annual Genealogical Reports year by year because they are not indexed. In the FamilySearch Catalog, do a “keyword” search typing in “Annual Report Form E.”
- For an amazing catalog of early Church members, see *Membership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1830-1848*, by Susan Easton Black. Check out her other books for information about early Church members. Her books are available by searching in the FS catalog.

LDS Membership Records cont.



Notes

Created 1862 from Green River and Davis
Part of [United States, Utah](#)

[Places within United States, Utah, Wasatch](#) ▶

- ▶ [United States, Utah, Wasatch - Archives and libraries - Inventories, registers, catalogs](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Utah, Wasatch - Biography](#) (3)
- ▶ [United States, Utah, Wasatch - Cemeteries](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, Utah, Wasatch - Census - 1880](#) (1)
- ▼ **[United States, Utah, Wasatch - Church records](#) (2)**

[Annual genealogical report, Form E, 1907](#) Ad

Author: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Wasatch Stake (Utah)

[Record of members; annual genealogical report, Form E, 1904-1913](#) Ad

Author: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Elkhorn Ward (Utah);
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Wasatch Stake (Utah)

- Search in the catalog under the place where the unit was located and keywords LDS Membership Records. Be sure to continue to Search Within, as needed. For records from 1949-1983, you must visit the Church History Library in Salt Lake City.
- Search “Category:Records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints” for a comprehensive list of articles about the stakes, wards and branches in Utah, Idaho Wales, and Norway. Some of the articles have links for records information.
- For much, much more information, see the Research Wiki article, “Membership Records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints” and “Ward Membership Records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”

Family Group Records Collection



- Family Group records have been submitted to the Church either for temple work or filing since 1924. The collection is arranged alphabetically by the name of the father of the family. These records can be used to identify previous research done on an ancestor but will need to be verified using original records. They are indexed and digitized but are restricted to viewing in a FamilySearch Center or FS Affiliate Library.
- Patron Section (1924 – 1979) The Patron Section has three million records submitted for filing only. These can be found by typing “Family Group Records Collection, Patron Section” in the Title search of the FamilySearch Catalog.
- Archive Section (1942-1969) The Archive Section has five million family group records submitted for proxy temple work and includes temple ordinance dates on the family group records. This collection has been digitized and can be browsed at “Family Group Records Collection, Archives Section, 1942-1969.” The collection is divided by first letter of the surname.
- See Wiki article, “Family Group Records Collection, Archives” and “Family Group Records Collection” for more information.

Temple Records



- Many temple records are available to the public. For example, about 20 percent of temple records have no restrictions and can be used at the FamilySearch Library and at FamilySearch Centers.
- About 80 percent of temple records are restricted, especially records that include information about living people. Restricted temple microfilms are housed in the Special Collections room in the FamilySearch Library, on the 2nd floor (northwest corner), and do not circulate to FamilySearch Centers. The hours for Special Collections are 9-11 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. Monday - Friday, closed Saturday and Holidays.
- Restricted temple records can be used in Special Collections by Latter-day Saints with a current temple recommend (a limited use temple recommend is also approved). Also, members without a current recommend can bring a letter from their Bishop stating they are a member in good standing. They will also need to have a photo ID to enter Special Collections. Information from Special Collections records is not available by telephone, or through the mail. If you cannot visit Special Collections in person, you can ask a friend or relative with a temple recommend to visit special collections for you or hire a professional researcher with a temple recommend.
- The Membership Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints does not have access to temple ordinance films. They will, however, provide ordinance information for any member who has died since 1975 and for whom they have verification of death. Telephone the membership department at 801-240-3500 for more information.
- For more information, see the Research Wiki article “Temple Records of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” This page gives you links to the catalog.

Nauvoo Records



- There are many records available about the Church in Nauvoo as well as the city and its residents.
- Visit the Research Wiki page “Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois Genealogy” for links to Church records for the Nauvoo period.
- Also, visit <http://user.xmission.com/~research/family/familypage.htm> for a name index of the members of the Church who were endowed in the Nauvoo Temple.
- See Susan Easton Black’s books about the Nauvoo era. Most, if not all, are available digitally in the catalog.

Church Census



- The Church took censuses to track members and Church growth throughout the world. The first Church wide census was taken in 1914. Beginning in 1920, the Church took a census every five years until 1960, except 1945.
- The records are arranged alphabetically by the head of the household. It is helpful to know the residence, as well.
- Search the catalog, Keyword: “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church Census Records (Worldwide), 1914-1960.”
- For more information, see the Wiki article, “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church Census Records (Worldwide).”

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Church Census Records (Worldwide), 1914-1960

Church census records include censuses for the years 1914, 1920, 1925, 1930,

First Names	<input type="text"/>	Last Names	<input type="text"/>
Place	<input type="text"/>	Year	<input type="text"/>
City, County, State, Province, or Cour		Birth or Death Year	
<input type="button" value="SEARCH"/>		<input type="button" value="MORE OPTIONS"/>	

Church History Biographical Database



- The Church History Biographical Database contains the Missionary Database and the Pioneer Database. This website contains information about the lives of early members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, their contributions to building the kingdom of God, and the records they left behind.
- Search the databases for an ancestor's name. It will give you biographical information, photos and sources for that person.
- Click on Show My Ancestors, and it will bring up all your ancestors that are in the database (must have a FamilySearch tree).
- Find it here: <https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/chd/landing>
- For more information about biographies, see Wiki article, "Latter-day Saint Biographies."

The FamilySearch Library and BYU Library



Both libraries have:

- Church history books and articles;
- Biographies and autobiographies;
- Pictures of people and historical buildings;
- Periodicals, letters and journals of early church members;

The FamilySearch Library also has:

- LDS membership records;
- Minutes to Sacrament meetings, Priesthood meetings, Relief Society meetings, and others;
- Mission and missionary information;
- Patriarchal Blessings - [See the Wiki article "Patriarchal Blessings of the Church . . ."](#) to request copies.
- Many other interesting items

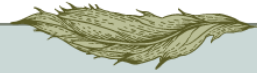
The Church History Library



“The Church History Library has thousands of collections to assist you with your family history research. To help you find the information you need, we have prepared several finding aids and research guides that highlight relevant sources and provide instructions on how to access them. Additionally, information from many sources has been extracted, compiled, and made searchable in databases.”

<https://history.churchofjesuschrist.org/landing/library/find-your-family-in-church-history?lang=eng>

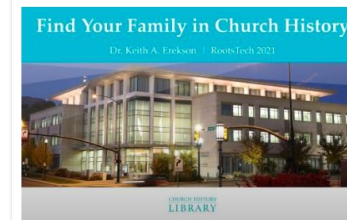
The Church History Library cont.



Family History Research Guide
A guide to collections and databases that can identify your ancestors' connections to Church history.



Church History Catalog
Search Church History Library collections for your ancestors' names.



RootsTech 2021: Library Director's Session
Keith Erickson, director of the Church History Library, shares family history resources available from the Library.



See Your Connection to Church History
Log in via FamilySearch to find ancestors who were pioneers, early missionaries, and more.



Church History Biographical Database
Search biographical information on more than 100,000 early Latter-day Saints.



Online Research Guides
Our expert-curated research guides can point you in the right direction.

You Got This!



Use the information you find in these collections to share the lives of your ancestors with your family members! Write their stories! Keep their memory bright!

