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# A Pro's Tip: Use the Research Wiki

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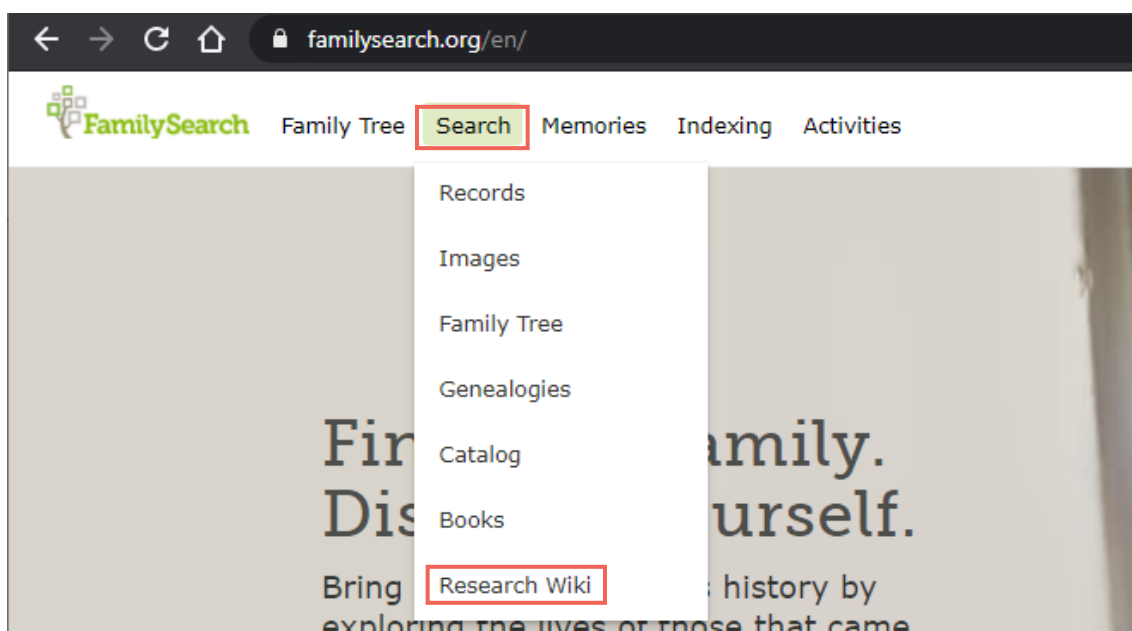
## WHAT IS THE WIKI?

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

## WHAT CAN YOU FIND IN THE WIKI?

- Genealogy databases and online resources

- Genealogy research 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"

## 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.

## PRO TIPS: NAVIGATING THE WIKI

- **GENERAL NAVIGATATION:** Navigate by using the Wiki Search field in the top right of the screen, breadcrumbs, Table of Contents links, and internal links found on each Wiki page.

- **USE COUNTRY/STATE SIDEBARS:** Sidebars are found on the right side of a country/state page. They 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. Use the back arrow in the browser to go back to a Wiki page.

- **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.

- **CTRL + F:** To search and find information on very long Wiki pages, do the following: at the same time, click on the buttons, Control (Ctrl) and the letter, F. This will bring up a search field for the browser up in the right corner of the screen. It allows you to search the Wiki page you are on. Type in a word you are looking for, such as "birth", and it will bring you to the first instance of that word on the page. You can click on the arrows next to the search field to see additional matches.

## PRO TIPS: STRATEGIES FOR SEARCHING THE WIKI

- **DON'T SEARCH BY NAME:** You won't find information about individuals in the Wiki, but you will find links to databases or other resources 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. On each page of the Wiki you will find a search field found in the top right corner of the screen.

- **NEVER USE ABBREVIATIONS IN SEARCH FIELD:** The Wiki search is limited in scope and does not recognize abbreviations. In the search field, always spell out locations to get the best results. For example, don't use OH, but instead type out Ohio.

- **CHECK ALL JURISDICTIONS:** Start on the country page and work your way down to lower jurisdictions (states, provinces, departments, municipalities, counties, parishes, etc.), if known, to see all research resources.  For example, start at United States and go down to New York; then, check the county level, such as Oneida County.

- **GOOGLE:** The Wiki search field has limitations and may return too many results or none at all for a topic you are looking for. Instead, it can be useful to use the Google search engine to find the content on the Wiki. If you are looking for Illinois migration records, do the following: Go to Google: https://www.google.com/. In the search field, type in: "FamilySearch Wiki Illinois migration records". You will find more relevant results with Wiki pages at the top.

## PRO TIPS: BEST WIKI PAGES TO USE FOR RESEARCH

- **USE ONLINE GENEALOGY RECORDS 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

- **USE HISTORICAL RECORDS ARTICLES:** These pages are specifically created to explain the scope of a FamilySearch Historical Records Collection and give examples of relevant information found in the collection. Coverage tables and inventories regarding the years and localities covered are often included to assist in understanding the limitations of a database. Click on the How to Use this Collection link found on the FamilySearch Historical Records Collection page. Use this link to access the collections: https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list

- **USE GUIDED RESEARCH:** 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

- **USE GENALOGICAL WORD LISTS:** Genealogical word lists are available for 31 languages. These pages give lists of words for common genealogical terms found on records, as well as their English translations. Links are also provided to additional Wiki pages helping with reading handwriting in other languages. Visit the country page and locate the Genealogical Word List Wiki pages under the Background section of the country sidebar on the right of the page. All languages pertinent to that country are listed there. Or use this link: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Genealogical_Word_Lists

- **EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION WIKI PAGES:** Use the Emigration and Immigration Wiki pages for the country of origin *and* the destination country to find passenger lists databases. Visit the respective country page to locate the Emigration and Immigration link in the country sidebar found on the right of the page. Or visit the Wiki page: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Category:Emigration_and_Immigration_Records. For the U.S., try the Immigration Online Genealogy Records Wiki page: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Immigration_Online_Genealogy_Records

- **USE PERSONAL NAMES ARTICLES:** Different countries have unique naming systems. The personal names Wiki articles give naming customs/patterns you will encounter when searching for your ancestors in the records**.** Visit the country page and locate the Personal Names link found in the sidebar. Or, use this URL: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Category:Personal_Names

- **USE FAMILYSEARCH COMMUNITY BUTTON:** The purple button found on most country pages is a link to the Wiki page that lists both FamilySearch Community and Facebook FamilySearch Genealogy Research Groups. They are arranged by locality. The table contains links to these online groups, where you can ask questions about your research problems, and community members can assist by giving you suggestions. This button is located on all country/state pages. Or, use this URL: https://www.FamilySearch.org/wiki/en/FamilySearch_Genealogy_Research_Groups

## PRO TIPS: CONTRIBUTING TO THE WIKI

- **SUBMIT WIKI CONTENT AND REPORT A PROBLEM LINKS:** You can provide suggestions for information to be added to the Wiki or report broken links or other errors. Our volunteers will research, add the information, or fix the problem. These links are listed under the Give Feedback menu found on the left side of the screen on each Wiki page. Or, use these URLs: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/FamilySearch_Wiki:Submit_Wiki_Content

  https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhFHS21uSFf6MjdS17ApKW03CQtFcXgmeNdRRwBYNMy9YSPA/viewform?c=0&w=1

- **REQUEST EDITING RIGHTS:** To request to edit the Wiki, use the Become an Editor link found under the Edit the Wiki menu on the left side of the screen on each Wiki page. After making the request, in approximately 2 business days you will receive an email stating your editing status. Only request to be an editor once, as editing rights do not change over time. Editing directly to the Wiki allows you to make real time edits using either VisualEditor or Wikitext editor. You can also use this URL: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Help:Wiki_Roles_of_Editor_and_Pagecreator

## PRO TIP: TRANSLATE WIKI PAGES

- Use the "Select Language" link to translate any Wiki page into 133 languages. The link is listed under the Translate menu found on the left side of the screen on each Wiki page. This feature is available in all 8 language Wikis.