

FamilySearch - Let's Begin

Instructor - Elaine Hall

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What is FamilySearch?

FamilySearch is a non-profit family history organization dedicated to connecting families across generations. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the primary benefactor for FamilySearch services. Our purpose is simple - to help people connect with their ancestors through ease access to historical records.

Why register for a FamilySearch account?

Creating a FamilySearch Account is a free and secure service that is available to anyone worldwide over the age of 13. Within minutes, you will have access to the records, resources, and services of the largest genealogy organization in the world.

Since its launch in 1999, FamilySearch has added millions of users, billions of various historical records, and many fun, new features like Family Tree, Memories, mobile apps, digital books, and dynamic help. In order to accommodate continued growth of these and future free services, FamilySearch must assure all its partners that its content is offered in a safe and secure online environment. Patrons creating a free account and signing in fulfills that need.

Patron sign in will also enable FamilySearch to satisfy the ongoing need for user authentication. This authentication can deliver rich, personalized discovery, collaboration, and help experiences. Simply put, signed-in visitors can access more searchable content and enjoy more personalized services.

Some of benefits of registering for FamilySearch include:

- Family Tree and Fan Chart. Organize, preserve, and study your family information.
- Photo and Stories. Upload, tag, and discover your ancestors' photos and stories.
- Searchable Records. Find, save, and share your ancestors' records.
- 24/7 Help. Get free, personalized help to find your ancestors.
- Collaboration. Meet and share with other family members.

TO REGISTER, follow these steps:

1. Go to FamilySearch.org.
2. In the upper right area of the page, click Free Account.
3. On the Account Information page, enter the required information, and click Continue.
 - Create a username and password that you can remember easily. Write down the information for your own records.
 - Usernames cannot contain a space or special characters. Use only letters and numbers.
 - Passwords must be at least 8 characters but no more than 128 characters, with at least one letter and one number.
4. On the Recovery Options page, enter either an email address or a mobile phone number that can receive text messages. You can provide both if you have both.
5. On the Personal Information page, enter the required information:
 - a. Enter a contact name.
 - You must choose a contact name that is not already in use. The system suggests several contact names that you can use.
 - The green check mark next to the contact name indicates that the name does not contain any forbidden characters. It does not mean the name is not already in use.
 - b. Indicate whether you are male or female.
 - c. Select the country where you live.
 - d. Select your birth date.
 - e. If you are not a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, click No. Otherwise, click Yes, and follow these steps:
 - If you have it, enter your membership record number. Entering the dashes is optional.
 - If you do not have this number, click Answer Questions, and follow the instructions on the screen (This feature is currently available in English only.)
 - If neither process works, click Skip this step and remind me later. You can add your membership record number to your account later.
 - f. Enter the letters from the picture.
 - If you cannot read the image, click the top icon to hear the word spoken out loud.
 - To see a different image, click the lower icon.
 - If you do not see letters, try clearing cookies, cache, and temporary files.
 - g. Click the links to read the Rights and Use Information and the Privacy Policy.
 - h. To indicate that you agree to the Terms of Use, click the box.
6. Click Create an Account.

7. Within the next 48 hours, activate your account. If you do not, you will have to start the registration process over. To activate your account, you will use either your email address or mobile phone, depending on whether you selected email or mobile phone as your recovery option.

- **Email:** Go to your email account, open the message, and follow the instructions to activate your new account. If you cannot find the email, check your junk folder. If you are using a mobile phone to create your account from email, be aware that the activation link does not fully process from some mobile phones. If you cannot use the link successfully, use a desktop or laptop computer to access the email and activate your account.
- **Mobile phone:** On your mobile phone, find the text message with the verification code. Enter the code into the Enter Verification Code field. Click Verify.

8. If you receive one of the error messages below, the system found an already existing account for you. Click Recover username and password to renew your previously existing account.

- "We believe this account already exists."
- "The mobile phone number that you entered is already used in an account."
- "This membership record number is already used in an account."

After you create your account, you can sign in to FamilySearch.org and other supported websites. We suggest that you sign in to FamilySearch.org and select your settings and preferences. You can change your contact information to enable collaboration with other users, choose the newsletters and other updates that you want to receive, and set preferences. After you sign in, click your name in the upper right corner of FamilySearch.org, and select Settings.

NOTES:

1. OVERVIEW

2. FAMILY TREE

3. MEMORIES

4. SEARCH