

Finding “Hidden” Records on FamilySearch

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Records can be found on FamilySearch in these places:

- Historical Records
- Catalog Records
- Books

Historical Records Collection includes:

- Indexed records with images
- Indexed records without images
- Indexed records without images with a film number of a digitized microfilm
- Partially indexed records with browsable images
- Browse only records

Catalog Records include:

- Digitized microfilm with an online index
- Digitized microfilm with no index
- Additional microfilm, books, and other physical items can be viewed in person at the FHL in SLC.

Books:

- Access ‘Books’ on FamilySearch by hovering over the ‘Search’ tab at the top of the website, scroll down and choose ‘Books’.
- That will take you to the main search page for the extensive ‘Books’ collection. You can search right from this page or click ‘Advanced Search’ and search from there.
- Some books can only be viewed at a Family History Center.
- Some books can only be viewed by a certain number of users at one time.
- Most books can be downloaded as a pdf file. Those that cannot, just take a screenshot of the the relevant pages.

Find vs. Search

- Find - helps you find people who are in the Family Tree on FamilySearch
- Search - helps you find records in the Historical Records section of FamilySearch

What makes a record a primary source?

Why do we want to see the image of a record?

PLEASE remember, IT'S NOT ALL ONLINE!

Historical Records

How do we usually search?

- From a person's page in FamilySearch.
- From the main search page in Historical Records.

What types of records will we get from these searches?

- Indexed records with images
- Indexed records without images
- Indexed records without images with a film number of a digitized microfilm
- Partially indexed records with browsable images (We might get lucky and get one of the indexed records, but we won't get those browsable images.)

What records will we miss?

- Historical Records Collection
 - Partially indexed records with browsable images (We will miss the browse items.)
 - Browse only records
- Catalog Records
 - Digitized microfilm with an online index
 - Digitized microfilm with no index

Let's look at each record type:

Historical Records, Indexed with images - our FAVORITE!

Historical Records, Indexed without images

- How do we know for sure there isn't an image?
 - We check the catalog!
 - Hover over 'Search' at the top of the website, click on catalog, click on 'Film/Fiche Number', type in the microfilm number, click search. Then open any collections that match that microfilm number, scroll down and look to see if the microfilm has been digitized. If you see an image of a film reel, it's still only available on microfilm.
- Some of those Historical Records that are indexed have more than one index - check them all!
 - If there is more than one index (the most I have seen is three), sometimes the image is attached to only one of the indexes.
 - Sometimes those multiple indexes are actually for different records, i.e. one might be a marriage license/application and another might be the marriage certificate.

Historical Records, Indexed without images, with a film number of a digitized microfilm

- Once again, check for multiple indexes.
- If there really is no image attached to any of the indexes, check the catalog to see if the microfilm has been digitized yet.
 - Once again, hover over 'Search' at the top of the website, click on catalog, click on 'Film/Fiche Number', type in the microfilm number, click search. Then open any collections that match that microfilm number, scroll down and look to see if the microfilm has been digitized. If you see an image of a camera, the microfilm has been digitized. Click on the camera and you will be able to view the digital microfilm.
 - Once you are looking at the digital microfilm, try using the image number from the index. Type that number in the 'Image' number box in the black bar, just above the images.
 - Sometimes that image number is the image number of the digitized film, sometimes that image number is based on the original book. You might also see a page number, certificate number, or some other reference on one of the indexes. Those numbers just might help you!
 - When you find your image - READ EVERY WORD.
- Sometimes those digitized microfilm have images that can only be viewed in a Family History Center. You will see a camera icon with a key above it. Make a note and come on down to the center to view your image.

Historical Records, Partially indexed, with browsable images

- These collections are accessed from a location page, like Québec.
- Scroll down to the indexed collections, click 'View all ## collections'.
- Look through the list. If you see a collection with a camera, there are images attached.
- Click on a collection you are interested in. This will take you to a search page. Scroll down and look for a link at the bottom that reads something along these lines, 'Browse through 1,399,175 images'. When the number of indexed items from the main page is smaller than the number of browsable images, you have found this type of collection.
- Click on the browse button at the bottom of the page. Then choose the appropriate waypoint. You may have several more waypoints that will help you get to the right set of records. Then you browse!
- You don't need to look at each image. Hop around, figure out how the images are organized. It might be alphabetical, chronological, or some other mixture - ie alphabetical to the first letter of a surname, then chronological from there. You can use the image number box to skip ahead by any number of images you choose. The thumbnail view is very helpful.

Historical Records, Browse only collections

- These collections are also accessed from a location page, like South Africa.
- Scroll down to the bottom of the page and look for something like this, 'South Africa Image Only Historical Records'.
- Click on a collection.
- Then click on the 'Browse through ### images'. Use the waypoints. Work through the digitized microfilm. Find something awesome! (Hopefully)

Catalog Records

- Digitized Microfilm
- Microfilm/fiche
- Books
- Maps
- And more!

How do we search the catalog?

- You can search by: Place, Surnames, Titles, Author, Subjects, Keywords, Call Number, Film/Fiche Number, OR you can search by Family History Centers.
- We are going to focus on searching by place.
- It's important to search by each level of a locality - Parish/Town/City, County, State.
- The catalog writes place names from largest to smallest like this: United States, Illinois, Kankakee, St Anne.
- If you do a thorough check of the catalog you will search each of these place levels for St Anne:
 - United States, Illinois, Kankakee, St Anne
 - United States, Illinois, Kankakee
 - United States, Illinois

So, what are the “hidden” records on FamilySearch that we won’t find in a typical search?

- From Historical Records:
 - Indexed records without images with a film number of a digitized microfilm (The images on the microfilm are the “hidden” items.)
 - Partially indexed records with browsable images (The browsable images that aren’t indexed are the “hidden” items.)
 - Browse only records
- From the catalog:
 - Everything

Don’t miss out on those hidden goodies! They just might help you solve a brick wall.

“Many of your deceased ancestors will have received a testimony that the message of the missionaries is true. When you received that testimony you could ask the missionaries for baptism. But those who are in the spirit world cannot. The ordinances you so cherish are offered only in this world. Someone in this world must go to a holy temple and accept the covenants on behalf of the person in the spirit world. That is why we are under obligation to find the names of our ancestors and ensure that they are offered by us what they cannot receive there without our help.

“...remember that the names which will be so difficult to find are of real people to whom you owe your existence in this world and whom you will meet again in the spirit world. When you were baptized, your ancestors looked down on you with hope. Perhaps after centuries, they rejoiced to see one of their descendants make a covenant to find them and to offer them freedom. In your reunion, you will see in their eyes either gratitude or terrible disappointment. Their hearts are bound to you. Their hope is in your hands. You will have more than your own strength as you choose to labor on to find them.”

- Henry B. Eyring, “Hearts Bound Together”, April 2005 General Conference