

## Getting Started: FamilySearch Partners

“Wherefore be not weary in well doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.” D&C 64:33

Beginning Family History research sometimes appears to be very daunting and we wonder where we can start? We must start small with ourselves and expand our research back, one generation and one individual at a time. We will be able to do a great work by being organized and systematically attaching sources that expand our family tree.

We need to begin with FamilySearch.org. This program has one tree that everyone contributes to. Records, sources and media are easy to attach. The information is backed up every night and secured in the Granite Vaults. This is our Father’s program!

FamilySearch does not have everything we need to succeed. Luckily we live in an age of miracles. Miraculous inventions, very smart people, great technological advancements and billions of preserved records help us locate and document our ancestors. These individuals have created other websites that help us with this work. FamilySearch has partnered with several of these organizations to help us find our ancestors more easily.

Members of the LDS Church can utilize these websites for free by signing up at [familysearch.org/partneraccess](https://familysearch.org/partneraccess).

These websites are based on every person having their own family tree that they build themselves with sources available from that website.

Ancestry.com is one of the biggest family history sites in the world. They have 19 billion searchable records and individual member trees that we can utilize as road maps to help us find our family members. Hints are suggested as leaves when we place a tree in their program.

MyHeritage.com is another large website with nearly 87 million members who have family trees and enter their genealogy in hopes of connecting with cousins. Individuals enter their tree in the program. When other peoples’ trees connect to the same individuals, the program contacts you that you have a “Smart Match” and suggests that you review and confirm the match which extends both persons trees and links the individuals as cousins. Record sources are located from the 1.7 billion records and the person is notified when there are “Record Matches” that need to be analyzed, reviewed and attached.

FindMyPast.com is a site that has a vast collection of British records. They are expanding their collections which include Australia, New Zealand and the United States. They recently announced a partnership with the Catholic Church to begin making some United States Catholic records available for research.

Geneanet.com is a family history site based in France and has focused on French Records. They are small and are a new partner with FamilySearch.

AmericanAncestors.org is the website of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. They have specialized in collecting United States records, especially New England records. They have 466

record collections with 399 of them being United States based databases. The other 67 collections have been collected from various places throughout the world.

Use caution when you locate the individual family trees from these websites. The research is done by individuals with varying experience levels. They often use other family trees to support their trees. If one tree is wrong and another tree uses that tree as its source, we end up with a forest of trees that contain wrong information. Use the trees as a starting point. Evaluate their sources carefully. Match the information with your own to determine if the individuals are the same. If the sources are correct, attach the records and source your individual. DO NOT add individuals from someone else's tree without analyzing each person and their documentation carefully.

Help is always available for you. Every website has a Help feature which can help you navigate within their website. Knowledgeable Temple and Family History consultants are available at Family History Centers close to wherever you live.

Remember that Family History research is a prayer activity. Utilize the Spirit of Elijah to help you!