

Family History Books: A New Online Collection

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About Family History Books

Family History Books is an online collection of over 85,000 published genealogy and family history books. The archive includes histories of families, county and local histories, directories, how-to books on genealogy, genealogy magazines (including some international magazines), medieval books (including histories and pedigrees), and gazetteers. The books are provided by partner libraries.

Family History Books uses ExLibris Rosetta as the Digital Preservation and Collection Management System. ExLibris Primo is used as the discovery tool.

Partner Libraries

Allen County Public Library (Fort Wayne, IN)
Brigham Young University Harold B. Lee Library
Brigham Young University-Idaho David O. McKay Library
Church History Library
Family History Library
Houston Public Library Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research
Internet Archives
Mid-Continent Public Library Midwest Genealogy Center (Independence, MO)

Benefits of the Online Book Collection

It is accessible anywhere, anytime, and it's FREE! It also has a strong, vibrant SEARCH feature.

Where it is Located

It is located at: www.familysearch.org

Under Discover Your Family Tree, select **Books**. This will take you to Family History Books.

The Family History Library Catalog also has direct links to the individual books.

System Requirements

Internet connectivity, web browser, and Adobe® Reader.

What to Do When You Get There

Searching in Family History Books is very easy. Simply enter one or more words in the search box and click on the **Search** button to retrieve results. Search types include keyword (including surname, author, and title) and wildcard.

Keyword Searches

- **Surname** Enter the surname you want to search.
- **Author** Enter the surname of the author (if known).
- **Title** Search for all or part of a title (hint: try searching for the surname or a place-name as part of the title).

You can also narrow your search by adding more terms.

Wildcard Searches

- **Single-character wildcard** Use the question (“?”) in a character position that has more than one possibility; For example, type, “Sm?th” to search for “Smith”; or “Smyth”; “ho?se” would yield results that contain such words as “house” and “horse.”
- **Multiple-character wildcard** Use an asterisk (“*”) in place of characters that have multiple possibilities; For example, “h*s” would yield results that contain words such as “his,” “homes,” “horses,” and so on. It is usually best to avoid using the asterisk as the first character in a search string. An asterisk without any other characters will not retrieve any results.
- **Phrase** To search on an exact phrase, enter quotation marks around your search terms for example, “know all men by these.”
- **And** To search for books that contain all of the search phrases you specify, use “**AND**” (in all upper case) between the words or phrases for example, “genealogy **AND** family history.”
- **Or** To search for books that contain at least one of the specified words or phrases, enter “**OR**” (in all upper-case) between the words or phrases for example, “genealogy **OR** lineage.”
- **Not** To exclude words or phrases, enter “**NOT**” (in all upper case) followed by the word or phrase to exclude for example, “father **NOT** mother.”
- **Group** To group terms within a search, use parentheses around the terms for example, “Clark (city **OR** county).”

FamilySearch is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources for free at FamilySearch.org or through more than 4,600 family history centers in 132 countries, including the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.