

Finding Records Using the Resources on FamilySearch

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The FamilySearch.org website (www.familysearch.org) has many free resources available to researchers. Using filters and other advanced search techniques can help you find those elusive ancestors.

There are four main places on FamilySearch that have record collections:

1. Search Tab

- *Search Collections by Name* – good way to search if you don't know what collection your person is in, and you have basic facts about the person.
- *Browse All Collections* – my favorite way to search. Allows you to browse to a location or topic then choose the applicable record collection. This way to search is really good for names that are misspelled or mis-indexed.
- *Research by Location* – helpful to see what records are available for a specific region in the indexed and un-indexed records. Usually has links to free webinars. Very useful for people researching internationally.

2. **Images:** This is where the newly digitized collections are organized. Some microfilms are restricted due to the content and dates contained within, so they will not be available for viewing. Searches are done by location. Once the location is selected life events and locations within the selected place can narrow down search results. Click on the collection and view the images like you would in the catalog.

3. **Catalog:** search by location and then choose the applicable category of record you want to search. Microfilms that have been digitized will have a camera icon to the far right. If there is a lock above it, you will need to go to a Family History Center or FHC affiliate to view the records. If there is a magnifying glass on the far right, you can use a name to search the collection. Keep in mind the magnifying glass may not cover all the dates or facts on the microfilm, so if you don't find it, check it manually by searching the pages of the digitized collection by clicking on the camera icon. Very good place to find vital records, deeds, probates, tax records, and maps for specific localities. In the United States, search by county and state, unless your location is in New England, then search by the town. For locations outside the USA, search by the town or parish name unless you are looking for civil registration records kept at the county or state level.

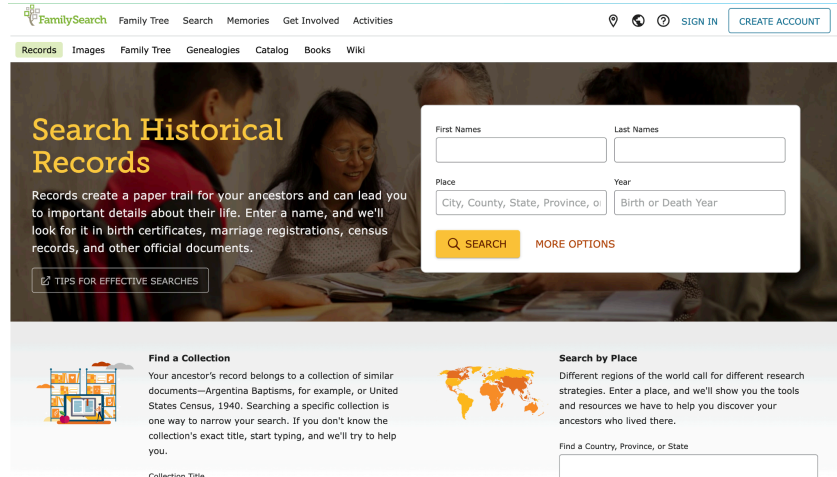
4. **Wiki:** click the blue online records to see what records are available on other websites. Some record collections may also be found by clicking on the applicable archives or repository links. This is where you will find word lists and other useful tools for languages other than English. Topics such as specific Civil War companies or topics such as immigration can also be searched. Make sure to check if the Guided Research has tools for the area you are researching.

Records

The historical record collection has indexed and unindexed collections from the massive microfilm and microfiche records of FamilySearch. More digitized records are being added so check back often for updates.

If you can't find your family by typing their information into the search box, use filters to specify the collection or click on **BROWSE ALL PUBLISHED COLLECTIONS**.

Click on the specific locality or topic you want to search. If you choose United States, then click on the specific state to get the collections for that area. Try using various search tricks and filters until you find them.



<https://www.familysearch.org/search/>

Filter Collections		PLACE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Image collections		Africa (48)	▼
<hr/>		Asia & Middle East (59)	▼
COLLECTION TYPE		Australia & New Zealand (52)	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Birth, Marriage, & Death	1,844	Canada (112)	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Censuses & Lists	352	Caribbean and Central America (97)	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Church Record	0	Continental Europe (720)	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Compiled Genealogies	3	Mexico (66)	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Directories	23	Other (13)	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity	13	Pacific Islands (24)	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Migration & Naturalization	287	South America (150)	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Military	289	United Kingdom and Ireland (273)	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous	143	United States of America (1,637)	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers	2		
<input type="checkbox"/> Probate & Court	289		
<input type="checkbox"/> Story	1		

Use the filters to narrow down the database selection, so you get better search results.

Images

Images has the more recently digitized records. Check back often for updates.

FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Activities

Records **Images** Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

Let us know what you think of the new version using the Feedback button on the left side <https://www.familysearch.org/records/images/>

Explore Historical Images

Browse records that haven't been made searchable through indexing yet.

[HOW TO GET STARTED](#)

Access billions of documents

Start your search with a place.
FamilySearch will look for records created there. Want to search by name instead? [Search Historical Records.](#)

Place

New York

- New York, United States
State, 1776 - Present
- New York City, New York, United States
Major City, 1898 - Present
- New York City, New York County, New York, United States
Major City, 1776 - 1897
- New York Colony, British Colonial America
Colony, 1664 - 1776

Life Event

- ✓ All
- Legal (57,847)
- Residence (29,313)
- Migration (24,148)
- Military Service (9,779)
- Death (5,815)
- Biography (4,785)
- Religious (2,028)
- Marriage (1,915)
- Employment (1,011)
- Birth (222)
- Education (198)
- Medical (23)
- Membership (12)
- Other (12)
- Divorce (1)

Refine Search

Place

New York, United States

United States > New York

New York 1,805

60 PLACES WITHIN

Albany	38
Allegany	24
Bronx	2
Broome	62
Cattaraugus	47
Cayuga	4
Chautauqua	109
Chemung	25
Chenango	26

Use life events and the location filters to further narrow down the databases.

Catalog

The catalog is a compilation of all the books, microfilms, microfiche, etc. that are available at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. These records are copies of original records (vitals, census, church, tax, court, etc.) from around the world.

To find records for a specific locality, type in the county (for the US) or town/church (for international countries). Click the drop-down arrow from the available categories.

Choose a link from the available records and see if there is a camera icon next to the microfilm. If there is a camera icon, then the records can be viewed online. If there is a camera icon with a lock above it, then the records can only be viewed on a local family history center or family history center affiliate.

The microfilm / microfiche search is also useful if you know the microfilm number and you want to view the original record.

FamilySearch Catalog

Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch online and in libraries and centers worldwide.

[Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials.](#)

Search by:
[Place](#) | [Surnames](#) | [Titles](#) | [Author](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Keywords](#)

Place
United States, Ohio, Warren

Search for:
[Call Number](#) | [Film/Fiche/Image Group Number \(DGS\)](#)

Availability
 Any
 Online
 FamilySearch center

Subjects

Locality Subjects

[United States, Ohio, Warren - Taxation](#)

Location

Family History Library

Film Notes (This family history center has 7 of 7 films/fiche.)

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film/DGS	Format
1816-1826	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	514202	 
1827-1828	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	534810	
1829-1830	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	534811	
1831-1832	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	514203	
1833-1834	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	514204	
1835	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	534812	
1836-1838	Family History Library	United States & Canada Film	522500	

Choose the applicable microfilm to view the original records.



Refine your search ▾

Search by:
Place

Germany, Württemberg, Heil

Surnames
Titles
Author
Subjects
Keywords

Search for:
Call Number
Film/Fiche/Image Group
Number (DGS)

Availability
 Any

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

Part of Germany

[Places within Germany, Württemberg](#) ▶

- ▶ Germany, Württemberg - Archives and libraries - Inventories, registers, catalogs (3)
- ▶ Germany, Württemberg - Biography (4)
- ▶ Germany, Württemberg - Buildings, dwellings, etc. (1)
- ▶ Germany, Württemberg - Business records and commerce - History (1)
- ▶ Germany, Württemberg - Census (2)
- ▶ Germany, Württemberg - Church directories (5)
- ▶ Germany, Württemberg - Church history (12)
- ▶ Germany, Württemberg - Church history - Sources (3)
- ▶ Germany, Württemberg - Church records (3)
- ▶ Germany, Württemberg - Church records - Indexes (1)
- ▶ Germany, Württemberg - Church records - Inventories, registers, catalogs (2)

Click on the “Places within” to view other locations near the location you are searching. This is very useful if your person is not in the records, you are searching and you want to search towns close by.



Refine your search ▾

Search by:
Place

Germany, Württemberg, Heil

Surnames
Titles
Author
Subjects
Keywords

Search for:
Call Number
Film/Fiche/Image Group
Number (DGS)

Availability
 Any
 Online
 FamilySearch center

Update **Reset**

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

Part of Germany

[Places within Germany, Württemberg](#) ▶

Aach	Eßlingen (Oberamt)	Lauterbad	Salach
Aalen	Ettenhausen	Lauterburg	Salmbach
Aalen (Oberamt)	Ettenkirch	Lautlingen	Salzstetten
Abstatt	Ettelschieß	Le Bourset	Satteldorf
Abtsgmünd	Ettmannsweiler	Lehr	Sauggart
Achstetten	Eutendorf	Lehrensteinsfeld	Saulgau
Adelberg	Eutingen	Leidringen	Saulgau (Oberamt)
Adelmannsfelden	Eybach	Leinfelden	Saurenhof
Adolzfurt	Fachsenfeld	Leinstetten	Schaffhausen
Adolzhausen	Faurndau	Leinzell	Schäfersheim
Affalterbach	Feckenhausen	Lendsiedel	Schailbshausen
Affaltrach	Feldrennach	Lenglingen	Schalkstetten
Affstätt	Feldstetten	Leonberg	Schanbach
Agenbach	Fellbach	Leonberg (Oberamt)	Scharenstetten
Ahdorf	Felldorf	Leonbronn	Scharnhausen
Ahlen	Feßbach	Leukershausen	Schechingen
Aichelau	Feuerbach	Leupolz	Scheer
Aichschieß	Finsterlohr	Leutkirch	Schelkingen
Aidlingen	Finsterrot	Leutkirch (Oberamt)	Schemmerberg
Aistaig	Flacht	Leuzendorf	Scheppach
Aitrach	Flein	Lichtel	Schietingen
Aixheim	Fleinheim	Liebenzell	Schirnbach
Alb-Donau	Fleischwangen	Lienzingen	Schlaidt
Albeck	Flochberg	Limpurg (Grafschaft)	Schlat
Albershausen	Flözlingen	Lindach	Schlichten
Alfdorf	Flunau	Lindorf	Schlier
Alleshausen	Fluorn	Linsenhofen	Schlierbach
Allmandle	Forchtenberg	Lippach	Schluchtern
Allmendingen	Fornsbach	Lippoldsweiler	Schmallegg
Alpirsbach	Frankenbach	Locherhof	Schmalfelden
Altbach	Frankenhofen	Löchgau	Schmerbach
Altburg	Frauental	Lochhof	Schmiden
Altenriet	Frauenzimmern	Löffelstelzen	Schmie
Altenstadt	Freiberg am Neckar	Loffenau	Schmiechen
Altensteig (Dorf)	Freudenbach	Lombach	Schmieh
Altensteig (Stadt)	Freudenstadt	Lomersheim	Schnait
Althengstett	Freudenstein	Lonsee	Schnetzenhausen

Wiki

FamilySearch's Wiki is a free website resource database similar to Wikipedia, but its focus is on genealogy research and sources. It can be searched by key word for specific articles or by browsing topics or locations. Many articles and how-to instructions about family history can be found or posted on this site.

External website links to databases and other records can often be found using the Wiki for a specific locality. The FamilySearch Wiki is extremely useful if you want to know when records started for a specific location, where the originals are stored and if any part of the collection is online.

Understanding how to find records using the resources in the Wiki will save you many hours in your search.



- Groups
- 2.11 Funeral Homes
- 2.12 Genealogies
- 2.13 Guardianship
- 2.14 Land and Property Records
- 2.15 Local Histories
- 2.16 Maps and Gazetteers
- 2.17 Migration
- 2.18 Military Records
- 2.19 Naturalization and Citizenship
- 2.20 Newspapers
- 2.21 Obituaries
- 2.22 Other Records
- 2.23 Periodicals
- 2.24 Probate Records
- 2.25 School Records
- 2.26 Social Security Records
- 2.27 Tax Records
- 2.28 Vital Records
 - 2.28.1 Birth
 - 2.28.2 Marriage
 - 2.28.3 Death
 - 2.28.4 Divorce
- 3 Research Facilities
 - 3.1 Archives
 - 3.2 Family History Centers
 - 3.3 Libraries
 - 3.4 Museums

Erie County, Pennsylvania Record Dates [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

Information for this chart was taken from various sources, often containing conflicting dates. This information should be taken as a guide and should be verified by contacting the county and/or the state government agency.

Known Beginning Dates for Major County Records ^[4]						
Birth*	Marriage	Death*	Court	Land	Probate	Census
1893	1885	1893	1823	1823	1823	1790
*Statewide registration for births and deaths began in 1906. General compliance by 1915.						

Record Loss [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

1823 Fire burned the Courthouse on March 23, 1823. The building and all books, papers, and records were destroyed.^[5]

For suggestions about research in places that suffered historic record losses, see:

- *Burned Counties*.^[6] By Michael John Neill at [24-7 Family History Circle](#).^[6]
- *When the Records are Gone*.^[6] By Arlene Eakle at [Arlene Eakle's Tennessee Blog](#).^[6]
- [Burned Counties Research in the FamilySearch Research Wiki](#).
- [List of counties in the United States with Record Loss](#)^[6]

Boundary Changes [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

- Formed from [Allegheny](#) County 12 March 1800.^[6]
- **County seat:** Erie^[7]
In 1850 a boundary line dispute between Erie and Crawford counties was settled. The

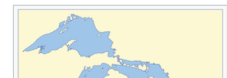
Location Map

Adoption

Adopt-a-wiki page

This page adopted by:
PA Roots and its members
who welcome you to contribute.

[Adopt a page today](#)



https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Erie_County,_Pennsylvania_Genealogy

You can search localities such as a state, county within a state or country. For locations in the United States, it is super helpful to understand when each locality started keeping records and if there is record loss. Genealogy word lists and handwriting tools can be found on the applicable country page.

Some Searching Tricks on FamilySearch

Filters: allow you to use an exact or very broad search parameter for your person in the historical record search. Be careful with exact filters on names. Sometimes it will eliminate your person. Exact filters on date ranges and localities work best.

Wildcards: helpful to find people with misspelled names

- *Asterisk (*)* allows you to search with spelling variations after the asterisk. On FamilySearch you only need one letter before the asterisk. This can be used for given names and surnames or on both.
- *Question mark:* allows you to replace a letter (i.e. Eli?abeth for Elizabeth and Elisabeth).
- Combination of the * and ? – helpful if name is hard to find, especially in census records.

Unindexed Records in the catalog: many records in the catalog have not been indexed by FamilySearch or are partially indexed. Search by location and then the collection type to find the record collection you want. Then search the digitized microfilm until you find your entry. Many of these records, especially deeds and probate records may have an index at the beginning or end of the digitized collection. Check for these as they may save you time finding your entry. Remember to also attach the record to the applicable person in the Family Tree.

Batch searches: allow you to find all the names in a specific batch or microfilm. This saves a lot of time because all the surnames on that film or batch can be quickly found using a batch search. You can then go to the catalog and click on film / fiche and type in the microfilm number and find the original record, even if the image is not in the historical records.

Family Tree

FamilySearch's Family Tree can be a powerful tool if used properly. The more information you add to the facts on the person's detail page, the more likely record hints will pop up for that person. Review these hints and add the applicable ones to that person. Make sure to mark "Nat a Match" if the record is not for that person. Often new records will be found as more records and data is listed.

If a record does not appear in the hints, you will have to find it manually by searching the historical records, catalog, or images. Once you find the record, make sure to attach it to the person in the tree so it is easy to find it again.

Make sure to merge duplicates and add all family members.

Maria "Mary" Torok
20 September 1899 – 8 December 1975 • LYS8-8G3

[VIEW TREE](#) [VIEW RELATIONSHIP](#) [FOLLOW](#)

Vitals

Detail View

Name • 10 Sources Maria "Mary" Torok	Sex • 9 Sources Female
Birth • 7 Sources 20 September 1899 Csány, Abaúj-Torna, Hungary	Christening + ADD
Death • 3 Sources 8 December 1975 Martins Ferry, Belmont, Ohio, United States	Burial • 1 Source 11 December 1975 Northern Cemetery, Smithfield, Jefferson, Ohio, United States

Research Help

There are no pending helps for this person.

[SHOW ALL](#)

Search Records

- FamilySearch
- Ancestry
- Findmypast

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LYS8-8G3>