

FamilySearch Guide: Getting Started and Using AI Tools

Introduction to FamilySearch

“FamilySearch” is a free genealogy platform that helps individuals discover, preserve, and share their family history. It offers access to billions of historical records, family trees, and research tools, including AI-powered features that simplify the search process.

Website: www.familysearch.org

Key Features:

- Free account creation and unlimited access
- Collaborative family tree
- Historical records and digitized documents
- AI Text Search and AI Research Assistant for enhanced research

Creating a FamilySearch Account

Step 1: Visit the Website

www.familysearch.org and click “Create Account” in the top-right corner.

Step 2: Enter Personal Information

Provide first and last name, birth date, and a valid email address.
Create a secure password.

Step 3: Verify Account

Check your email for a verification link.
Click the link to activate your account.

Step 4: Sign In

Return to www.familysearch.org and log in using your email and password.

Adding Individual Information

Step 1: Access Your Family Tree

After signing in, click “Family Tree” in the top menu.
Select “Tree” or “Person” view.

Step 2: Add Personal Details

Click “Add Yourself” if not already listed.

Enter details such as:

- Full name
- Birth date and place
- Gender
- Living status

Step 3: Save Information

Click "Save" to add your profile to the tree.

Adding Family Members

Step 1: Add Parents

From your profile, click "Add Father" or "Add Mother".
Enter their names, birth details, and other known information.

Step 2: Add Spouse

Click "Add Spouse" and fill in the details.

Step 3: Add Children

Under your profile, select "Add Child".
Enter each child's information.

Step 4: Connect Existing Profiles

If a relative already exists in the FamilySearch database, link to their record instead of creating a duplicate.

Researching Family History

Step 1: Access the Search Feature

Click "Search" in the top menu, then select "Records".

Step 2: Enter Search Criteria

Input names, dates, and locations.
Use filters to narrow results by record type (birth, marriage, census, etc.).

Step 3: Review and Attach Records

Examine search results for matching individuals.
Click "Attach to Family Tree" to link verified records.

Step 4: Explore Collections

Browse by country, region, or record type for deeper research.

Using AI Text Search

Overview:

AI Text Search allows users to find relevant records even when names are misspelled or written differently in historical documents.

How to Use:

1. Go to "Search → Records".
2. Enter a name or keyword.
3. The AI system interprets variations and returns related results.

4. Review suggested matches and attach relevant records.

Benefits:

- Finds records with alternate spellings or translations.
- Recognizes handwritten text from digitized documents.
- Improves accuracy and saves time.

AI Research Assistant

Overview:

The AI Research Assistant helps guide users through the research process by suggesting next steps, identifying potential relatives, and summarizing findings.

How to Access:

- Available within the "Family Tree" and "Search" sections.
- Look for prompts such as "Research Help" or "AI Suggestions."

Capabilities:

- Suggests missing family connections.
- Recommends records to review.
- Summarizes historical data and relationships.
- Provides hints for verifying uncertain information.

Tips for Best Results:

- Keep personal and family data updated.
- Review AI suggestions carefully before confirming.
- Use AI insights as a guide, not a final authority.

Additional Resources

Learning Center:

- Tutorials and videos on genealogy research.
- Access via "Help → Learning Center".

Community Support:

- Join discussion groups and forums.
- Ask questions and share discoveries.

Mobile App:

- Download the "FamilySearch Tree" app for iOS or Android.
- Syncs automatically with the web version.

Summary

"FamilySearch" empowers individuals to explore their heritage through collaborative tools and advanced AI features. By creating an account, adding family information, and using AI-powered research tools, anyone can uncover meaningful connections and preserve their family story for future generations.

Start exploring today at: www.familysearch.org