WHAT IS FAMILYSEARCH?

Familysearch.org is a non-profit genealogy organization run by the church of Latter-Day Saints. This database is home to over 300,000 digitized family history books, ongoing index projects, and millions of digitized records. Users also have access to the catalog of Utah's Family History Library, including over 2.4 microfilmed genealogical records and much more.

FamilySearch has established itself as a free alternative to Ancestry. They provide access to many of the same basic records and collections unique to FamilySearch.

CASS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
GENEALOGY BRANCH

400 EAST MECHANIC ST.
HARRISONVILLE, MISSOURI 64701
(816) 884-6285
askgenealogy@casscolibrary.org

Hours
Monday
10:00am — 6:00pm
[CLOSED 12-1]
Tuesday & Thursday
12:00pm — 6:00pm
Wednesday
12:00pm — 8:00pm
[CLOSED 5-6]
Friday - Saturday
10:00am — 5:00pm
[CLOSED 12-1]

Research Inquiries:
askgenealogy@casscolibrary.org

FAMILY TREE ON FAMILYSEARCH

This is an ongoing, collaborative project between FamilySearch members. Similar to WikiTree, it is based on crowd-sourcing and user contribution. The Family Tree is a good resource for genealogists interested in editing pre-existing information and contributing their own to the project.

www.familysearch.org

Connect with your family history!

The Genealogy Branch has tons of resources and experienced genealogists to help you research your family history!

Visit us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/GenealogyCCPL

Cass County Public Library System
GETTING STARTED

A link to FamilySearch is located on the Databases page of the Genealogy Resources section on the Cass County Public Library website. A step-by-step pictorial guide to searching the database is also available there.

Creating a Free Personal Account
It is free and simple to create a personal account. This can be done by clicking on the Free Account button located in the top right corner of the page. You are now required to be logged into a personal account in order to search and access FamilySearch’s records. FamilySearch remains free to use.

FAMILYSEARCH WIKI
This informational wiki (like Wikipedia) is collaboratively edited by FamilySearch and its members. It currently contains over 85,000 articles on a variety of genealogical topics and locations. It can be found under Search at the top of the page.

DIGITAL BOOKS
Hundreds of CCPL’s genealogy and history books are included in this over 325,000 volume digital collection from libraries across America. These books can be searched by title or keywords and viewed in full online for free.

SEARCHING RECORDS
Some Basic Search Tips
- Don’t fill every field in the search form and begin with a general search.
- Experiment with different search filters and the “Restrict” options.
- Try searching a single record collection at a time to reduce search results.

Filtering Search Results
Search with a life event allows you to add the date and location of various life events like marriage, death, or residence.
Search with a relationship allows you to add the first and last names of relatives.
Restrict records by allows you to restrict your search results to a specific location, type, batch number, and film number.

BROWSING COLLECTIONS
On the Records search page, beneath the “Find a Collection” header you will find a link to Browse all published collections. Similar to Ancestry’s Card Catalog, this allows you search for and browse record collection titles. The column on the left side of the screen provides filters to help find collections focused on a particular location, record type, and date. You can also restrict your results to collections with images.

Some collections are index-only. These will not have a camera icon next to the title. On the other hand, some of the fully digitized collections in the database have not yet been indexed; these will not have an amount listed in the record column.

DIGITIZATION PROJECTS
Contribute to an Indexing Project
www.familysearch.org/indexing
Members can contribute to indexing projects that make record collections searchable. With over 100 projects to choose from, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Affiliate Library Access
As of 2017, FamilySearch has discontinued its microfilm loan service. Instead, the database is focusing on digitizing these records and making them available online. As an Affiliate Library, CCPL provides free access to these collections of digitized microfilm records denoted with a key icon.