

Free Family Searches: www.familysearch.org

An excellent resource which provides free online searches is the incredible library of the Church of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) in Salt Lake City, Utah, through the website above. In addition, you can find similar resources through visits to **local** libraries of the Church of the Latter Day Saints in your state, province, country.

THE largest collection of family history is stored in the LDS Family History Library. These databases have been collected from all around the world, and new databases are continually being added. Microfilms and other resources normally held at the Salt Lake City LDS Library can be requested by a local LDS Library for you to search (free).

To find a local LDS Library in your area, go to www.familysearch.org Type your province or state (US & Canada) or country, in the box found at the bottom of the page (middle column):

[Find a Family History Center](#)

[Find](#)



You will need to call the local Center to find out their hours, as they are manned by volunteers and have limitations on open hours for non-LDS persons. When I typed in BC (my home province) up popped a list of 39 Centres in BC! Some of the local libraries are only open one day a week, others are open 3 or 4 days a week including at least one evening time.

In addition to searching for your ancestors, you are able to download a free family history software: **PAF = Personal Ancestral File**. The PAF allows you to quickly and easily collect, organize and share your family history and genealogy information.

Check over the home page and notice that there is a text box with assistance on a number of topics: Starting your Family History, with detailed how-to information, forms, maps, guides, U.S., British (UK) and Canadian censuses indexes, and other free online resources. Take advantage of all this helpful information – it has been developed over time and will help you be more efficient in doing your family searches.

Finally, always – ALWAYS – check out the “**Help**” button on the top banner! There is a great deal of useful information under this button. Take time at the beginning of your searches to see what is available on the alphabetical list of topics, and how best to use the website and Library catalogue/resources. My best recommendation: checking out the [Beginning Research](#) topic under Help.

Happy Searches,

- Celia

Questions? Celia@rootsbasic.com