A wiki is a website with content written by users. The most famous wiki in existence today is wikipedia.org. Wikipedia is the largest encyclopedia in the world and written entirely by volunteers. In 2008, FamilySearch launched a wiki to provide guidance about how to do genealogical research.

The staff of the Family History Library, and the genealogical community at large, use the Research Wiki to offer free advice about how to find, use, and analyze records of genealogical value.

Because no one can be an expert in all localities, records, languages, or ethnic groups, the purpose of the FamilySearch Wiki is to collaborate and share knowledge that is designed to encourage and eventually enable all people, anywhere in the world, to know where to find, how to use, and how to analyze genealogy records.

The FamilySearch Wiki is about finding records that may have been generated about your ancestors and the places in which the records might be found. It is a vast record depository of the paper trail that people leave behind long after they are gone. When you search in the Wiki, you search for places your ancestors lived and records you think they may have been in. You will not find a Wiki page about your ancestor, but you may find a database that contains your ancestor’s death record! The Wiki is a tool that is not part of our Historical Records which is why it is available on a link that is separate from the Records, however, it is designed to help us discover HOW to find records from a variety of resources.

To find WIKI look in Familysearch.org; Look at the menu bar across the top and see:

| FAMILYTREE | MEMORIES | SEARCH | INDEXING |

1. Click Search, and a menu appears.
2. At the bottom of the menu, click Wiki.
3. In the search box, type one or more key words or the title of the article you want to find, such as United States Census.
4. Click . The Wiki searches for the specific article or the words you typed into the search box. A list of articles displays. The list contains articles based on the qualifications below:
   a. Articles containing your search words. Articles having your search words the most times are closer to the top of the search results list.
   b. Search words show in bold.
   c. While the search engine searches for all words typed into the search box, not every word is in each article.
5. Look at the list of articles in the search results.
6. Click the title of the article you want to read.

After clicking a title, if you want to look at a different article, click the Back button on your Internet browser to return to the list of search results, and select another article. The Wiki is the place to get genealogical research help with research standards and process, also, identify record collections for your area of interest. There are 82,819 Articles and collections from over 250 countries.
## Strategies for searching the FamilySearch Wiki

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What You Know</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
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| The exact title of an article                     | 1. Type the full title in the search box. For example, type Finding information in the Davis County, Utah Public Records.  
2. Click Search.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Keywords from an article that you read previously | 1. Type keywords that you remember appeared in the title or the body of the article.  
2. Click Search.  
3. In the search results, try to identify the title of the article you are looking for, or select an article that appears to contain the type of information you need.                                                                                                                                                        |
| General information about what you want to learn   | 1. Decide what information you want to learn. For example:  
   - The name of a place where an event occurred, such as a country, province, state, city, town, or village.  
   - The name of a type of record, such as census, church, military, land, vital, tax, or emigration.  
   - The name of a topic, such as Denmark, Indians of North America, Germans in Pennsylvania, 1880 U.S. Census, or Illinois land and property records.  
2. Think of a word or words that best describe what you are trying to find.  
   **Tip:** Use the search operators AND, OR, hyphens, parenthesis, asterisks, question marks, and quotation marks to help define the information you are looking for.  
3. Type the words in the search box, and click Search.  
4. Look at the list of articles in the search results.  
5. Click the title of the article you want to read.  
   **Note:** Near the bottom of every article, the word Category appears. To see a list of all articles in the category, click the name of the category. Search the list of articles in the category for similar or related articles. |
The Research Wiki allows you to conduct a search for family history articles using names, dates, or key words. Use the steps below as you search:

**Search operators that control Wiki searches**

Use search operators to find exactly what you want on the Family History Research Wiki. The table below explains available operators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>What It Does</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Search for articles that contain both of the words you enter.</td>
<td>Enter Ireland AND birth to find articles with both the words Ireland and birth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Search for articles that contain either of the words that you enter.</td>
<td>Enter census OR tax to find articles with either the word census or the word tax.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Searches for articles that contain the first word that you enter but not the second.</td>
<td>Enter Paris - France to find articles that contain the word Paris but not the word France.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( )</td>
<td>Controls the search order or specifies that you want the search to process terms together.</td>
<td>Enter (German AND (emigration OR immigration)) to find articles with content that includes the word German and either emigration or immigration. You can use other combinations to exclude a duplicate name of a location, such as the search ((Paris AND France) - Idaho)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Replaces one or more characters.</td>
<td>Enter birt* to find articles that contain the words that begin with birth, such as birth, births, or birthday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Replaces one character.</td>
<td>Enter fa?e to find articles that contain words that begin with fa, have any one letter, and end withe. Examples are face, fame, and fate. Note: You can use more than one ? in a search.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot;</td>
<td>Specifies an exact phrase.</td>
<td>Enter &quot;New York City&quot; to find articles that contain the exact phrase New York City.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination</td>
<td>You can use the above operators in combination. For example, enter ((German AND birt*) - death) to find articles that contain the word German and words that begin with birth but that do not contain the word death.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Print Article: In the upper-right portion of the screen, click Print. Your browser print screen appears.

The FamilySearch Wiki has a wealth of information most of us only skim the surface of it. Moreover, there is a lot more to discover in FamilySearch to help us climb those brick walls and find those elusive ancestors.