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The Family History Guide on LDS.org

As you may know from reading the FAQs on the website for The Family History Guide, "... this site is not sponsored by FamilySearch® or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." That is by design: we want the site to be neutral in its stance, while still recognizing the huge contributions of the LDS church to the genealogical community.



The next part of that FAQ might get your attention: "... it is endorsed by FamilySearch and is recommended for training on [LDS.org](https://www.lds.org)."

That took some doing, to say the least. First, we had to build The Family History Guide to be a highly effective and successful website, with a wide user base around the world ... which has now come to pass. Then, the Publications Department of the LDS Church took a very

careful look at the site content, spanning several weeks of close review. The result was a FamilySearch



partnership with The Family History Guide, showing as the Technical Training link on the "My Family History Calling" page of LDS.org:

<https://www.lds.org/callings/temple-and-family-history/technical-training?lang=eng>

LDS Family History Consultants can use The Family History Guide as a training resource, knowing it has been approved for use.

And there's more: The "My Family History" page on LDS.org has a link to How to Use FamilySearch.org, which in turn has a number of helpful instruction sections. At the end of most sections is a link to—you guessed it—The Family History Guide! Here is what you'll see:



If you click **Memories** near the top of the screen, you will see the Memories page with all the photos, stories, and documents that users have added for the person.

For more information visit: "[The Family History Guide](#)," Project 1, Goal 2.

Inside the Guide: Beginner's Luck

The Mission Statement of The Family History Guide reads: "Our mission is to greatly increase the number of people actively involved in family history worldwide, and to make everyone's family history journey easier, more efficient, and more enjoyable."

The first part of the statement is perhaps the most eye-opening—you could say we are in the business of finding more family history beginners. Certainly there a lot of them out there, either those who have or those have not started their journeys.



Once a family history beginner begins, The Family History Guide needs to provide them the tools to succeed. Let's take a closer look at some of the ways that The Family History Guide helps those who are just starting out.

Computer Basics

In the Introduction section, [Computer Basics](#) offers an assortment of how-to videos and articles for those who need to strengthen their computer skills for family history. The major sections include

- *About Computers*—common terms and practical knowledge of what computers do
- *Basic Skills*—everything from getting started on a computer to adjusting to a new operating system
- *Windows Skills*—tutorials for beginners and seniors on Microsoft Windows
- *Mac Skills* — tutorials for beginners and seniors on using the Macintosh
- *Internet Skills*—how to use the Internet, for beginners and seniors
- *Other Skills*—mouse skills, digital images, and more

Family History Basics

In the Introduction section, [Family History Basics](#) provides the following assistance:

- *Terms and Concepts*—learn the key concepts you'll need for success in family history
- *Guidelines for Beginners*—the "why" of genealogy, how to get started, and common-sense rules
- *FamilySearch*—how to get started on the FamilySearch site, including Family Tree
- *FamilySearch Partner Access*—gain access to Ancestry, Findmypast, MyHeritage, and American Ancestors
- *Ancestry*—get started on the Ancestry site
- *Findmypast*— get started on the Findmypast site
- *MyHeritage*— get started on the MyHeritage site
- *American Ancestors*— get started on the American Ancestors site



Project 1: Family Tree Basics

The first part of [Project 1: Family Tree](#) is a great place to start for those looking to get started with building their family tree online. Here are some areas of note:

- *Goal 1: Navigation*—how to get around in Family Tree
- *Goal 1, Choice F: Filling Out Your Tree*—what to do if your family tree is small
- *Goal 2: View Details*—how to see existing information for your ancestors
- *Instruction Popups*—click a bold word in a step on the screen, and see a popup that shows the FamilySearch screen where that step is found

Project 2: Memories

[This project](#) has the following Goals that are helpful for beginners:

- *Goal 1: Gather Your Records*—finding and organizing your own important records
- *Goal 2: Gather Records from Others*—accessing records from your family members and those who share information online in FamilySearch
- *Goal 3: Interviewing Relatives*—how to work with relatives to record and preserve family stories

Project 4: Discover

[This project](#) is about doing research, but one of the useful aspects for beginners is getting organized.

- *Goal 1: Organization*—how to get organized in your research, including to-do lists and correspondence

Project 6: Help

[This project](#) is your lifeline for getting help when you have questions or roadblocks in your journey.

- *Goal 1: Get Help*—find the resources you need to get your questions answered

- *Goal 3: Collaborate*—learn how to work with others who share common ancestors, or who are just willing to help
-

Call to Action



Now that you've seen some of the great features of The Family History Guide for beginners, why not share The Family History Guide with a friend who has yet to begin the family history journey? Or if you are new to genealogy yourself, come and check out what the site has to offer—you'll be amazed at what (and whom) you may discover.

What's New: Summaries and Descriptions

Here are two new features in The Family History Guide that we think you will enjoy.

Summaries

To help you quickly see—at a glance—the information you'll be learning in a given Choice, we've created Summary links. These links are of the



hide/show type: you click to open the Summary information and click again to close it.

Here's an example of a Summary in Choice A of Goal 1, in Project 1: Family Tree. When you click to open it, it summarizes the steps and paragraphs that follow in the Choice, using three bullet points.

Choices

A

Sign in to FamilySearch and

Summary

- Set up a FamilySearch account if necessary.
- Sign in to FamilySearch.
- Display your family tree and move it around.

The Summary links are always the first thing after the Choice title. They're also useful for family history trainers using The Family History Guide, as they can be used as learning objectives to help students. The Summary links are a work in progress: they are being added to the entire site on an ongoing basis.

Article and Video Descriptions

The descriptions of articles and videos now display next to the icons, instead of hidden in hover text. This means you no longer have to hover over an icon to see the title, and you can directly search for any article or video title in The Family History Guide.

Here's an example of several descriptions in the Project 9: Germany page:

1. Learn about German archives and libraries in this FamilySearch Wiki article.
[FS—Wiki: Germany Archives and Libraries](#)
2. Learn how to do effective reserch in German archives.
[FS—Research in German Archives—53:50](#)

At this time, descriptions are available for all Project pages in The Family History Guide except U.S. states, England counties, and Canadian provinces—those will be added soon.

RootsTech Reminders

RootsTech 2017 is less than 10 days away, and we are busy preparing for a great event! Come by and say hello to us at booth, #1133.

At our booth, there are 9 different classes and a total of 45 sessions - all free. The classes are 15 minutes each, with a 15-min. break in-between for Q&A and setup. Here is the updated schedule of classes and instructors—click to expand.

Thu	Mini-Class	Fri	Mini Class	Sat	Mini Class
10:15	Introduction to The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	10:15	Introduction to The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	10:15	Introduction to The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>
10:45	World and Ethnic Research with The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	10:45	World and Ethnic Research with The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	10:45	Involving Youth in Family History using The Family History Guide <small>GM</small>
11:15	FamilySearch Family Tree and The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	11:15	The Family History Guide for Consultants, Teachers, Trainers <small>LB</small>	11:15	FamilySearch Family Tree and The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>
11:45	Introduction to The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	11:45	FamilySearch Family Tree and The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	11:45	Introduction to The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>
12:15	The Family History Guide for Consultants, Teachers, Trainers <small>LB</small>	12:15	Tips and Tricks to using The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	12:15	The Family History Guide for Consultants, Teachers, Trainers <small>LB</small>
12:45	Involving Youth in Family History using The Family History Guide <small>GM</small>	12:45	U.S. Research with The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	12:45	FamilySearch Memories and The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>
1:15	Introduction to The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	1:15	Introduction to The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	1:15	Introduction to The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>
1:45	Getting Started with Research using The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	1:45	Getting Started with Research using The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	1:45	Getting Started with Research using The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>
2:15	Tips and Tricks to using The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	2:15	Involving Youth in Family History using The Family History Guide <small>GM</small>	2:15	Involving Youth in Family History using The Family History Guide <small>GM</small>
2:45	FamilySearch Memories and The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	2:45	FamilySearch Memories and The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	2:45	FamilySearch Memories and The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>
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4:15	Introduction to The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	4:15	Introduction to The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	4:15	FamilySearch Family Tree and The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>
4:45	U.S. Research with The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	4:45	U.S. Research with The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	 Presenter Key: JT: Dr. James Tanner, BYU BT: Bob Taylor, Co-Founder, CEO BI: Bob Ives, Co-Founder, COO LB: Laurie Beardall, Advisory Board Member GM: Gail Martinez, Youth Training Specialist	
5:15	FamilySearch Family Tree and The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>	5:15	FamilySearch Family Tree and The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>		
		5:45	World and Ethnic Research with The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>		
		6:15	Tips and Tricks to using The Family History Guide <small>BT</small>		



On the Horizon

We will be at all Family History Fairs and events listed below. For details, see the Events link on the website for details (www.thefhguide.com/events.html).

Feb. 9-11—RootsTech 2017 Conference, Salt Lake City

Stay tuned for announcements in our newsletter and on our Facebook page for The Family History Guide at RootsTech 2017.

Feb. 18—Riverton Family History Library: Introduction to The Family History Guide, and Training with The Family History Guide

The Introduction class starts at 10:10, and the Training class starts at 11:20. Information is available [here](#).

Feb. 24—February 24 Kaysville Utah Family History Center Discovery Day

Bob Ives will present The Family History Guide. Stay tuned for details.



To subscribe to The Family History Guide Explorer newsletter:

subscribe@thefhguide.com