

70+ Family History Tasks You Can Do with FamilySearch & The Family History Guide



A. Family Tree

(B = Beginner; E = Experienced | "1-1-A" = FamilySearch Project 1, Goal 1, Choice A)

In The Family History Guide, go to Learning Paths > FamilySearch for Projects and Goals, or use the links below. These tasks are useful for individual study, and for consultants in encouraging family history involvement for everyone.

1. FamilySearch Account

- **B** <u>1-1-A</u> Create your own FamilySearch account.
- **E** <u>1-1-A</u> Help a family member or friend create a FamilySearch account.
- E <u>1-13-A</u> Manage settings in your FamilySearch account.

2. Gather Info

- **B** <u>2-1-A</u> Gather your own family history documents, photos, and stories.
- **B** E <u>2-2-A</u> Gather these items from your close and extended family.
- **B** E <u>2-3-A</u> Interview older family members.

(Start Your Tree)

B <u>1-1-F</u> Watch this video for tips on starting your part of Family Tree from scratch.

3. Navigate the Tree

- B <u>1-1-A</u> Learn to navigate in Landscape view.
- **B** E <u>1-5-B</u> Learn to navigate in Fan Chart view.
- E <u>3-1-C</u> Learn to navigate in Descendancy view. This opens collateral lines for research and temple work.
- **B** E <u>1-4-A</u> Use the Find and Recents features to look for ancestors who may already be in Family Tree.

4. Check & Edit Person Details

- B <u>1-2-B</u> Use the Person pages to find family details.
- **B** E <u>1-3-B</u> Review details for missing info and possible errors.
- **B** E <u>1-6-E</u> See changes other people have made to your ancestor information.
- B E <u>1-6-A</u> Update information as needed. Be sure to document the reasons and sources you use.

5. Explore Sources and Records

- B <u>1-8-A</u> Learn about sources.
- **B** <u>1-5-B</u> Use Fan Charts (Sources option) to find ancestors with few or no sources.
- **E** <u>4-4-B</u> Search for records for those ancestors and add sources for what you find.

6. Add Persons to Family Tree

- **B** <u>1-7-A</u> Learn the proper methods for adding ancestors, spouses, and children in Family Tree.
- **B** E <u>1-7-A</u> Add ancestors and their sources to Family Tree.

7. Use Record and Other Hints

- **B** E <u>1-9-A</u> Learn about Record Hints and how to use them.
- **B** E <u>1-9-A</u> Carefully examine record hints you have received to see if they offer useful information.
- E <u>1-9-B</u> Attach record hints to ancestor profiles.
 - **E** <u>1-6-G</u> Learn how to resolve Data Problems in Family Tree.

8. Other Family Tree Skills

- B <u>1-10-A</u> Add notes for ancestors in Family Tree.
 - E <u>1-11-A</u> Learn about merging duplicate records for your ancestors.
 - E <u>1-11-B</u> Identify one or more duplicate records and merge them correctly.

B. Memories

1. Find and Upload Ancestor Photos, Documents and Stories

- **B** E <u>2-4-C</u> Browse the Memories collection of your ancestors with photos and note the ones for follow-up.
- **B** E <u>1-5-A</u> Use the Fan Chart view (Photos option) to see which ancestors already have photos attached.
- **B** E <u>1-5-A</u> Use the Fan Chart view (Stories option) to see which ancestors already have stories attached.
- **B E** <u>2-5-A</u> Gather and scan photos, documents, and stories that you want to upload.
- **B** E <u>2-6-A</u> Upload the photos to FS Memories.

2. Write Life Stories

- **B** E <u>2-9-B</u> Learn skills for writing ancestor stories.
- B E <u>2-9-B</u> Write and upload stories.

C. Indexing

1. Learn and Do Indexing

- B Explore the Opportunities link in the FS Get Involved menu to see projects of interest.
- **B E** <u>5-2-A</u> Learn indexing skills.
- **B E** <u>5-3-D</u> Set goals and do indexing tasks.

D. Research

1. Learn the Basics

- **B** <u>4-2-A</u> Learn basic concepts in research.
- **B E** <u>4-2-B</u> Identify one or more family lines for doing research.
- **B E** <u>4-2-C</u> Form questions to help drive your research.
- **B E** <u>4-3-A</u> Learn how to create research strategies.
- **B** E <u>4-1-C</u> Use notes and research logs to stay organized.

2. Develop Record Search Skills

- **B** E <u>4-4-A</u> Use the FS Research Suggestions and Research Help features.
- **B E** <u>4-4-B</u> Use the Records option in the Search menu.
- **E** <u>4-6-A</u> Improve your search techniques.

3. Solve Research Problems

- **B** E <u>4-7-A</u> Learn to avoid common mistakes in research.
- **E** <u>4-7-B</u> Understand potential problems with terms and records.
- **B E** <u>4-7-F</u> Use ancestor photos in your research.
 - E <u>4-7-G</u> Know what to try when research is slowed or stopped.

4. Read Difficult Handwriting

- **B** E <u>4-11-A</u> Learn the basics of deciphering difficult handwriting.
 - **E** <u>4-11-B</u> Learn more handwriting techniques.

5. Do Research in the United States

- **B** <u>A1-A</u> Learn about different types of United States records for research.
- **B E** <u>A2-A</u> Learn about the importance of location, maps and geography in research.
- **B E** <u>B1-A</u> Learn about vital records for research.
- **B E** C1-A Learn about census records for research.
 - E <u>D1-A</u> Learn about immigration records for research.
 (Explore other Goals and Choices for using additional types of records.)

6. Do Research in Other Countries

- **B E** Explore the <u>All Countries page</u> and select one or countries to do ancestor research.
- **B E** Follow the Goals, Choices, in the selected Country pages to learn research techniques.
- **B E** Try the Practice Exercises and QUIKLinks in the selected Country pages.

E. Get Help and Help Others

1. Get Help

- **B E** <u>6-1-A</u> Access FamilySearch help resources.
- **B E** <u>6-1-E</u> Get help for your own research tasks.
- **B E** Meet with Temple and Family History Consultants, visit a local FamilySearch center.
 - E <u>6-2-A</u> Learn about genealogical societies.

2. Help Others and Collaborate

- **E** <u>6-4-A</u> Use the Help Others feature in FamilySearch.
- E <u>6-3-A</u> Share your family history efforts.
- **E** <u>6-3-A</u> Work with others on family history.

Family History Activities

1. Find Family History Activities in The Family History Guide

- **B E** Select and do family history activities for <u>families</u>.
- **B E** Select and do family history activities for <u>individuals</u>.
- **B** E Select and do family history activities for <u>youth</u> (12-18).
- **B E** Select and do family history activities for <u>kids</u> (8-12).

2. Find Family History Activities on FamilySearch

B E Open the <u>Activities tab</u> in FamilySearch.

Latter-day Saints: Temple Work

1. Ordinances Ready and the Basics

- **B** E <u>C-2-A</u> Use <u>Ordinances Ready</u> to find names for temple work.
- **B** E <u>C-1-A</u> Learn about icons in FamilySearch and procedures to follow.
- **B E** <u>C-2-B</u> Find temple opportunities for your ancestors in Family Tree.
- **B E** <u>C-5-A</u> Print your temple reservation cards.
- **B E** <u>C-6-A</u> Manage your reservation list.

Latter-day Saints: Weekly Family History Activities (Come, Follow Me)

1. Enjoy Supplemental Family History Lessons for Come, Follow Me

- **B E** Review the <u>calendar</u> for Weekly Family History Activities.
- **B E** Select and do weekly lessons that include quotes, videos, activities and more.