

CHAPTER 5



Identify Your Ancestors Using the Internet

STEP 1B 3 Simple Steps to Get Started



The internet is an excellent and powerful tool for Latter-day Saints to gather family history information and share it with others. It's made up of millions of sites which are just files stored on computers around the world. Each site can contain any number of associated pages—each of

which has an unique electronic address, i.e. *lds.org*.

This Work Must Hasten!



Howard W. Hunter
© by Intellectual Reserve, Inc.

"The gospel is moving forward to encompass every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. Temples are located throughout the earth, and the Spirit of Elijah is touching the hearts of many members, who are doing family history and temple ordinance work at an unprecedented pace... With regard to temple and family history work, I have one overriding message: This work must hasten! The great work of the temples and all that

supports it must expand. It is imperative!" (Howard W. Hunter, *We Have a Work to Do*, Family History Fireside, November 13, 1994)

INSIDE THIS CHAPTER:

1. Find Existing Information

See If Someone Else Has Already Found Information on Your Ancestors62

Introduction to *FamilySearch*62

Choose What Type of Record to Search63

Search Compiled Records First63

2. Search Other Records for Missing Information64

Using 'Research Guidance' and 'Help' 64

Comprehensive family history websites65

Website Categories67

Beginners Lessons67

Searching Immigration and Naturalization Records68

Additional Ways to Do Research Online70

Genealogy eNewsletters71

Suggested Activities

1. Enter all of the family information you've gathered by yourself and from your relatives into your family history program.
2. Search for your ancestors in *FamilySearch* and other sites. Discover the wealth of information and support available.
3. Import any new information into your computer data base and merge together.

STEP 1B 3 Simple Steps to Get Started

Identify Your Ancestors Using the Internet

1 2 3



Computers and Technology

Computers and technology have revolutionized the way we do family history and genealogy today. We can search farther and faster than ever before, and we can record everything we find with just a few keystrokes. Computers allow us to discover, store, access, and share family history information with speed and convenience.

Part of the revolution of finding your family roots is due to the advent of the Internet. It's estimated that more than two million separate web sites are devoted to genealogy / family history.

Some of the most useful websites are collections of links to other sites, such as *Cyndi'sList* and *RootsWeb*; some are more specific with genealogies from people, such as *GenServ*; some offer useful data such

as land records and transcribed census records, such as *AfriGeneas* and *The Bureau of Land Management*, and some specifically help you to learn how to do family history, such as *DearMYRTLE*.

Most web sites allow free searches, but some may require a fee and/or user registration. If you don't have a computer or an Internet connection at home, you can use one at a Family History Center, or your local library or university.

Steps to Identifying Your Ancestors Using the Internet

Step 1: See If Someone Else Has Already Found Information on Your Ancestors

Step 2: Search Other Records for Missing Information about Your Ancestors

When registering in Family Search you must provide your own unique user name and password.



INTERNET TIP:

Later, after registering, if you forget your username and password, you cannot re-register. Simply click on *I Have Forgotten My Username or Password* at the bottom of the page to receive an immediate e-mail with this information.

We are living in exciting times because old records are being indexed to electronic formats using computers. This is changing family history dramatically. An enormous number of old records still exist which are very difficult to research because they have not been digitized. But someday all old records will be converted to electronic formats. This means that we will be able to solve family history problems in the near future that are still very difficult today.

Step 1: See If Someone Else Has Already Found Information on Your Ancestors



Introduction to FamilySearch

First, go online to www.familysearch.org and click on: *Sign On* in the upper right corner. If you are a new user, click on: *Click Here to Register*; fill out the requested form, including your Church membership number and confirmation date (obtained from your ward clerk); then click on: *Register*.

If you are not a new user, just fill in your user name and password that you registered with previously.

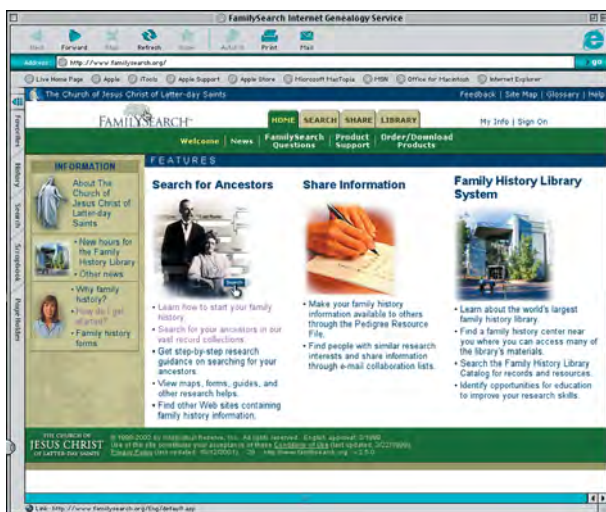
range of information. Then, as necessary, you can go back to the search screen and narrow your search to make it more specific by adding other fields, such as: Event (birth, marriage, death), Year range (+/- years), Country, etc.

In the left hand column of your screen, you have the option of using all the database's resources, or only one specific database. If you allow "All Resources", it will search all the databases that are a part of *FamilySearch Internet* at the same time, including Ancestral File (AF), assorted Census, International Genealogical Index (IGI), Pedigree Resource File (PRF), Social Security Death Index, Vital Records Index, plus any web sites. The databases include family histories submitted by others.

From the results page, you can select a source in *Sources Searched* (the red box in the right column) to see all the results from that particular source. Up to 200 results will be displayed on a page. Click *Next* to look at more matching records from the same source.

Look for facts and clues. Search broad time periods. Check for spelling variations. Record the results on a research log. Even if you do not find anything, note that on your log. This will help you avoid searching the same record again at a later time. Evaluate the information you found. Did you find the information you were looking for? Is the information complete? Does it conflict with other information you already have?

Once you have found the information on your ancestor, you can click on *Pedigree* or *Family* to see more information. You can then click on *Download GEDCOM* to "Export" the information



After signing on, click on *Search for Ancestors*, and fill out information on your ancestor. Start with your ancestor's first and last name *only* to provide a wide