

# Taking the Next Step: Records Research



## HOW TO **FIND** THE RECORDS OF YOUR ANCESTORS

“When you were baptized, your ancestors looked down on you with hope.... They rejoiced to see one of their descendants make a covenant to find them” (Henry B. Eyring, “Hearts Bound Together,” *Ensign*, May 2005, 80).

---

*Unable to find record hints in your family tree? Try this.*

### 1. Gather information about an ancestor

Choose an ancestor to focus on. Talk to family members to discover approximately when and where they lived.

### 2. Search indexed records\*

1. Sign in to FamilySearch.org, and click **Search**.
2. **Search Historical Records** using your ancestor’s name.

## Did you find an indexed record?

YES	<p><b>Select a name, and verify the information matches your ancestor. Then attach the record to your tree.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Click <b>Attach to Family Tree</b>.</li><li>2. Select the desired person.</li><li>3. Click <b>Add</b> to include the new information.</li><li>4. Give a reason why the record is a match.</li><li>5. Click <b>Attach</b>.</li></ol>
NO	<p><b>Turn over the page.</b></p>

\*FamilySearch’s partners have many additional records that you can search. Learn how to access these records by visiting <https://familysearch.org/partneraccess>.

Unable to find indexed records? Many images of records are available that have not been indexed yet.

## Try Browsing Images of Records

1. Choose an event for an ancestor to investigate (birth, marriage, death, military, immigration, census, etc.).
2. Click **Search**.
3. Locate **Research by Location**.
4. Click on the map, and then select the desired country.
5. Near the bottom of the page, search the **Image Only Historical Records**.
6. Select a collection that matches the desired event.
7. When the collection opens, click **Browse through images**.
8. Use what you know about your ancestor to choose an area of the collection to research.

## Did you find an image of a record?

YES	<b>Attach the record to your tree</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Click <b>Attach to Family Tree</b>.</li><li>2. Select the person to attach the record to.</li><li>3. Explain why you attached the source to the individual.</li><li>4. Click <b>Save</b>.</li></ol>
NO	<b>Ask for Assistance</b> <p><i>Ask family members for more information, or contact a family history consultant for assistance.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Click <b>Get Help</b> at the top right of the FamilySearch.org screen.</li><li>2. Under <b>Contact Us</b>, click <b>Find Local Help</b>.</li><li>3. Choose a family history consultant or family history center to contact.</li></ol>



THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS