

FamilySearch in the 21st Century
(including key for the website icons & portal access instructions link)

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<https://circlemending.org>

Access website: <https://familysearch.org>

Intro to the website & digitizing project

FamilySearch is a non-profit organization sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and has been serving Church members and others in their genealogical and family history research since 1894, when, initially, it was created as the Genealogical Society of Utah. Records have been microfilmed by the organization beginning in 1938. The trademarked name of the organization has been FamilySearch since 1999, about a year after digitizing records began.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/24-fun-facts-about-familysearch-you-may-not-know#:~:text=FamilySearch%20celebrated%20its%20first%20125,and%20experienced%20many%20wonderful%20advancements>.

Microfilm distribution and ordering was discontinued in September 2017, marking the time of major availability of digitized records on the FamilySearch.org website. Nevertheless, not all of the digitized microfilms are available for home use online. Some require being at a FamilySearch Library, Center, or affiliate.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/newsroom/familysearch-completes-digitization-of-massive-microfilm-collection>

The immense project of digitizing records from microfilms held by FamilySearch was completed in the 2nd half of 2021. 2.4 million rolls of microfilm have been digitized in the project, but that does not mean that the work is over; records in repositories around the world continue to be digitally copied.

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/familysearch-microfilm-collection-digitized>

The Portal and Premium Content Extension

(available in a FamilySearch Library or Center, but not at Affiliate facilities)

Below information is accurate as of 14 June 2024

Link for information on using the FamilySearch Center Portal:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/article/using-the-family-history-center-services-portal>

Download link for the FamilySearch Center Portal (can be downloaded ONLY in a FamilySearch Center or meetinghouse of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but you can take a peek either way): <https://www.familysearch.org/centers/portal>

Rules and additional information on accessing Premium websites via the Portal:

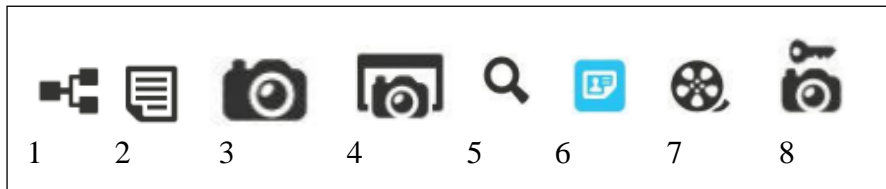
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/article/premium-websites-ask-for-sign-in-or-they-forbid-access>

Link for instructions on using the FamilySearch Center Premium Content extension:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/article/family-history-center-premium-content-browser-extension>

FAMILYSEARCH ICON KEY

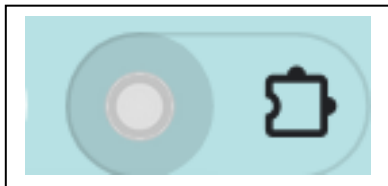
What do the icons mean? – these are accurate all over the FamilySearch.org website, but info is not guaranteed beyond 14 June 2024



From left:

1. View family tree
2. Transcription (maybe from an indexer) available
3. Actual image available on FamilySearch.org
4. Image available at another (Partner) website
5. Collection is searchable
6. Database includes “Record Hints” (from Indexed collections)
7. Records from collection on film only, must be viewed at the Family History Library (in Salt Lake)
8. Image is available, but can be viewed only at a Family History Center, FamilySearch Library, or affiliate

For initial FamilySearch Portal access, in a Center, this is the magic icon:



On the right is the “puzzle piece.” Click it to “**add extension**” and pin it to your search bar from there.
 On the left is the “circle” – click gray circle to **enable the extension**
 When the circle is green, you are connected to the portal

For clearer, more step-by-step directions, see the FamilySearch Center Portal:

<https://www.familysearch.org/centers/portal>

Electronic version of this handout: <https://CoronaGenSoc.org> – go to the Hints & Help page, left column, “Hibben-FamilySearch Center Portal”