

Resources For LDS Records Research

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RESEARCH GUIDES

These are good places on the FamilySearch.org website to start to learn about the research process for the following: [Tracing LDS Families](#) & [Utah Research Outline](#).

MAJOR WEB SITES FOR LDS AND UTAH RECORDS

- **Early LDS Members database**
From 1830 to the early Utah period. See <http://earlylds.com>
- **Family History Library Card Catalog**
http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp The catalog now lists entire volumes scanned and posted online. Usually found under a Surname Search. When you click on the red "**To view a digital version of this book click here.**", you are taken to the BYU Harold B. Lee Library web site.
- **BYU Harold B. Lee Library Online Collections.**
At <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/search.php> you can use a variety of works to search in all of the Family Histories collections, each of which contains 200-300 volumes, so there are hundreds of digitized completely word-searchable books.
- **BYU Library Digital Online Collections** <http://www.lib.byu.edu/online.html>
- Searchable indexes and collections on Utah and LDS information in the Family History Library Catalog [Utah Statewide Indexes and Collections](#)
- **BYU-Idaho Family History Center**
<http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/fhc/FamilyHistory.htm>
- **World Vital Records**
A subscription site, but free to search. Also free at Family History Centers
<http://worldvitalrecords.com/contentlisting.aspx?cat=lds>
- **Utah Digital Newspaper collection 1879-1956** <http://dream.lib.utah.edu/digital/unews/>
- **Indexed Utah Censuses** http://www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/census_search.htm
- **Arizona Birth and Death Records**, index and images of certificates
<http://genealogy.az.gov>

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS INFORMATION

- **Deseret News and Deseret News Semi-Weekly from 1852 to 1888** are an index of newspaper references for marriages and deaths from the http://www.rootsweb.com/~utsaltla/obit_DeseretNews_1850s.html and http://www.rootsweb.com/~utsaltla/obit_DeseretNewsSW.html
- **BYU-I Western States Marriage Record Index --**
<http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/search.cfm>

DEATHS AND BURIALS

- **Utah Burials Index**
<http://history.utah.gov/apps/burials/execute/searchburials>
- **Utah Death Certificates**
Deaths from 1905 - 1954, are online and searchable at <http://historyresearch.utah.gov/digital/81448.htm> also at FamilySearch as part of their [RecordSearch](#) Indexing information.
- **Idaho Death Certificates**
The BYU-Idaho FHC will find and copy Idaho death certificates for you at no charge <http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/index.cfm>
- **Deceased LDS Membership Records** 1941 to present
You may get information by phone (1-801-240-3500). Also, some records have been filmed and are available in the FHL, but *not* in FHC's. You can transcribe anything, but no photocopies allowed. All deceased membership records and temple data are being entered into the IIGI, so it will contain all proxy and deceased member data

OTHER CHURCH RELATED INFORMATION

- **Church Census Records**
Started in 1914, then every 5 years from 1920 to 1960, except for 1945. They are arranged alphabetically by head of household. Found on 651 FHL films starting with #25708.
- **Member Autobiographies**
Includes a 4-page form that all Church members were asked to complete in 1924-1929. At the FHL in hardcopy and on 10 microfilms (FHL #1059454-1059463).
- **Patriarchal Blessing Index (1830's-1993)**
Two indices: 1833-1993, fiche and 1833-1963, film. Be sure to check index with various spellings of names and under maiden and married names -- many members received 2 or 3 blessings. The Church Historian's office has a computerized index that is easier to search,

but you have to be onsite. Copies of your Ancestor's Patriarchal Blessings are available at no charge. [Click here for information](#) on how to request up to 4 at a time.

- **Missionary records in Church Historian's Office**
See Missionary Index, 1830-1979 (FHL #6334932, 8 fiche)

ORDINANCE INFO

- **Family group sheets submitted for temple work from 1942 to 1969**
See [Archive Section of Family Group Sheets](#) in the Family History Library Card Catalog. A primary source for temple work done (with date stamped at temple, not typed nor hand written). Only available on film.
- **Nauvoo Temple Endowment Register** (FHL #6051326) 3 fiche and a hard copy index at FHL. [Microfiche](#) and typescript index in hard copy at FHL.
- **Endowment Index (1846-1969)** Also called the [Temple Index Bureau Card File](#) or TIB. 30 million cards with mainly endowment data. Temple data in it has already been extracted from original temple records and put into IIGI, but there may be more genealogical data on the cards.
- **Annotated Record of Baptisms for the Dead 1840-1845**, Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois -- by Susan Easton-Black and Harvey Black, 2002 - This seven-volume set includes the records of this early time period that have now been extracted, edited, and alphabetized. Vital statistics identify most proxies and the relationship between proxies and the deceased, a relationship that cannot be found anywhere else. There are over 15,000 entries for baptisms for the dead that have been identified, most of which are not included in the International Genealogical Index. Can be purchased [through this link](#), or some larger Family History Centers have copies.

LDS FAMILY HISTORY SUITE CDs

Commercial CD's by Ancestry.com (LDS FH Suite and LDS FH Suite 2)

Many Family History Centers have copies or you often find them at Deseret Industries.

These are Folio v3 databases and standard setup doesn't work on a Windows XP machine, but they can be installed using the setup program in one of the subfolders on the CD. Website for technical help regarding LDS FH Suite - http://seamons.com/projects/infobase_tech/

The CD's contain many records, volumes, histories, and family history data. Some examples:

- *Susan Easton-Black: Membership of the Early LDS Church, 1830-1858* -- also on some of the older LDS Infobase CDs and is now online at <http://www.worldvitalrecords.com>
- *Andrew Jenson: Church Chronology, Biographical Encyclopedia*, Encyclopedic History of the Church

- *Guide to Mormon Diaries and Autobiographies* by Davis Bitton
- *Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah* by Frank Esshom-- includes text and pictures
- *Mormons and Their Neighbors* by Marvin Wiggins. An updated version available online at <http://www.lib.byu.edu/Ancestry/>
- Pioneer Heritage Library -- includes many LDS history books and databases such as the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers book series

Marie Taylor's website <http://www.warnes.net/Teslacorp/GenealogyLinks> shows links to the parts of these CD's that are online (see tab 7-LDS Ancestors then LDS Family History Suite – [What's on the Internet](#)).

LDS immigration records

- **Mormon Immigration Index** -- on CD (#50174, \$6),1841-1890 -- includes date of immigration, ship, plus journals of fellow passengers.
- **LDS to Zion** – Tab 8 on Marie Taylor's website <http://www.warnes.net/Teslacorp/GenealogyLinks>
- **LDS Danish and Scandinavian immigration** -- see <http://www.ida.net/users/really/>
- **Tracing Mormon Pioneers** <http://www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/pioneer.htm>
- **Names of Persons and Sureties Indebted to the Perpetual Emigrating Fund Company 1850 to 1877**
Microfilm (FHL #25686) or in Mormon Historical Studies, Vol.1, No. 2, Fall 2000, 141-242 also found online as a [pdf here](#).
- **Crossing the Plains Index Database**, Melvin L. Bashore, Church Historian's Office see Mormon Pioneer Overland Travels (1847-1868) on LDS Church web site and <http://www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/resources.htm>
- **Mormon Pioneer Search** - http://www.xmission.com/~nelsonb/pioneer_search3.htm
- **Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel**, The most complete listing of individuals and companies in which Mormon pioneer emigrants traveled west to Utah from 1847 through 1868. It is an incomplete listing, as rosters have not been found for all companies. It also identifies sources to learn more about the experiences of each company. - <http://www.lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch/1,15773,3966-1,00.html>

Sources

Snow, Donald R. *LDS and Utah Records*. Brigham Young University Computerized Genealogy Conference, 2006, 201-204.

Sperry, Kip. *A Guide to Mormon History – Family History Sources*. Provo, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2007.