

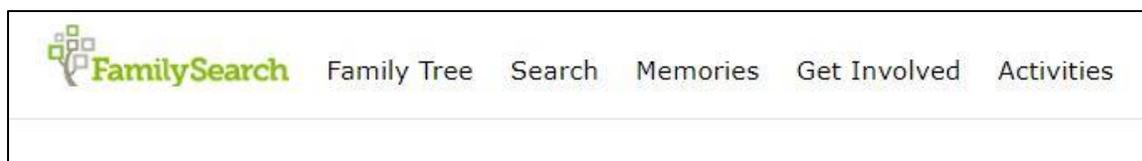


Exploring FamilySearch

Main website: www.familysearch.org

Main Menu

The FamilySearch home page has the following menu options:



- Family Tree

This menu provides access to the family tree functions. Note that FamilySearch is based on the concept of one global family tree. Any information you contribute gets added to the global tree. If someone else feels they have a piece of 'your' genealogy puzzle, they can add to (or change) the information your submitted originally. It is NOT a private tree under your control.

- Search

This menu has options for searching the records and the catalog. The research wiki is also listed under this menu option. It is probably the menu you will use the most.

- Memories

This menu has options that allow you to share information (stories, photos) about your ancestors.

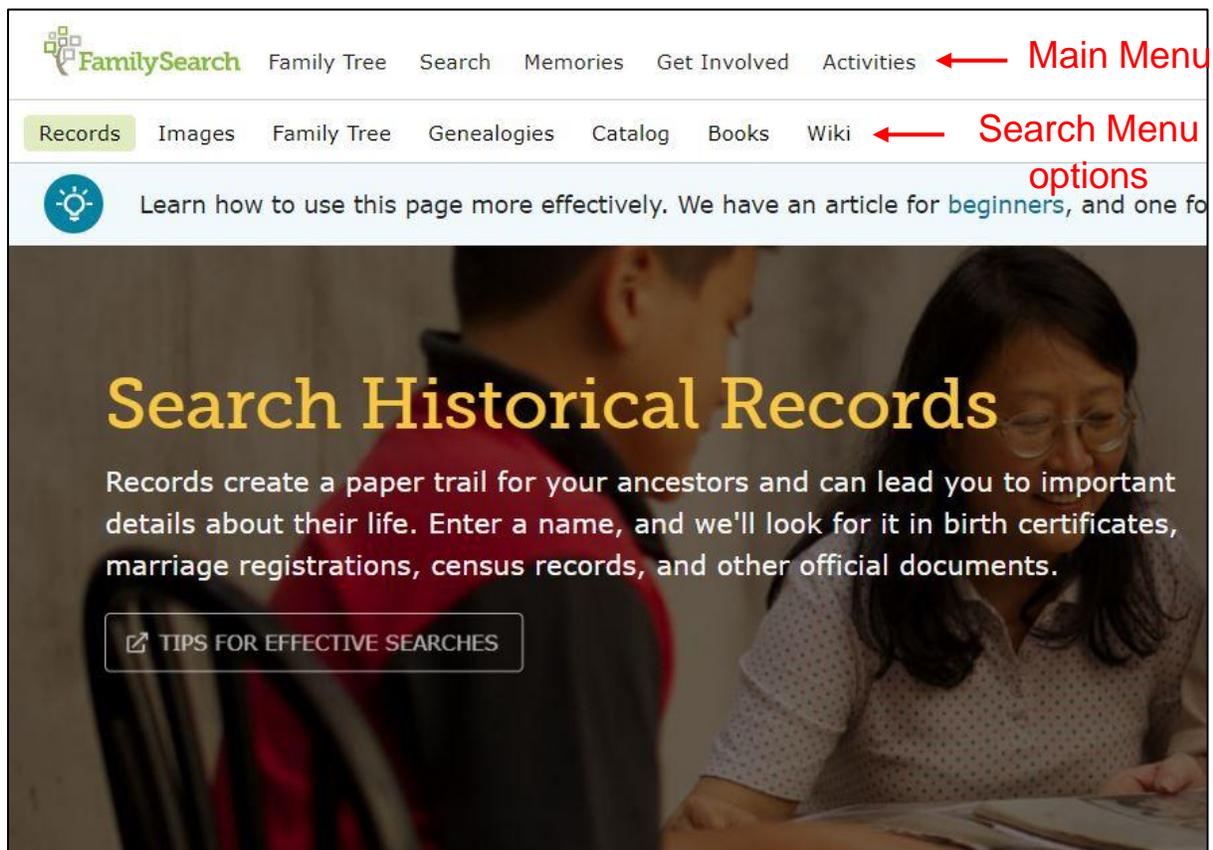
- Get Involved

For those of you interested in volunteer opportunities, this menu provides links to indexing projects and data review projects (1950 census).

- Activities

This menu has links to various activities for all family members. Some examples: All About Me, Record My Story, Compare A Face, Picture My Heritage.

When you select an option from one of the menus, a secondary menu is displayed. For example, if you go to the *Search* menu and select *Records*, all of the options under the *Search* menu are now displayed as clickable links across the screen (Records, Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, Wiki). This makes it very easy to choose another option from that same Search menu.



Searching the Records

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/>

Go to the *Search* menu (top of screen) and select *Records* to display the Search Records page. The following image shows search results for James Edward (exact match) Renton with Leeds, Yorkshire specified for place:

Name	Collection	Birth Date	Birth Place	Marriage Date	Marriage Place	Residence Date
James Edward Renton Sex: Male Principal	England and Wales Census, 1851	1847	Wortley, Yorkshire, England			1851
James Edward Renton Sex: Unknown Principal	England and Wales Death Registration Index 1837- 2007	1845				
James Edward Renton Sex: Unknown Principal	England and Wales Death Registration Index 1837- 2007	1864				
James Edward Renton Sex: Unknown Principal	England, Yorkshire, Parish Registers, 1538-2016	1845				
James Edward Renton Sex: Unknown Principal	England and Wales Birth Registration Index, 1837- 2008					
James Edward Renton Sex: Unknown Principal	England and Wales Birth Registration Index, 1837- 2008					

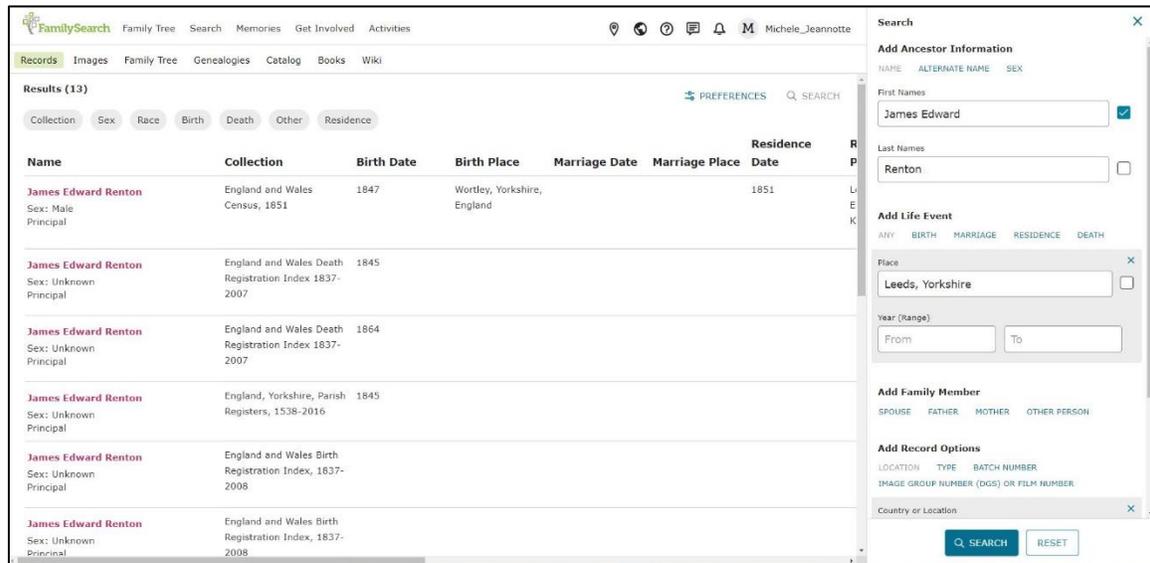
James Edward Renton	
Birth - England and Wales Birth Registration Index, 1837-2008	
Name	James Edward Renton
Event Date	1863
Event Place	Wakefield, Yorkshire, England
Registration District	Wakefield
Event Type	Birth Registration
Page	56
Volume	9C
Affiliate Line Number	25
Registration Quarter	Jul-Aug-Sep
Registration Year	1863

Some tips to keep in mind:

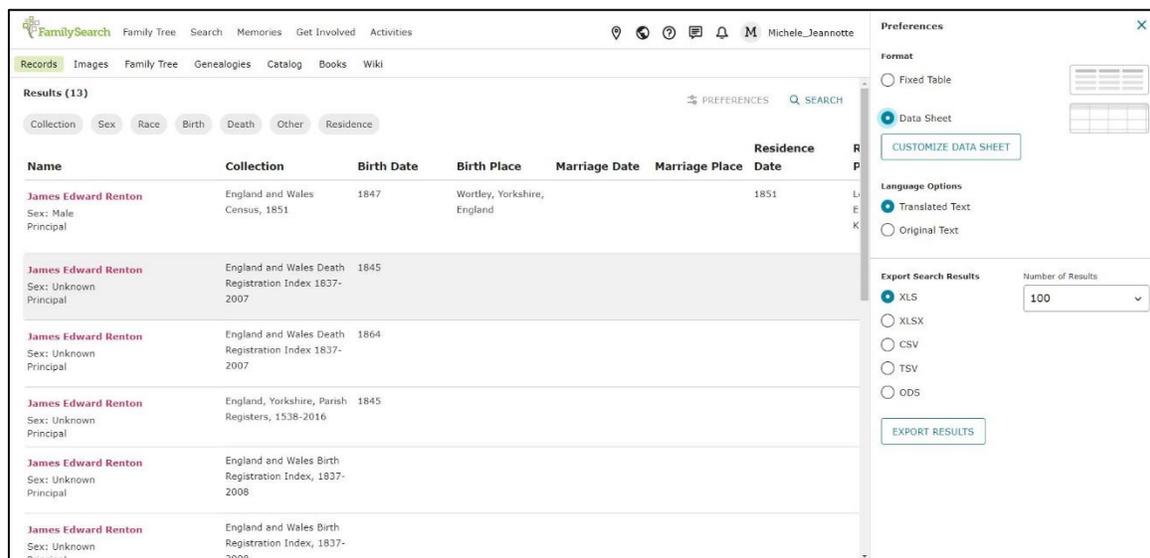
- You can use an * as a wildcard character in your searches. R*nt*n for example would display Renton, Rintan, Rainturn.
- Exact searches: If you check the 'exact match' box (to the right of each search criteria field) you will only see the results that will have been indexed using those exact terms.
- You can further filter your results by select the event filters at the top of your results screen. It is sometimes helpful to click the *Collection* filter and view your results based on a particular record collection. Any applied filters will be displayed in blue above your results. To remove a filter, click the X beside the filter name.
- Clicking the document symbol (to the right of each displayed result) displays the record details and (if available) the image. Clicking the person's name in the results list brings up a detail data pane on the right side of the screen with all the record details. You can use navigation arrows at the top of the entry to page forward and back through all the results.

Exploring FamilySearch

- Clicking the blue *Search* link (magnifying glass, located above your search results) displays the search criteria panel. You can add additional criteria and update your search results based on the new information entered.



- Clicking the blue *Preferences* link (located above the Search results, to the left of the magnifying glass) enables you to change your results display to a datasheet format (similar to Excel spreadsheet). From this panel, you can download your results (Export Results button, bottom of Preferences panel) for further analysis.



Searching the Catalog

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>

Go to the *Search* menu (top of screen) and select *Catalog* to display the FamilySearch Catalog page. You can search by place, keyword, subject and surname. You can also search by film, microfiche or DGS (image) number.

As the following example shows, you can combine search terms. I specified a place search of Leeds in Yorkshire (England, Yorkshire, Leeds) and further limited the results by adding a keyword search of Cemeteries.

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch Catalog search interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Search, Memories, Get Involved, and Activities. Below that, there are tabs for Genealogies, Catalog (selected), Books, and Wiki. The search results are displayed for the query 'England, Yorkshire, Leeds' and 'Cemeteries'. The results list includes:

- Part of England, Yorkshire
- England, Yorkshire, Leeds - Archives and libraries - Inventories, registers, catalogs (1)
- England, Yorkshire, Leeds - Cemeteries (21)
- England, Yorkshire, Leeds - Cemeteries - Indexes (1)
- England, Yorkshire, Leeds - Cemeteries - Inventories, registers, catalogs (1)
- England, Yorkshire, Leeds - Church records (2)
- England, Yorkshire, Leeds - Church records - Inventories, registers, catalogs (1)
- England, Yorkshire, Leeds - Military records (1)

Did you know ...

- Doing a Keyword search for a place will generally give different results than a Place search. This has to do with how the catalog entries are indexed and which data fields are actually looked at for each type of search. For that reason, it's a good idea to do both Place and Keyword searches when you are trying to locate films for a particular place.
- Camera icon (no key) means you can view the film images on your computer, at home.

- Camera icon with key means that particular resource has restrictions. Sometimes the films are restricted to viewing at a Family History or Affiliate Library. Sometimes you can view the resource from home, but you can't download or print the image. It is still worth clicking the 'camera with key' icon, as you can't tell what type of restriction exists. You may be able to view the image, but not print it.
- Many of the parish register films can only be viewed from a FamilySearch or affiliate library. Often, the restrictions are based on contract arrangements between FamilySearch and the different record owners (archive offices, etc.). It's worth noting that, years ago, when some of these contracts were set up, the average person did not own a film reader, so viewing microfilm at a Family History library would have been a very reasonable arrangement.
- A magnifying glass indicates that there is an online index for that resource. Clicking the magnifying glass will display the film contents, along with a search screen. Note that the index may not cover all of the items in that film, so it is still worth reviewing the film itself if you do not find your ancestor listed.
- It is not enough to know the film number. You need to know which item on that film contains the records. One film for example may have copies of 7 different parish registers. Each is numbered, indicating the order they will appear on the film.
- Use the thumbnails feature to browse the film, looking for the numbered start / end pages for each new set of records. Double clicking a thumbnail will display that image.
- When you are viewing a film, you can type an image number into the image number box (top left of the screen) and press Enter to go to that image directly. You can also use the right / left navigation arrows to move from one image to the next.

The Hidden Extras

FamilySearch Site Map

<https://www.familysearch.org/site-map>

The site map provides an alternate menu structure for accessing key components of the website. Scroll to the bottom of your screen on any FamilySearch website page and click the *Site Map* link (bottom left).

[About](#) [Volunteer](#) [Blog](#) **[Site Map](#)** [DNA](#) [Solutions Gallery](#)
[FEEDBACK](#) [COOKIE PREFERENCES](#) [ENGLISH](#)
[FamilySearch Terms of Use \(Updated 2021-09-27\)](#) | [Privacy Notice \(Updated 2021-04-06\)](#)
 © 2022 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. A service provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

You will now see a screen with many clickable links. Select the Family History Library link to display the library home page menu bar. This contains links to many services (lookup form, research help) and learning resources (free courses, research wiki).

Core Products

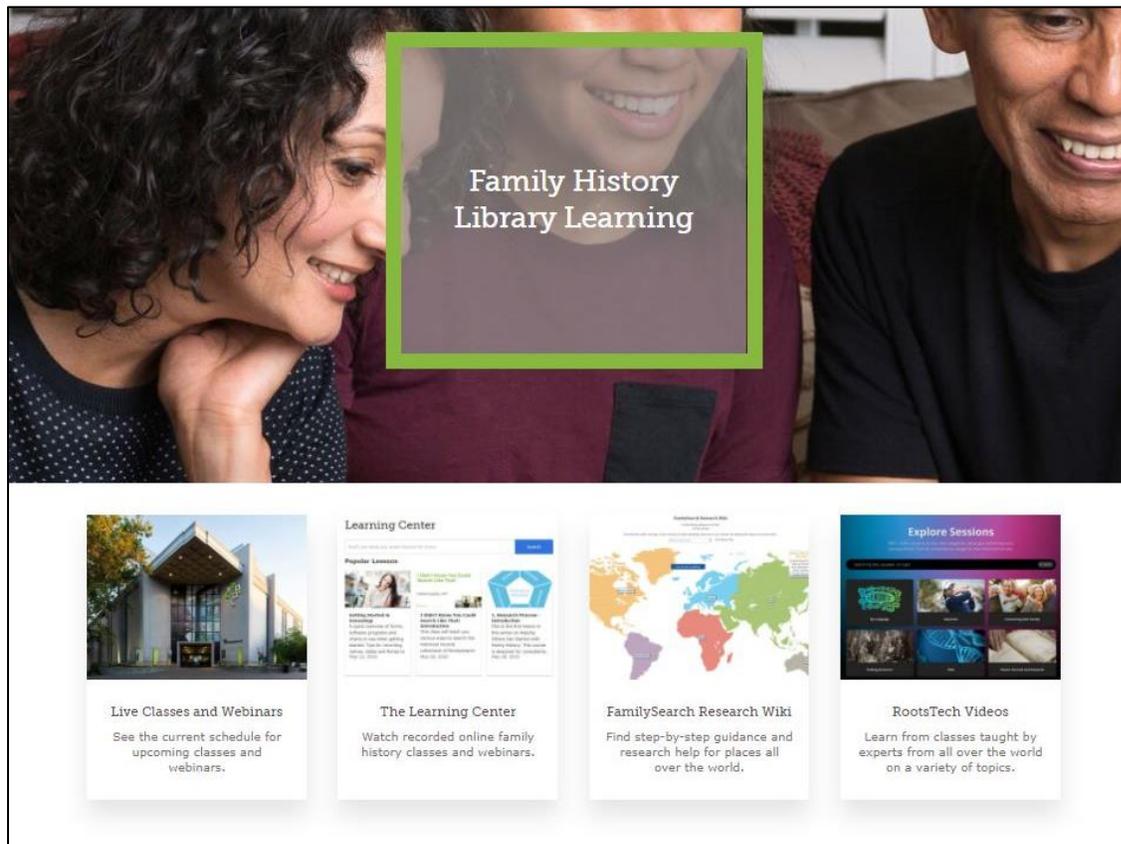
FAMILY TREE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Pedigree Family Fan Chart Ancestor Profile Find an Ancestor Ancestor Watch List Source Box 	MEMORIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview Gallery Tagged People Find a Memory Memories Help 	HISTORICAL RECORDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places Record Search Submitted Genealogies Library Catalog Find a Historical Book England & Wales Jurisdictions 1851 	RECORD INDEXING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web Indexing Indexing Overview
--	---	--	---

News and Information <hr/> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> GENEALOGY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genealogy Resources Technology and Advice RootsTech </td> <td> FAMILYSEARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner Access Blog Family History Library in Salt Lake City In the news Events </td> <td> ABOUT US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About FamilySearch Solutions Gallery Developers Archives Careers Correctional Facility Services </td> </tr> </table>	GENEALOGY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genealogy Resources Technology and Advice RootsTech 	FAMILYSEARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner Access Blog Family History Library in Salt Lake City In the news Events 	ABOUT US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About FamilySearch Solutions Gallery Developers Archives Careers Correctional Facility Services 	Get and Give Help <hr/> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> GET HELP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact FamilySearch Getting Started Help Center Research Wiki Research Help Family History Centers Send Us Feedback </td> <td> VOLUNTEER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Become a Volunteer Participate in Evaluations Make a financial donation Donate Records Donate Coding Skills Write a Research Article </td> </tr> </table>	GET HELP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact FamilySearch Getting Started Help Center Research Wiki Research Help Family History Centers Send Us Feedback 	VOLUNTEER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Become a Volunteer Participate in Evaluations Make a financial donation Donate Records Donate Coding Skills Write a Research Article
GENEALOGY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genealogy Resources Technology and Advice RootsTech 	FAMILYSEARCH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner Access Blog Family History Library in Salt Lake City In the news Events 	ABOUT US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About FamilySearch Solutions Gallery Developers Archives Careers Correctional Facility Services 				
GET HELP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact FamilySearch Getting Started Help Center Research Wiki Research Help Family History Centers Send Us Feedback 	VOLUNTEER <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Become a Volunteer Participate in Evaluations Make a financial donation Donate Records Donate Coding Skills Write a Research Article 					

Learning Resources Page

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/family-history-library/learning-resources>

This page contains links to all online classes, webinars, RootsTech videos and the FamilySearch research wiki (online help). Note: You will need to scroll down the Learning Resources page to view the links to these resources.



You can also access the resources directly, using the links listed below.

- **Live Classes and Webinars:**
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars#Upcoming_Webinars

All Classes and Webinars:

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Classes_in_the_Learning_Center

- **The Learning Center:**
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/learning-center>

- RootsTech Conference homepage:
<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/home>

Click the *On Demand* link (top of the screen) to access RootsTech sessions for the past 4 years.

- FamilySearch Research Wiki:
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page



The research wiki is the FamilySearch version of Wikipedia. There are information pages for places (countries, towns, parishes, states, etc.) with all kinds of links to record sources. There are also subject / topic information pages on all aspects of genealogy research. To access the information, type your search term into the search field (magnifying glass) and press enter to see a list of results.

The research wiki has additional links in a Table of Contents display on the left side of the screen. One of the links (Family History Library) takes you to the Family History Library menus, where you can access the Library Services (Lookup Request form) and Learning Resources (free courses).

Library Services Page

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/family-history-library/library-services>

This page contains links to information pages on services offered by the Family History library. This includes scanning and media conversion services, research help (20 minute zoom meeting) and the records lookup service.



You can either select the particular service from the Services menu (top of the Family History Library Services page), or scroll down to see clickable images for each of the service categories.

- Research Help:
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/family-history-library/research-help>
- Record Lookup Service:
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/family-history-library/record-lookup-service>



To display the *Remote Access Services Request* form (Lookup Request form), scroll to the bottom of the *Record Lookup Service* page and click the green *Request Lookup* button. The *Exploring FamilySearch* video on my YouTube channel demonstrates how to fill in the form.

Additional Resources

There are a lot of RootsTech videos as well as FamilySearch classes and webinars covering all aspects of the FamilySearch website. FamilySearch offers the following free course that covers various ways to search historical records and the catalog:

I Didn't Know You Could Search Like That

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/i-didnt-know-you-could-search-like-that-familysearch-catalog>

My YouTube channel (Genealogy: Ties to the Past) also has several FamilySearch videos, including the recording of this *Exploring FamilySearch* presentation. Links to any handouts will be in the video description, immediately below the video itself.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me!

Name: Michele Jeannotte

Email: tiestothevast.mj@gmail.com (or mikeyjca@yahoo.com)

YouTube: Genealogy: Ties to the Past

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiOvzfCLwMe8oWA7s-3O7zA>