

Using Family Search

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www.familysearch.org is a free resource (one of the Super 6 websites) for family history research. It contains or gives you access to:

- ◆ databases of contributed information
 - Ancestral File
 - Pedigree Resource File
 - IGI
- ◆ databases of primary records
 - IGI
 - Vital Records Index
- ◆ databases of secondary records
 - US 1880 Census
 - British 1881 Census
 - Social Security Death Index
- ◆ microfilms of primary records
 - Vital Records
- ◆ microfilms of secondary records
 - Obituary Indexes
 - Church Records
 - Taxation Records
 - Land Records
- ◆ information on locations or families
 - Place Search
 - Surname Search
- ◆ research guidance and assistance

Search Page

best access point for everything listed above

- ◆ Search for Ancestors
 - ◆ Research Guidance
 - ◆ Research Helps
 - ◆ Web Sites
 - ◆ Family History Library Catalog (FHLC)
- Search for Ancestors Tip: Wild Searches** - Read through the Tips for Searching for Your Ancestors section. Then try really vague searches with unique names or in combination with parent names or head of household names.
- Name Tip: Spelling** – Nobody spells it right or the same way every time or between generations or in “black sheep” lines of the family. i.e.: Konrad Weiss, Conrad Weiss, Konrad White, Conrad White, Conner White, Konrad Augustus Weiss, K. Augustus Weiss
- When searching, try to think of every misspelling of the first and last name of the individual to find them or other people from the same area who may be your relatives.
- Name Tip: Partial Names** – No everyone knows the whole name of the ancestor. ie. Jessie Francis Marion Dunlap, JFM Dunlap, Jessie FM Dunlap
- When searching, sometimes less is more. Try entering only the last name or only the first and last name rather than entering middle names. Also try using the middle name as the first name.
- Date Tip: Incomplete or Almost the Right Dates** – An entry may only have a year or a month and a year vs. the complete date.
- When searching, enter partial dates to find more matching entries that might be the person you are searching for.
- When searching, enter at least a ten-year period to increase the likelihood of finding date errors for the person you are searching for. Enter a date range 5 years prior to and 5 years after your date.

- ❑ **Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource File Tip: Data Accuracy** – This data is not from a primary source and may be full of errors or may be 100% accurate. Even if 100 researchers have the same data, that data could all be based on one person's assumptions that could have been incorrect:
 - ❑ When looking at new data, always check the source of the data. If the source is not included, contact the original submitter and determine the validity of the data source. Use secondary source data as clues to finding primary sources.

- ❑ **IGI and Vital Record Index Tip: Extracted Records** – This data is directly from a primary source. The data included in this entry can be considered 100% accurate. This data is from a copy of the original document for this life event.
 - ❑ The extracted record may be on microfilm and contain more data than included in the computer databases. The source film # may be the microfilm number. Order the film and search the records for more data.
- ❑ **IGI Tip: Parent Search** - Search by major surname and location. Try a parent search to see if a whole family is in the index. Try another individual search for the parents to see if another generation is in the index.
- ❑ **IGI Tip: Patron Sheets** - This data is not from a primary source and may be full of errors or may be 100% accurate. Even if 100 researchers have the same data, that data could all be based on one person's assumptions that could have been incorrect:

- ❑ **Census Tip: Neighbors** - Many people in the 1880's lived near families or in ethnic communities. Check out the neighbors and click over to original images of census. Browse the whole page before and after to find same surnames or related surnames. These three censuses were very influential for their countries and thus very complete. Other censuses for these countries are available and searchable on-line for free.

- ❑ **Social Security Death Index Tip: Immigration Data** - Find death dates and places, a birth date and a residence during the life span. Use data to send for the actual application and find residences and parent's names and immigration data.

- ❑ **Research Guidance and Research Help Tip: Beyond Belief** - Once you get to your hard part in family history work, this is the place to go.

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| ◆ Forms | ◆ Map (general detail) | ◆ Resource Guide |
| ○ Census Blanks | ○ Current | ○ Finding Your Ancestors () |
| ○ Basic Forms | ○ Historical | ◆ Word List |
| ◆ Letter-Writing Guide | ◆ Research Outline | ○ Common words |
| ○ Foreign writing | ○ For locations | ○ Multiple texts |
| ○ English subtitles | ○ For Groups | |

- ❑ ***Web Sites Tip: Registered Sites Only*** - These are not all the family history websites, just those registered here. See the Name Tips above and the Location Tips below to make finding a website more successful. Or go to www.google.com or the “search thingy” at www.rootsweb.com or www.cyndislist.com where success is more likely.
- ❑ ***Family History Library Catalog Tip: Digitized Books*** - It's not just microfilms and fiche anymore. Look for the red font in the Title Details screen to see if the book is on-line and ready to read right now.
- ❑ ***Family History Library Catalog Tip: More than Microfilm*** - The searches and the indexing of the FHLC can yield helpful information without even ordering the microfilm or book. The Notes section of the details pages can yield the missing bit of information that breaks down a brick wall.
 - ❑ ***Place Search Tip***- Add county names to all of your locations to make research easier in the future. Find a brief timeline of county to find where prior records are located and the historical names of the location. Determine types of available records for your location and the time periods available. Find other locations within the larger region which may also hold records for you.
 - ❑ ***Surname Search Tip*** - Find books about your family if your particular ancestor is indexed. Read the excerpts to see if there is a potential match. See if books have been digitized and are on-line or order the microfilm.
 - ❑ ***Keyword Search Tip*** - Enter ethnic groups and find record collections which may help with older research. Also enter locations here. You'll get a different set of results compared to the place search. See if books have been digitized and are on-line or order the microfilm.
- ◆ ***Location Tip: Cities and Counties*** – Many people confuse the city and the county. Redmond, King, Washington could be listed as Redmond, Washington or King, Washington or King, Redmond, Washington
 - When searching, search under all names for the location including township, region, city, state, county, parish, village and country. Switch to more specific locations. Enter one detailed location with the country. Enter the city only.
- ◆ ***Location Tip: Historical Names*** – Location names change over time due to wars and migration that can change the country ownership and county lines.
 - When searching, determine the location name at that period in time. Make sure you use the correct country and county. ie. Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austro-Hungarian Empire
 - When searching, use the detailed location with the former counties and state as well as with the current day county and state as well as with the surrounding counties and states and then mix up the old county with the new state etc.

The Other Pages

- ❑ Home Page - Welcome, Questions, GEDCOM explanation, Download Products
- ❑ Library Page - Hours of Operation, Planning a Visit, Education Programs, Floor Plan