



**SA Genealogy &
Heraldry
Society Inc**

**Library
201 Unley Road
Unley SA**

**FACT
SHEET**

FamilySearch

The FamilySearch web site at < www.familysearch.org > has been developed to a level beyond that found at LDS Libraries and other locations that have the resource on CDs or fiche.

The material is not a primary source and is essentially an index that points users in the right direction. Every entry needs to be followed up and the film of the original document ordered at your local LDS centre. Material with certain batch numbers (see end of this article) needs to be treated with some scepticism. Private findings that have been entered into the database. Some of this is quite wrong.

Obviously by following a few basic steps and reading the site instructions carefully you will enhance your access.

Before undertaking any form of research, you should make thorough preparations to ensure that the time spent on gathering up the information is well used. A research log is a useful tool for all researchers. Not only does it become a useful summary of all the records you have visited but also it ensures you are an effective researcher. The log can be a simple exercise book ruled into columns headed; Research, location, date, and result. Enter into the research column the work you intend to do. Once you have entered all the assignments you wish to pursue on the web, then it is time to go on-line. If you have your own Internet access, then you are quite familiar with this process. If you do not have such access at home, then you may consider visiting your library to undertake the work. If you need to resort to this avenue, it may still be an advantage to you if your local LDS Library is further removed and/or you wish to use the valuable links the on-line version allows.

All Resources Search

The first place to visit at the *FamilySearch* site is the *All Resources Search* function. This is the first form that you see when you enter the *Search* page of the site. This will search the whole range of databases available and give you an overall picture before you get down to specific searching. Type just the family name of the ancestor being researched to see what records are being located. If too many are available, then refine the search by adding in a given name, a spouse name and/or parents' names. Accessing this file first may save you a great deal of time. You will note that there are several other fields of search available. Use these when you

need to be more specific or focused on a particular event such as a census or a baptism.

Other features

There are a number of other features listed in the menu on the left side of the screen. Here is where you can download a free latest version of Personal Ancestral File [PAF]. One word of caution, do not order the other products on line. It is much simpler and quicker to do so through the Sydney Distribution address with a credit card or cheque.

LDS Distribution Centre
PO Box 350
Carlingford NSW 2118

You will also find a range of useful forms—the essential tools of research.

Batch numbers

Batch numbers refer to the sources of information for entries in the IGI.

1. Extracted records (Church and civil birth, christening, and marriage). Letters *C*, *J*, *K* and *P* indicate christening or birth records. *E* and *M* (except M17, M18) indicate extracted marriage records. The numbers 725, 745, and 754 refer to vital record indexes, and 744 to other extractions.

2. Church generated forms submitted by Church members since 1969 or selected temple and deceased church member records. The letter *F* and all-digit numbers (with a 3rd digit below 4) indicate family group records, Individual Entry forms, and Marriage Entry forms. An all-digit reference often indicates that someone has researched the name. The numbers 01-23 indicate family group records submitted outside the USA

Accessing the books in the library at Salt Lake City

The Library pages at FamilySearch allow you to locate a multitude of books on subjects of interest to researchers. The only problem is that the library is in Salt Lake City! The LDS offers a service you may like to employ if you cannot find the book in question at your regional library or via an inter-library loan.

The Photoduplication Unit at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City encourages people to send requests in on the form: *Request for Photocopies - Census, Books, Microfilm, or Microfiche* (Item # 31768) and *Request for Photocopies - International Genealogical Index and Sources* (Item # 31831) which can now be printed in high-quality Adobe Acrobat format from the website. To find the PDF files, first click on the *Search* tab and then on *Research Helps*. Here you will see and select *Sort by Title* on the left hand side of the web page. Lastly, click on the letter *R* from the alphabet list and you will see the forms at the top of the Title list. Be sure to click on the *PDF* button to the right of the Description and download the image with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader.

If you prefer to write your credit card information on the form you can, or if you want, you can send it via e-mail as they have a secure line.

Accessing Batch Numbers at the Hugh Wallis site

By accessing the Hugh Wallis site at: < freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hughwallis > you can see if the parish records of interest to you have been filmed by the LDS and are available on the IGI. The page also allows you to access the material on the IGI directly. Another useful feature at this site is the ability to locate persons listed in the IGI by their second given name. A very useful feature denied to researchers at the *FamilySearch* site.

Adapted and updated from an article by Graham Jaunay originally published in *The Genealogist* Feb 2000