Using A FamilySearch Affiliate Library

Presented by Mary T. Westerhold January 21, 2024

What is a FamilySearch affiliate library?

Hundreds of FamilySearch affiliate libraries are helping extend FamilySearch's services to millions of patrons worldwide. Affiliate libraries have access to FamilySearch's digital genealogical collections that are otherwise accessible only through a FamilySearch center. Local affiliate libraries may be a public or higher education library, archive, museum, cultural center, or genealogical or historical society. (Source: https://www.familysearch.org/en/affiliates/about)

Before visiting the FamilySearch affiliate library

- Start your research at home
- Remember that records are available on FamilySearch worldwide, not just where the Affiliate library is located.
- Create a free FamilySearch.org account if you do not have one.
 - Go to FamilySearch.org
 - Click on Create Account in the upper right-hand corner and follow the instructions
- Login to FamilySearch.org

Begin your search

If you have never used FamilySearch.org, please read the article listed below. For anyone who is familiar with FamilySearch.org, the article also includes helpful definitions of the icons you see in your search results and suggestions on using the unindexed collections available on FamilySearch.org.

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/img_auth.php/c/c9/Tips_and_Tricks_for_Using_FamilySearch's_Historical_Record_Collection.pdf

Once you are logged into FamilySearch.org, click on Search and select one of the options (records, images, family tree, genealogies, catalog, books, and research wiki).

As an example, select Records under the Search option and enter the name of an ancestor and a place they lived.

The results will vary and you may need to look through a few pages of results until you find one that interests you.

Click on that result and additional information will show in the right-hand panel with an option to View Record. Click on View Record.

On the left-hand side of the record, there will be a box that either shows an image of the original record or shows the image below:



When you click on the box, the following information will appear if the image can be viewed at an affiliate library:

Image Available

To view these images do one of the following:

- Access the site at a FamilySearch center.
- Access the site at a FamilySearch affiliate library.

Be sure to make a note of this record so you view the image at the Affiliate library.

NOTE: When you are at the Affiliate Library, you can use your own laptop logged into the guest WiFi to search or use one of the computers at the library.

When searching at home, the search results will show the following images:



When searching at the Affiliate Library, the results will show the following images with camera icon indicating additional information:



In addition to a records search, an image search can also yield additional records at an Affiliate Library. Many of these records are not indexed, but can still be viewed. However, it is best to search these at the Affiliate Library.

As an example, select Search and then Images. When the Search Historical Images screen opens, enter Illinois as the place. As of today, there are 54,736 results.

At the Affiliate Library, the same Image search for Illinois returned 79,927 results.

However, when searching at home, there is no indication that additional records are available at the Affiliate Library. So be ready to spend some time with the additional images!