

FamilySearch Research Wiki: Guide to Great Genealogy Links

At the end of class each student will be able to:

I. Explain the value the Wiki.

A. Definition:

1. Wiki: An Internet site that can be edited by the public. Wikis usually feature internal and external links to further information. Some wikis are encyclopedia like.
 2. FamilySearch Wiki: An Internet wiki with encyclopedic data about how to do genealogical research. **Note:** It does NOT show genealogies, nor used for queries.
 3. Wiki explains how-to & background more—USGenWeb amalgamates database links.
- B. Original seed material for the Wiki was from the old FHL **research outlines**.
- C. Provides Internet **links** to **BEST** info and databases needed for genealogical research.
- D. Background on: **dates, jurisdictions, record types, repositories, migration routes**.
- E. *Wiki* and *FS Catalog* are a power combination for retrieving our ancestors' documents.
- F. When is it useful to check through information on the Wiki? — Almost always.
1. Whenever you begin researching a family in a new area.
 2. Answering questions about how to do genealogy in any area where you are weak.

II. Open the Wiki three different ways:

- A. in your browser by typing **wiki.familysearch.org** in the URL address box.
- B. from within FamilySearch by hovering over the **Search** tab.
- C. from a Google search for a topics like **New York genealogy**, or **Virginia genealogy**.

III. Search the Wiki using the search box to find (a) places, (b) topics, and (c) categories. These are mostly taken from the Family History Library Catalog.

- See https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Choose_a_Record_Type#Sources_Useful_to_Genealogists
- **Look up** FHL Catalog Place Search for **New York**, click search, and examine the Search Results list.

IV. Explain how the Wiki is organized to help researchers find U.S./ Canadian ancestors.

- A. Nations, states, counties, (in New England) towns, and categories.
- B. Within states. **Tennessee**
 1. Topics list.
 2. BMD links.
 3. Online collections link.
 4. Counties list
 5. Extinct counties list
 6. Repositories list
 7. Migration routes list
 8. FS Historical Records list
- C. Within counties. **Muskingum County, Ohio**
- D. Online digital collections links.
- E. Other outside links.
- F. Internal links.
- G. Record Selection Tables at national level pages

V. Show how to find:

- A. United States and Canada
- B. Individual states **Kansas or California**
- C. Counties **Cook County, Illinois or Hill County, Texas**
- D. Towns **Boston, Massachusetts, or Saint Albans Town, Vt**
- E. Topical Pages
 1. Tracing Immigrant Origins
 2. United States Migration Internal
 3. Tracing LDS Ancestors
 4. American Indian Genealogy

5. African American Genealogy
6. Quick Guide to African American Records
7. Jewish Genealogy Research
8. Principles of Family History Research

VI. Answer typical genealogical questions using the Wiki.

- A. **Dates.** What district was formed from part of the Camden District, South Carolina in 1791?
- B. What year do the first Brooklyn, New York vital record births start?
Marriages?
Deaths?
- C. **Jurisdictions.** Taos County, New Mexico lost land to the creation of Colorado in 1861. How many counties, or parts of counties were eventually created in CO from former Toas County?
- D. Name the counties in Delaware.
- E. **Repositories.** Which regional branch of the National Archives has information about Tennessee?
What hour does that repository usually open?
- F. What is the telephone number of the Aiken County, South Carolina probate judge?
The Aiken County original estate (probate) documents are at the SC Dept. of Archives and History for what years?
- G. **Records.** Gosport, New Hampshire is extinct now. What kind of records exist for this place?
Where can the records of this former town now be viewed?
- H. Where are the county records of the former Carson County, Utah (now Nevada)?
- J. **Records loss.** What happened in 1977 to cause damage to Buchanan County, Virginia records?
What Wiki article gives suggestions for overcoming this damage?
- K. **Migration routes.** In what town does the Fall Line Road start?
In what town does the Fall Line Road end?
Does it go through Kershaw County, South Carolina?

VII. Help: Editing the Wiki

Homework: Explore these pages—browse and **ponder** how pages like these could help your research.

- New Sweden
- Hamburg Passenger Lists
- Great Valley Road
- Catskill Road
- Burned Counties Research
- Solving Tough Research Problems—Overcoming Brick Walls
- New York Public Library
- Arizona Archives and Libraries
- St. Bartholomews Parish, South Carolina
- Boston, Massachusetts
- Maine plantations
- Blackfeet Indian Agency (Montana)