

Beginning LDS Research

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This class will review sources for researching members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). Many sources are available online and in the Family History Library and can be used to find biographical and historical information about an ancestor. Ward, branch, conference and mission records can be used to find baptismal dates, parents, or other information about an ancestor.

Background Information

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) was organized in Fayette, New York in 1830
- Settlements in Kirtland, Ohio and Jackson County, Missouri began in 1831
- Early 1830's missionaries sent to Canada
- In 1837 missionaries were sent to the British Isles
- Between 1839 and 1845, Church members began to settle in Nauvoo, Illinois
- Migration to the Great Salt Lake Valley began in 1847
- Perpetual Immigration Fund began in 1849
- Missionaries sent to France, Italy, Switzerland, and Scandinavia beginning in 1850

Time Periods in LDS History

- Early Church, 1830-1847
 - New York, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, to Utah
- Pioneer Period, 1847-1869
 - Crossing the Ocean
 - Crossing the Plains
- Colonization Period 1869-1900s

Online Compiled Sources

- *Tracing LDS Ancestors*, https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Tracing_LDS_Ancestors
- Family Tree, www.familysearch.org, sign in and then go to Family Tree
- FamilySearch Pioneers, https://familysearch.org/pioneers?cid=lp-pc15-3361#
- *International Genealogical Index*, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/igi>

- Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource File, <https://familysearch.org/family-trees>
- Early Church Information File, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2078505>
- Membership of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1830-1848, <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/334417?availability=Family%20History%20Library>
- Early Members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/534926?availability=Family%20History%20Library>
- Family Group Record Archives, 1942-1969, proxy temple work completed between 1942-1969, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2060211>
- Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah, FHL book 979.2 D3e, https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE4566552
- Encyclopedic History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, FHL book 289.309 J453e, contains history of LDS wards and branches, etc. https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE1018871
- Patriarchal Blessings, Information on ordering <https://history.lds.org/article/chl-pb?lang=eng>

Sources For Crossing the Ocean and the Plains

- Mormon Migration, <http://mormonmigration.lib.byu.edu/> (digital copies of many passenger lists)
- Overland Travel Database, <https://history.lds.org/overlandtravels/>
- Mormon Immigration Index, available at FHL and many Family History Centers on CD
- Trails of Hope: Overland Diaries and Letters, 1846–1869, <http://overlandtrails.lib.byu.edu/>

LDS Census Records, Ward, Branch, Conference, and Mission Records

- For ward, branch, conference and mission records on microfilm, search in the catalog for the city where the ward or branch was located. You can also use, *Register of Genealogical Society Call Numbers*, FHL microfiche 6031507 to find wards, branches, conferences, and missions.
 - FHL has ward records, 1830s to 1948 and Form E's, 1907-1948
 - Also available at the Church History Library
- LDS Church Census Records, 1914-1960, 651 films, beginning FHL film 25708
- Deceased Membership Records, 1942-1988, listed in alphabetical order, beginning FHL film 884001 (cannot be ordered to a Family History Center)

Other Records Available on Microfilm and Microfiche

- *Index to The Journal History of the Church*, 58 rolls of film, beginning FHL film 1233503, and *The Journal History of the Church*, 248 rolls of film, beginning FHL film 1259729 , Also available online at the Church History Library, https://history.lds.org/article/journal_history_guide?lang=eng
- *Historian's Office Record of Members, 1839-1913* (known as Minnie Margetts file), 16 rolls of film, beginning FHL film 415444, heavily British but does contain US members
- *European Emigration Card Index, 1849-1925*, 9 rolls of film, beginning FHL film 298431
- *Utah Immigration Card Index, 1847-1868*, 3 rolls of film, beginning FHL film 298440
- *Emigration Records, European Mission; 1849-1885, 1899-1923*, 6 rolls of film, beginning FHL film 25690
- *Scandinavian LDS Mission Index, 344 fiche*, beginning FHL fiche 6060482
- *Perpetual Emigrating Fund*, FHL film 25686
- *Obituary Card Index to the Salt Lake Tribune and Deseret News as of 31 December 1970*, 64 rolls of film, beginning FHL film 821636

Other Online Databases

- Learning Center, *Using the Tree*, <https://familysearch.org/ask/#/tree/>
- Church History Library, Digital Collections, <https://history.lds.org/article/digital-publications?lang=eng>
- Church History Library, Catalog, http://churchhistorycatalog.lds.org/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=CHL_PUBLIC
- *Utah Death Certificates, 1904-1956*, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1747615>
- *Utah State Cemeteries and Burials*, <http://cemeteries.utah.gov/burials/execute/searchburials>
- *Utah Digital Newspapers*, <http://digitalnewspapers.org>, browse county to see newspapers for each county.
- *Salt Lake Tribune* issues from 1872-1977, found at newspaperarchive.com
- *Western States Marriage Index*, <http://abish.byui.edu/specialCollections/westernStates/search.cfm>