Researching on the Wiki

I.   **Introduction**

The Wiki is a compilation of resources available to the genealogy researcher. Ideally, it provides the researcher with information and the best resources, along with a synopsis of those resources, available for their area of interest. The Wiki is not a repository for names or family histories

II. **Parts of the Wiki**

A. The United States
There is a page for the United States, a page for each state, and each county or parish within that state. There also may be city or town pages if there are areas where those are pertinent. In addition, there are topic pages for each state covering a wide variety of topics including African Americans, Bible Records, Immigration, Gazetteers, Military Records, Societies, etc.

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/United_States

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Tennessee

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Davidson_County,_Tennessee

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Nashville,_Tennessee

B. Historical Records Pages

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Tennessee_County_Marriages_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records)

C. Indians of North America Project
https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Apache_Indians

A comprehensive project containing much information and covering all of the United States.

D. England/British Pages

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Suffolk

Extensively developed pages of both county and parish records.

III.   Foreign Wikis

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/es/P%C3%A1gina_principal

The foreign language Wikis are in the early development stages. Each of these will have their own teams working on them and maintaining them. Currently, there are 11 in process:
Chinese
English
French
German
Italian
Japanese
Korean
Portugese
Russian
Spanish
Sweedish

IV.   Wiki Tools
  A.   Searching
  B. Watching Pages
  C. Preferences
  D. User Page
  E. What Links Here
  F. Research Forums
  G. Discussion/Talk pages
  H. Getting Help (For the Trainer)

A. SEARCHING

- **Keywords**, Search the FamilySearch Wiki the same way you would search Wikipedia, by keywords like DAR or Daughters of the American Revolution. Enter the **place**, **subject**, **record type** or the **name of the article** in the search box. (Family names and information on specific families are not found on the FamilySearch Wiki.
- **Not Phrases,** You will not receive the best results if your searches include phrases like "How do I find records for the DAR." Phrases can be used to search both Google and Yahoo but the Wiki search engine is not designed for this type of search.

Advanced Search Tips

1. Use terms "AND," "OR," and "-" (the hyphen for NOT) to help define a search (this is called a boolean search).

Search Strategies

1. Think about what you want to find out about an ancestor. Think about word variations that may be used to describe that type of record. For example, if you want to locate a birth record, this may also appear under the headings "Births," "Vital Records" or "Civil Registration."
2. Second, consider the location where that event may have happened. If you don't have a specific locality, start big. Even searching under "United States Birth" may give you hints on trying to narrow down your search.

3. If the search results do not help you locate what you need to learn about an ancestor, think about other records that may possibly contain the information you want to learn. For example, a death record may contain an ancestor's birth date and place to make it easier to locate the ancestor's parents or other helpful information.

B. Watching Pages

The Wiki has a collection of special pages and tools to keep track of what is going on. You can watch for example:

- recent changes to all pages
- the revision history: all changes made to one page
- the contributions of one specific user
- newly created pages

To monitor recent changes to all pages, you go to Special Pages and choose "Recent Changes." This displays all edits, file uploads, page moves, deletions and other actions done in the wiki.
In the menu on top it offers a collection of links to customize your display: limit the number of changes shown, the number of days or restrict it to edits to a certain namespace. You can also hide edits marked as minor (don't forget that major changes can be flagged by a user as minor anyway).

One line in recent changes consists of several links:

- **diff** displays the difference to the previous revision of the page,
- **hist** links to the revision history of the page,
- the link with the full title of the page brings you to the current version. If the title is in bold, it indicates that it is on your watchlist.
- Next is a flag describing the article modification type:
    - **N** signalizes a new page,
    - **m** a minor edit,
    - **b** an edit made by a bot.

Following the timestamp is a number within parentheses with a **+** or **-**. This refers to the number of bytes that have been added or removed. Next, the user is mentioned with a link to their user page and their talk page or to their contributions (in the case of anonymous users).
Last, there is an edit summary, appearing in italics, if the user submitted one when they made the edit.

C. PREFERENCES

User profile

Change password

E-mail

If you have supplied an email address, you will need to click the *verify address* button in order to use these functions. You will receive an email; simply open it and follow the link to enable the following functions.

- *E-mail me when a page I'm watching is changed*
- *E-mail me when my user talk page is changed*
- *E-mail me also for minor edits of pages*
- *Enable e-mail from other users*
- *Send me copies of emails I send to other users*

Languages

From your preferences you can select what language you would like the interface to be in. Only the buttons like 'edit' and 'talk', in addition to a few pages in the sidebar, will be affected.

Skin
Files
Date and time
Editing
Recent changes

- *Days to show in recent changes*: Here you can specify how far back the recent changes pages will go. Note that the list will stop prematurely if the number of edits is exceeded (see below)
- *Number of edits to show in recent changes*: Here you can specify how many edits should be displayed.
- *Hide minor edits in recent changes*: This enables you to hide edits marked as minor (seeHelp:Editing pages). Since some users will rapidly make a lot of tiny tweaks to update templates or fix spelling errors you may find enabling this to be useful. You can also turn this on temporarily from the recent changes page (see Help:Tracking changes).
- *Enhanced recent changes (JavaScript)*: Enhanced recent changes condenses edits into a per-page list. As indicated, this requires JavaScript to be enabled. See Help:Tracking changes for more information on this feature.

Watchlist

Setting to control the behavior of the watchlist. Most of these options are also available on the watchlist display itself, but by setting them in your preferences you control the default behavior, i.e. Every time you visit the watchlist it will do the same.

Search

Default settings for searches including how many results to display and how much context to show for each result. Check the boxes next to the namespaces which you want to show up, the first time that you search for something. You can override this when doing an actual search, by checking or unchecking the boxes at the bottom of the search results screen.

Misc

D.   USER PAGE

A **user page** is a page about a wiki user, someone who registered on the wiki. If you have registered, you can create your own user page. Your user page is linked at the top of the **Personal tools** section of the menu bar. More importantly, others will see links to your user page from various places which assist wiki collaboration. They include the 'Recent changes' and page 'history' displays. You can also link to your user page within text of a wiki page, which is mainly useful on talk pages when you sign your name.

Creating your user page

This will help other users and contributors learn about you and your interest in family history.

1. Using the navigation menu on the right side of the page, expand **Personal Tools** by clicking on the arrow out to the right.
2. The first item you see under **Personal Tools** should be your username. Click on this, and it will take you to your user page.
3. Before you make your first edit to your user page, a message will display there saying "This page has not been created yet." Do not let that confuse you; just click on **Edit This Page** and begin typing.

What to put on your user page

User pages are just as flexible as any other wiki page, and your user page is a page all about you, so generally people will leave you to freely write your user page in whatever format you like. Think of it as a 'profile' page. It's a feature that's in the wiki for the purpose of helping other people know who a contributor is and of bringing the online community closer together. You might like to mention where you are from and what your job is. You can also state what your main areas of interest are in relation to the topic of the wiki and describe contributions you have made or areas where you are interested in contributing.

Helping others find you

If you are involved in a community where individuals know your full name and would like to help others find your user page by searching on your name, you can create a new page with the title of your full name, then create a redirect to your user page. This will bring your user page up first in the search results if other users search on your name.
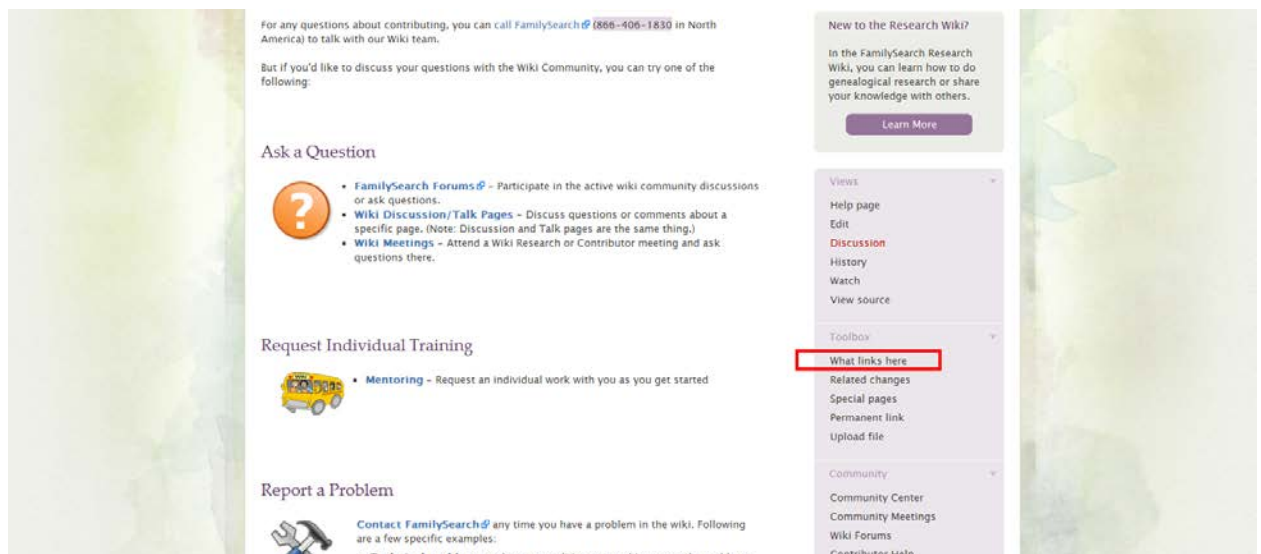
Other people's user pages

As mentioned above, you will see links to other people's user pages in various places throughout the wiki.

User Contributions

When viewing another person's user page, an additional link, "*user contributions*", appears in the 'toolbox' area (bottom right). This takes you to a list of all of this user's wiki edits. Use this to get an idea of how prolific a contributor somebody is or to track down edits made by a user who is causing trouble/making bad wiki edits.

E. WHAT LINKS HERE

This is the first selection under the Toolbox heading on the right side navigational menu. This feature can prove to be a valuable research resource by suggesting pages that might not readily come to mind. Clicking on this option generates a hyperlinked list of every page in the Wiki that is linked in any way to the page you are currently on.

F. RESEARCH FORUMS

While not actually a part of the Research Wiki, you can communicate with the Support Team, as well as other members of the Wiki Team, on the four Wiki threads on the [Research Forums](#).

1. [Wiki Trainers](#) ~ This forum is especially for FHC Trainers and is a place to post questions or discuss issues concerning working with the Wiki.
2. [Contributors Corner](#) ~ This forum is the place that new ideas for the Wiki, as well as changes being considered, are discussed.
3. [Contributor Help](#) ~ This forum is much like the Wiki Trainers forum, but for general Wiki users. It is ok to post your general help questions in this forum if you would like to, but we recommend using the Trainer's forum.
4. [WikiProjects](#) ~ This forum is the place ongoing projects are discussed.

G. DISCUSSION/TALK PAGES

Every page has an associated Discussion or Talk page which can be used for discussion and communicating with other users. For example, an article on London birth records will have a discussion page where Wiki users might make suggestions for improving the article or call into question the article's accuracy.

How to add your comments to a discussion page.

1. Make sure you have registered and signed-on to the Wiki so you can have rights to edit the disussion page
2. Click the the *Discussion* tab at the top of the page on which you want to add your comments.
3. Click the **+** tab at the top of the page.
4. In the *Heading/subject* field, give a title to your discussion point.
5. Add your comments to the discussion page by typing in the editing box.
6. When you are finished adding your discussion point, scroll to the bottom of the page and click the *Save Page* button.

Technical note: A discussion page is actually very similar to any other wiki page, but it is in the 'talk' namespace, to keep it separate from the articles in the 'main' namespace. As with any wiki page, you can edit it, link to it, and view the editing history.

Editing conventions on talk pages

- Always sign your name after your comments. Use the four tildes '~~~~' wiki syntax (or the toolbar button)
- Start a new discussion with a ==level 2 heading== at the bottom of the page (or use the '+' tab)
- Indent replies with colons (':') at the beginning of the line.

User Talk pages

A "user talk page" is a place where you can leave a message for a specific wiki contributor. The user talk page is associated with their "user page" (see Help:User page).
The contributor will see a note at the top of every wiki page when they have received a message. They may be notified by email as well, although this cannot always be relied upon (since the email notification feature must be activated by supplying a valid email address, and clicking a confirmation link).

You can leave a message inviting the contributor into a discussion in the where more contributors gather.

If you don't get a response to your user talk page message, try looking for other contact details which they may have supplied on their user page.

Note that the messages are not private, and others can join in the conversation.

H.   GETTING HELP

There are several options for the Wiki Trainer to obtain answers to their questions.

5. Call Wiki Support   866-406-1830, #3. There is a missionary from the Support Team available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. This is the fastest way to get a question answered in the event a you are working with a patron or in need of immediate assistance.

6. Ask a question on the Wiki Trainer Skype chat. The members of the Support Team who are working with FHCs monitor this chat during weekdays from approximately 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, other Wiki Trainers may be active on the chat.

7. Post a question on the Wiki Trainer thread on the Research Forums. This thread was created especially for the FHC Wiki Trainers, and the Support Team will also monitor it. We hope to eventually have active discussion dialogue between Wiki Trainers on this thread to share ideas, discuss issues, etc.

Using the Family Search Wiki to Find Information on
Charles Franklin Middaugh
1879 - 1941

According to the records that have been passed to me, Charles Franklin Middaugh was born 28 Jan 1878, in Hepburn, Page, Iowa and died 24 Jun 1941, in Los Angles, Los Angles, California. His parents are William M. Middaugh and Valerie Conroe. He was married to Roxie Olive Cranmer, 28 Oct 1900 in Chillicothe, Livingston, Missouri. She was born 15 Sept 1883, in Memphis, Scotland, Missouri. Roxie died 10 Feb 1974, in Pomona, Los Angles, California. Charles and Roxie are my Great Grandparents on my mother's maternal line.

Knowing Charles died in Los Angles I started on the Wiki Main Page https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page I entered California in the search bar and chose the first article about the State of California https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/California. I then clicked on the Los Angeles County Link https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Los_Angeles_County,_California. Next I clicked on 3.25 Vital Records in the contents box. This took me to the Vital Records section where I clicked on "The California Death Records 1940-1997" which is a link to Rootsweb http://vitals.rootsweb.ancestry.com/ca/death/search.cgi?cj=1&netid=cj&o_xid=0000584978&o_lid=0000584978. In the RootsWeb site in the rectangular box in the middle of the screen I entered Middaugh, Charles and found the index listing for Charles Franklyn Middaugh, http://vitals.rootsweb.ancestry.com/ca/death/search.cgi?surname=Middaugh&given=&dyear=&dplace=&mlast=&flast=&year=&bplace=&sex=&start=16&stype=Exact. Besides his death date and place, it lists his mother's maiden name, his father's last name, his sex, place of birth, date of birth, social security number and his age at death. Using the same steps I was also able to find the death index for listing for Roxie O Cranmer under her married name of Middaugh.

Knowing that Charles had come from Missouri, I decided to take a chance and see if there was mention of his death in any of the Missouri Newspapers. At https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page I entered Missouri in the Wiki search bar. Again choosing the first article listed, which is about the State of Missouri https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Missouri . Family records indicated they were from Livingston County, so I chose the Livingston County link. https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Livingston_County,_Missouri . In the contents box, I clicked on 4. 10 Newspapers, and found the following link: Archives of The Chillicothe Constitution Tribune (1889-2009) which provides free access to their newspapers online.   I clicked on the link and I was able to search the Digital Archives of the Constitution-Tribune, printed in Chillicothe. I entered Middaugh and the years 1941-1941 in the search bar and was taken to the following link: http://chillicothe.newspaperarchive.com/PdfViewer.aspx?img=114313927&firstvisit=true&src=search&currentResult=0&currentPage=0 . I learned that Charles had died suddenly of a heart attack. He was a member of the Chillicothe Police Department. The article lists his wife's maiden name and a brother still living in Chillicothe at the time.

Back to the Livingston County Page Contents, this time under the 4.2 Census Records heading I clicked on the "Missouri Census" link. https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Missouri_Census.   In the 1930 census I was not able to find Charles and his family either in California or Missouri. I remembered my Grandma, Lois Middaugh married John Jacks and the Jacks were from Kansas, so I decided to check the 1930 census for Kansas. Back to the Wiki main page https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page, I entered Kansas and selected the first entry "Kansas" https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Kansas. Then on to Census in the Kansas Topic list https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Kansas_Census. From the table, I selected "Free", "Family Search", "1930", "indexes" and clicked "Link". Entering Charles Middaugh in the search bar and clicked search. I was taken to an indexed list of Charles Middaugh's in Kansas in the 1930 census https://www.familysearch.org/search/records/index#count=20&query=%2Bgivenname%3ACharles~%20%2Bsurna

me%3AMiddaugh~&collection_id=1810731. Selecting Charles Middaugh with spouse Olive R Middaugh I found my great-great grandparents listed in Burr Oak, Doniphan, Kansas https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/X73T-2QQ. Back to the Wiki main page https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page , I entered Kansas and selected the first entry "Kansas" https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Kansas . Then on to Census in the Kansas Topic list https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Kansas_Census. This time, I selected "Free", "Family Search", "1920", "indexes" and clicked "Link". Entering Charles Middaugh in the search bar I clicked search. I was taken to an indexed list of Charles Middaugh's in The United States in the 1920 census https://www.familysearch.org/search/records/index#count=20&query=%2Bgivenname%3Acharles~%20%2Bsurname%3Amiddaugh~&collection_id=1488411 and found Charles F Middaugh with wife Roxie O Middaugh and family in Buchanan County, Missourihttps://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/M84S-YYW. So, if you are not sure which state your family lived in during a specific census year it is still possible to find them.

Using the same process I then searched the 1910 census index and found Charles and his family in Livingston County. https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/M2BS-77H. In the 1900 census https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/M3ZK-MWX I found Charles living with his brother John Alfred and family. If I want paper copies of these census records I can go to the Family Search Center in Ogden and use Ancestry.com to print the actual image or use my library card and access Heritage Quest from home to print the image.

I decided to take a small side trip and see what other information I could find on the Middaugh line in Livingston County. I found information on several Middaugh's, but decided to look more specifically for Charles' brother John Alfred, since he had lived with him in 1900.

Using the Livingston County Wiki page https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Livingston_County,_Missouri contents box I selected 4.10 "Newspapers" and was taken to the link: Archives of The Chillicothe Constitution Tribune (1889-2009) printed in Chillicothe. Searching for "John Middaugh" I found the following obituary http://chillicothe.newspaperarchive.com/PdfViewer.aspx?img=114332701&firstvisit=true&src=search&currentResult=0&currentPage=0, showing that John Middaugh died Wednesday 29 September 1948.

I then went back to the Livingston County page https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Livingston_County,_Missouri and again looked under vital records 4.13 https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Livingston_County,_Missouri#Vital_Records. Clicking on the link to Missouri Death Certificates http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/ , I next clicked on Search Death Certificate Database. I then I entered the name John Middaugh in the search bar and found 3 John Middaugh's with one "John A" dying in Livingston County. The view image button displayed the death certificate that can be printed at http://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1948/1948_00033482.PDF . Just below the link for John Alfred's death certificate was a link for a John L. Middaugh http://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1941/1941_00038135.PDF. This certificate indicated that the father of the deceased John L Middaugh was the John Alfred I was originally researching. A newspaper article stating that this John L. was killed in an automobile accident was located by using the Chillicothe newspaper archives http://chillicothe.newspaperarchive.com/PdfViewer.aspx?img=114315043&firstvisit=true&src=search&currentResult=2&currentPage=0. Back at the Livingston County page https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Livingston_County,_Missouri and using the Coroner's Inquest link under the Vital Records Section I was able to find out how to get a copy of the Coroner's Inquest into the death of John L. (Lewis) Middaugh http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/coroners .

The parents of Charles Franklin Middaugh are William M. Middaugh. He was born Apr 1821 in Indiana and died 14 Mar 1905 in Livingston County, Missouri. William married Valarie Conroe. They were married Sept 0f 1855 in Iowa. Valarie was born Nov 1833 in Indiana. She died 29 Mar 1905 in Livingston County, Missouri. This couple represents a brick wall so I decided to start using the census' to follow Charles back through the years and in the process I may be able to break through my brick wall.

As a side note using Google images putting "Charles Franklin Middaugh" in quotes I was directed to this page:

http://www.google.com/search?tbm=isch&hl=en&source=hp&biw=1579&bih=706&q=Charles+franklin+Middaugh&gbv=2&oq=Charles+franklin+Middaugh&aq=f&aqi=&aql=&gs_l=img.12...1913.7720.0.9859.25.17.0.8.8.0.153.2262.1j16.17.0...0.0.mz3JZcfJqTo#hl=en&gbv=2&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=%22Charles+franklin+Middaugh%22&oq=%22Cha

rles+franklin+Middaugh%22&aq=f&aqi=&aql=&gs_l=img.12...71204.74945.0.76926.2.1.0.1.0.0.192.192.0j1.1.0...0.
0.ctbx6rjaG-0&bav=on.2,or.r_gc.r_pw.r_qf.,cf.osb&fp=480390c173605c05&biw=1579&bih=706

and it brought up a couple of pictures of Charles and his wife Roxie. I knew the pictures existed but finding them with Google Images was interesting.