

FamilySearch

Best Tools

[VIDEO LINK](#)

Overview

FamilySearch offers some of the most powerful tools for exploring your family history. In this handout and video, we will dive into some of my favorite features that will elevate your research to the next level.

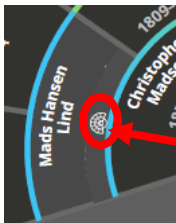
For step-by-step guidance on getting started with FamilySearch, including basic instructions and navigation tips, be sure to check out the other [Guide to FamilySearch video](#) and [handout](#).

Tree View & Filters

Briefly About the Tree

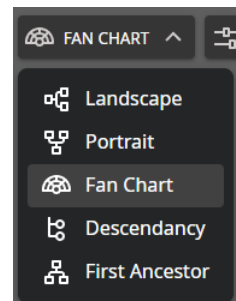
In the tree view, there are a few key features to highlight. To **access the tree**, click on **Family Tree** and then select the **Tree tab**. From there, you can filter the view to your preference. The **Fan Chart**, **Landscape**, and **Portrait** views offer the **ancestral view**.

The **descendancy view** allows for viewing the descendants of a selected person. All



these views use the **'home person'** as the starting point for constructing the tree. You will have different filters available depending on which tree view you are using.

Hover over a person in the **Fan view** to see a **mini fan**. **Click on the mini fan to move them to the center** of the fan tree.



Filters

In the upper right corner, you will find a slider that allows you to adjust the filters for the tree view you are currently using.



Fan View & Filters

While there are several filters to explore, here are a couple of particularly helpful ones you can use in the fan view. **Start by setting your tree view to the fan view.**



Birthplace

Clicking on the birthplace filter will colorize the tree to indicate which branches originate from various parts of the world, with a legend displayed on the left side for reference (as shown below).

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch interface with a fan chart pedigree. The 'Options' menu on the right is open, and the 'Birth Place' filter is selected, indicated by a red arrow. The legend on the left side of the fan chart shows the following categories:

- United States (Light Blue)
- Denmark (Pink)
- British Colonial America (Light Green)
- England (Light Orange)
- Germany (Light Yellow)
- United Kingdom (Light Purple)
- Unknown (White)

Research Helps

Research Helps is one of the most valuable features in the FamilySearch tree. It highlights data issues, record hints, and research suggestions. The tree will be colorized with a legend on the left side for your reference. Using this filter can help you **maintain an accurate family history**.

Keep in mind that the FamilySearch Family Tree is a vast, **collaborative global tree**, and **new records are added every day**. As a result, the information is frequently updated. **Check the Research Helps filter regularly** to ensure your tree is current and free of errors. Additionally, you can expand the fan view to show up to seven generations.

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch interface with a fan chart pedigree. The 'Options' menu on the right is open, and the 'Research Helps' filter is selected. The legend on the left side of the fan chart shows the following categories:

- Data Problems (Light Blue)
- Record Hints (Light Green)
- Research Suggestions (Light Orange)

Landscape & Portrait Tree Views

Switching to the landscape or portrait tree views and applying the filters provides additional information about potential errors, research, and record hints. You can toggle the features on and off to display what you want to see in your tree. Pay attention to the icons that indicate record hints, research suggestions, and data problems. Look closely at these icons next to each hint to explore them further.

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch Family Tree interface in Landscape view. The top navigation bar includes 'FamilySearch', 'Family Tree', 'Search', 'Memories', and 'Get Involved'. Below the navigation, there are tabs for 'Overview', 'Tree', 'Recents', 'Find', 'Following', 'Private People', 'My Contributions', and 'Family Groups'. The main area displays a grid of individual profiles, each with a name, birth/death dates, and a profile picture. A red arrow points from the 'Record Hints' toggle in the 'Options' panel to a blue hint icon on a profile card.

Options Panel:

- Show
 - Record Hints
 - Research Suggestions
 - Data Problems
 - Portraits
 - Marriages
 - Children
 - Alternate Parents and Spouses
 - Dark Mode (In Progress)
- PRINT

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch Family Tree interface in Portrait view. The top navigation bar is the same as in the Landscape view. Below the navigation, there are tabs for 'Overview', 'Tree', 'Recents', 'Find', 'Following', 'Private People', 'My Contributions', and 'Family Groups'. The main area displays a vertical pedigree chart with individual profiles. A red arrow points from the 'Alternate Parents and Spouses' toggle in the 'Options' panel to a red icon on a profile card.

Options Panel:

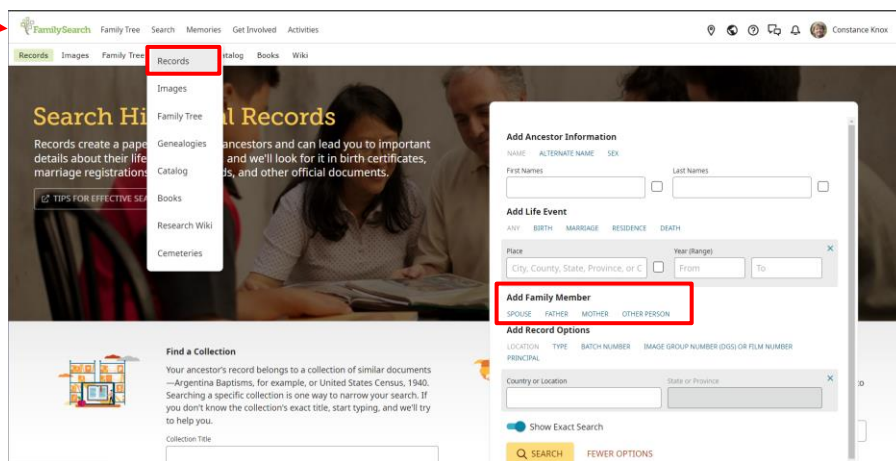
- Show
 - Record Hints
 - Research Suggestions
 - Data Problems
 - Portraits
 - Alternate Parents and Spouses
 - Dark Mode (In Progress)
- PRINT

Finding People

Simple Search

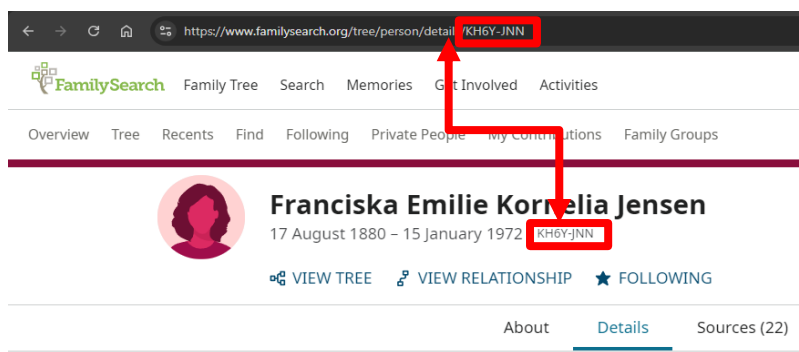
There are several ways to search for an individual:

- Clicking on the FamilySearch logo in the upper left corner of the website takes you to a page with a search for an ancestor window on the right-hand side.
- From anywhere on the platform, you can click on the search button and choose records for a search window. For more accurate results, it is helpful to click on "more options" and provide additional family information.



Person ID

Each person in the FamilySearch tree has a **unique ID number**, which can be found at the end of the URL for their profile and **under their name in the profile view**.



To **copy this ID number**, hover over and click on it in the profile. Then, add it to your research notes to easily locate the person again by searching for the ID.

Additionally, it is helpful to **include the ID number in your Ancestry.com ancestor profile** by using the "Add a Web Link" feature in the **Sources** column of the Ancestry profile view.

Search by ID

Go to **Search**, then **Family Tree**. You then can search by **name** or **Find by ID**.

Find by Name
Find by ID

Ancestor ID

An individual's unique ID number is in the format XXXX-XXXX.

SEARCH

Profile Tips

The **About** tab provides a quick overview of your ancestor and is a good place to include stories and photographs you may want to share.

Franciska Emilie Kornelia Jensen

17 August 1880 – 15 January 1972 • KH6Y-JNN

VIEW TREE VIEW RELATIONSHIP FOLLOWING

About

Details

Sources (22)

Collaborate (0)

Memories (0)

Time Line

Brief Life History of Franciska Emilie Kornelia

When Franciska Emilie Kornelia Jensen was born on 17 August 1880, in Denmark, her father, Anker Lawrence Jensen, was 24 and her mother, Christiane Beck, was 36. She married Herman Miller Madsen on 23 August 1905, in Laramie, Albany, Wyoming, United States. They were the parents of at least 2 sons and 6 daughters. She immigrated to United States in 1883 and lived in Albany, Wyoming, United States in 1920 and Los Angeles Judicial Township, Los Angeles, California, United States in 1940. She died on 15 January 1972, in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, United States, at the age of 91.

[MORE](#)

This life history was computer-generated. It is based on the information on the Details tab. To change it, edit the data on the [Details](#) tab. [Learn more](#)

Photos and Memories (0)

Do you know Franciska Emilie Kornelia? Do you have a story about her that you would like to share? [Write a story](#)

Time Line SHOW

- 1880 • **Birth** • Age 0

17 August 1880
Denmark
- 1882 • **Immigration** • Age 1

1882
- 1883 • **Immigration** • Age 2

1883
United States
- 1888 • **Death of Parent** • Age 7

Christiane Beck
11 January 1888
Wyoming, United States

Spouse and Children

Herman Miller Madsen

1880-1905

The **Details** tab is divided into two columns. The left column displays all the details already added to the ancestor's profile, while the right column is useful for starting additional research. We will focus on a couple of features in the right-hand column that are often overlooked.

Christiane Beck

30 October 1843 – 11 January 1888 • K2MW-L91

VIEW TREE VIEW RELATIONSHIP FOLLOW

About

Details

Sources (13)

Collaborate (3)

Memories (1)

Time Line

Vitals

Detail View

Name • 11 Sources

Christiane Beck

Reason: Birth record with this spelling
Last Changed: May 1, 2021
DagmarThorisdottir

Sex • 8 Sources

Female

Last Changed: May 28, 2012
Lindie Turley

Research Help (2)

- P Possible Missing Child

The last child was born 3 or more years before the mother turned 40.
- P Possible Missing Child

There is a gap of 3 or more years between the birth of one child and the next sibling.

SHOW ALL

Research Help

The research help widget on the right-hand side of the profile view is particularly useful for alerting you to problems and provides explanations for these issues.

Notes

Another area in the Profile view (right-side column) is the **Notes** section, where other researchers collaborate on information about the ancestor. This section contains hypotheses and thoughts from fellow genealogists. Drill in to see who left the notes. You can then click on their username to reach out to them if needed.

Notes (3) ^

[+ ADD NOTE](#)

1888 Mother Christianne buried with infant
There is one more child that must have died with her at childbirth or something. ...

Possible duplicate person? Kristiane Joanna Bech 1...
This might be the same person as Kristiane Joanna Bech 1850-1886 · K2MW-L91...

Christian Bech, same person?
This is possible the same person as Christian Bech born 30 Oct 1843 in Vejle. ...

[SHOW ALL](#)

Sources Tab

The **Sources tab is likely the most important tab in the ancestor profile** and is the first place I go when researching. It shows what sources have already been attached to the person and highlights any missing information. Click the down arrow (on the right side of each source) to see more details for each individual source. If possible, **drill into the actual record** and view the image.

1876 Kristiane Bok, "Denmark Church Records, 1484-1941" April 11, 2019

VIEW EDIT REVIEW ATTACHMENTS DETACH

Tags
Sex Name + ADD TAG

Source Date
1876

Web Page (Link to the Record)
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QG8Y-S1QP>

Where The Record Is Found (Citation)
"Danmark Kirkebøger, 1484-1941", , FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QG8Y-HDPQ : Tue Jul 23 04:11:22 UTC 2024), Entry for Hermann Frans Christian Schroder and Frederik Heinrick Julius Schroder, 1876.

Indexed Information

Kristiane Bok EDIT
Mentioned in the Record of [Hermann Frans Christian Schroder](#) (Kristiane Bok's Son)

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| | Name Kristiane Bok | |
| | Sex F | |

Kristiane Bok's Spouses and Children OPEN ALL

| | | | |
|---|---------|---|---|
| Frederik Heinrick Julius Schroder | Husband | M | ▼ |
| Hermann Frans Christian Schroder | Son | M | ▲ |

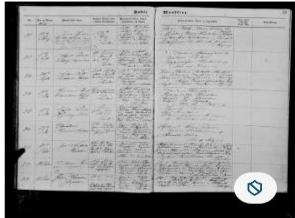
Name [Hermann Frans Christian Schroder](#)

Sex **Male**

Birth Date **5 Oct 1876**

Father's Name [Frederik Heinrick Julius Schroder](#)

Father's Sex **Male**



VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Collaborate

Whenever you have questions about certain records that a person has attached to your ancestors profile. I highly recommend you reach out to the collaborators as they are likely your cousins. Click the Collaborate tab to see who has left notes.

Memories

The Memories tab is an excellent place to upload records or images that you want to share. Keep in mind that anything you upload on the FamilySearch platform is available to everyone.

Timeline

The timeline is one of my new favorite features. It provides a glimpse of your ancestor's timeline in the left-hand column and offers a map with their locations. Click **"Show Route"** (in the lower left of the map) to animate your ancestor's travel path throughout their lifetime. Use Control + the wheel on your mouse to zoom in and out.

VIEW TREE VIEW RELATIONSHIP FOLLOW

About Details Sources (13) Collaborate (3) Memories (1) **Time Line**

Time Line Map SHOW

1843 • **Birth** • Age 0
30 October 1843
Kolding, Koldinghus, Denmark

1844 • **Christening** • Age 0
14 January 1844
Kolding, Koldinghus, Denmark

1857 • **Death of Parent** • Age 13
Johann Frederik Beck
13 September 1857
Kolding, Koldinghus, Denmark

1858 • **Confirmation** • Age 14
1858
Kolding, Koldinghus, Denmark

1871 • **Marriage** • Age 27
**Carl Frederick Heinrich
Christian Julius Schroder**
5 September 1871
Jerne, Ribe, Denmark

Birth of Child • Age 28
Elizabeth Wilhelmina Augusta Schroder

Map Satellite Hide Route

Activities – Where Am I From?

There are many features to explore in the Activities tab at the top of the web page. In the **Activities** tab, go to the **"Where Am I From"** submenu and click on **Timeline**. Here, you can see the locations of your ancestors around the world and zoom in for a closer look. Pay attention to the date sliding bar filter at the bottom of the screen, which allows you to filter to a specific date range.

FamilySearch FamilyTree Search Memories Get Involved **Activities**

Where Am I From? All Activities My Family Lines My Heritage **Timeline**

Where Am I From?
Surname Origins
All About Me
Famous Relatives
Compare-a-Face
Record My Story
Picture My Heritage
In-Home Activities

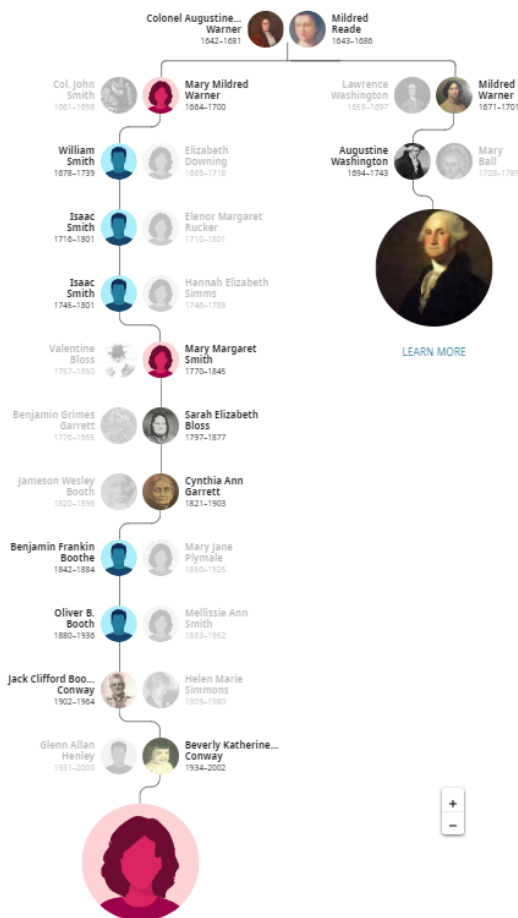
Feedback

Activities – Famous Relatives

Here you can find how you **might** be related to famous people. Click on the **Activities** tab and drop down to **Famous Relatives**.

My mother would have been thrilled to know she might have descended from George Washington, our first President of the United States. Just remember, you need to verify every ancestral link with records.

George Washington
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
MY 2ND COUSIN NINE TIMES REMOVED



To Do List

To-Do List ^

+ Add an item...

Tip: You can paste or enter URLs (https://www.familysearch.org) or person IDs (G7T1-3MF).

USING THE TO-DO LIST

The To Do List is a feature that I was not even aware of until just recently. Clicking on the FamilySearch icon in the upper left corner will bring you back to the home screen. From there Scroll down on the right hand side and you will see a mini widget that says To Do List.

Here you can keep track of items that you would like to do. I highly recommend that you add a URL hyperlink to the To Do List so that you know which ancestor and where you need to go next. Items can be checked off as you complete them.

Bonus Tip – Finding How Any Two People Are Related

In this bonus tip, I will show you how to find a *possible* path between any two people as long as they are both in the FamilySearch tree. **Remember, you need to verify these connections with records before you can prove the connection.**

In this case, I wanted to see if **Daniel Boone** (famous frontiersman) **was related to James Madison, Jr.** (U.S. President).

- 1) In order to do this trick to work, you will need to get the ID number for both people on FamilySearch before moving on to the next step. Search for and go to their profiles and get the ID numbers. Here I've found:
 - a. James Madison is ID LZTD-MFS
 - b. Daniel Boone is ID LBMJ-QRX
- 2) In a new browser tab go to <https://relativefinder.org/> and **login with your FamilySearch username and password.**
- 3) Click on the **Connect** tab at the top of the screen.
- 4) Choose the appropriate radio button. In this case I wanted to see if Daniel Boone was related to James Madison, so I chose the second button "See the relationship between two deceased people."

Home
Groups
Request

See your relationship with a deceased person
 See the relationship between two deceased people
 See your relationship with people nearby
 See relationships as if you were a different person

Connect Two Deceased

Please enter the FamilySearch IDs of the two people you would like to connect.

←

Daniel Boone

←

James Madison

The results show they are supposedly 5th cousins, once removed. Again, verify your connections with records for proof! Click on the name under Relative to see the path to the common ancestor.

Relative Finder v2.0 Home Groups Requests Connect Help Contact

Viewing all relationships for James Madison and Daniel Boone

| Relative | Relationship | Common Ancestor |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| James Madison | 5th Cousin 1 time removed | Margaret Whittington |

Items per page: 30 1 - 1 of 1

Click into the Relative to get more information.


Relative Finder v2.0 Home Groups Requests Connect Help Contact

5th Cousin 1 time removed

Download PDF Chart Options

Daniel Boone
LBMJ-QRX
Mother/Father Chain:
MFFFMM

James Madison
LZTD-MFS
Mother/Father Chain:
MFFFMM
Learn More:
en.wikipedia.org



Roger Bodenham 1512-1578 G69F-NFW

Margaret Whittington 1518-1578

Thomas Throckmorton 1509-1586

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Thomas Morgan 1536-1603 L196-YHR | Elizabeth Bodenham 1538-1636 L196-T7J | Anne Throckmorton 1546-1591 LZTH-492 | John Tracy 1544-1591 2137-JSP |
| Dorothy Englefield 1575-1660 L116-BS8 | Edward Morgan 1562-1653 L216-X96 | Dorothy Ann Tracy 1563-1612 LZGZ-PRH | Edward Vincent Conway 1564-1631 |
| Alice Ann Hopton 1651-1734 LTK4-HNS | James Morgan 1643-1718 LTK4-41L | Edwin Conway 1610-1675 LJM7-JDM | Martha Eltonhead 1608-1689 LH7B-HMG |

SIMILAR VIDEOS

- [FamilySearch Hidden Records: Full Text Search: 2024](#)
- [Conquer Brick Walls in Your Family Tree](#)
- [Find More Wills and Probate Records for Using Both Ancestry and FamilySearch Together](#)
- [Top Free Websites for Family History & Genealogy Research](#)

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