Carlsbad City Library

Genealogy CLASSES

FOCUS ON

FamilySearch.org: *Finding Records*

Today we are going to take a trip around FamilySearch.org—one of the most heavily-used FREE genealogy sites on the Internet. This session will cover searching for records, how to find resources in the card catalog and using wikis to help focus your research.

TIP: If you get lost on our website tour, clicking the FamilySearch logo will always take you back to the FamilySearch.org homepage.

FamilySearch

FamilySearch.org offers many of the same types of records and tools as paid sites. The key feature of the site is its "universal" Family Tree that can be edited by anyone, with each edit ideally backed up by verified sources (the records we will be searching for today).

FamilySearch is the largest genealogy organization in the world. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services each year to learn more about their family history. FamilySearch provides:

A free service to all at no cost no cost	4+ Billion names from all over the world	4,745 FamilySearch Centers Worldwide	24/7 free expert phone support

"Family Tree is not like family history websites where each user can upload a personal pedigree or family tree. Instead, the goal of Family Tree is for all users to work together to create one tree that is shared by everyone."

-Introduction to Family Tree, FamilySearch.org

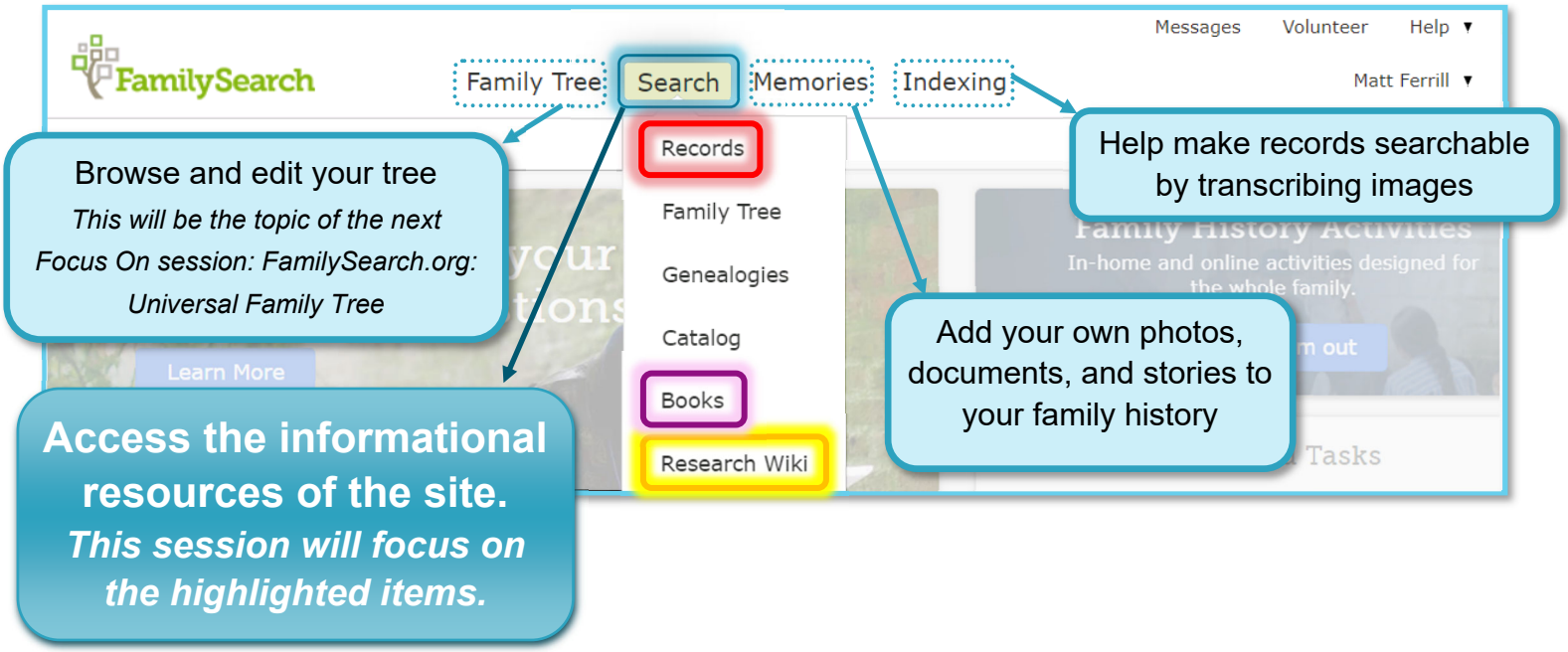
"ancestor" for our exercises:

Lilley B. Cattron

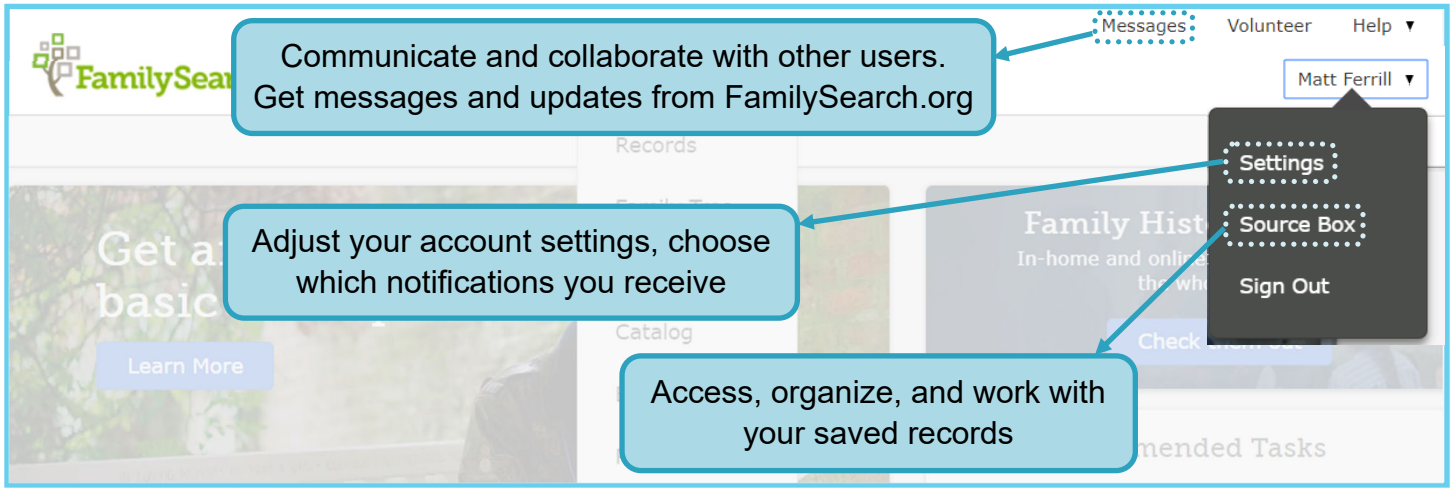
- **b. 13 April 1879 in Scott County, Virginia**
- ***m. Virgil A. Rogers 10 September 1899 in Washington County, Arkansas?***

=Our goal is to find a record of her marriage=

Features of the FamilySearch menu bar

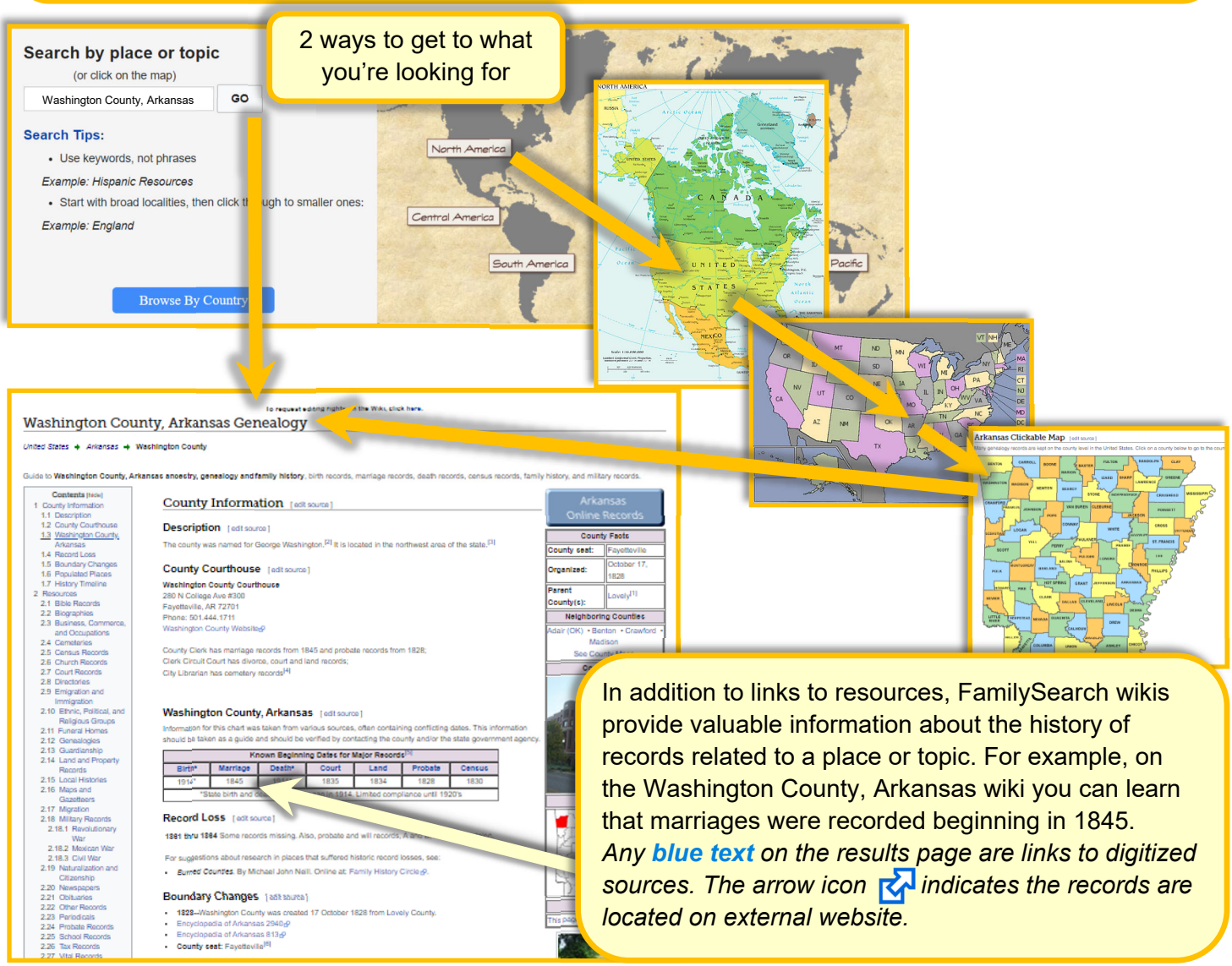


- **Records**—Images and indexes of historical records such as: vital records, censuses, directories, immigration & naturalization, military records, legal documents, and many more
- Family Tree—Search for persons already in the FamilySearch universal Family Tree
- Genealogies—Trees submitted to FamilySearch that are not verified by sources, but can still be useful in finding ancestors
- Catalog—Search and browse for records by source and collection
- **Books**—Search, browse, and read books from the Family History Library and other libraries
- **Research Wiki**—a guide that lists websites, provides research strategies, and suggests records and resources to help you find ancestors from all over the world



FamilySearch Wiki

Wikis are an efficient method for learning what resources are online for a specific location or a general topic. To begin your wiki search, you can enter a topic or place in the search box or click through the map to find articles about genealogical research in a particular region.



For international research, wikis are invaluable! Check out some of the research tools on the German Genealogy wiki!

TIP: Find online records or get help from the community using the Related Resources heading within geographic location wikis!

Germany Online Records | Germany Online Records by State | Ask the Community

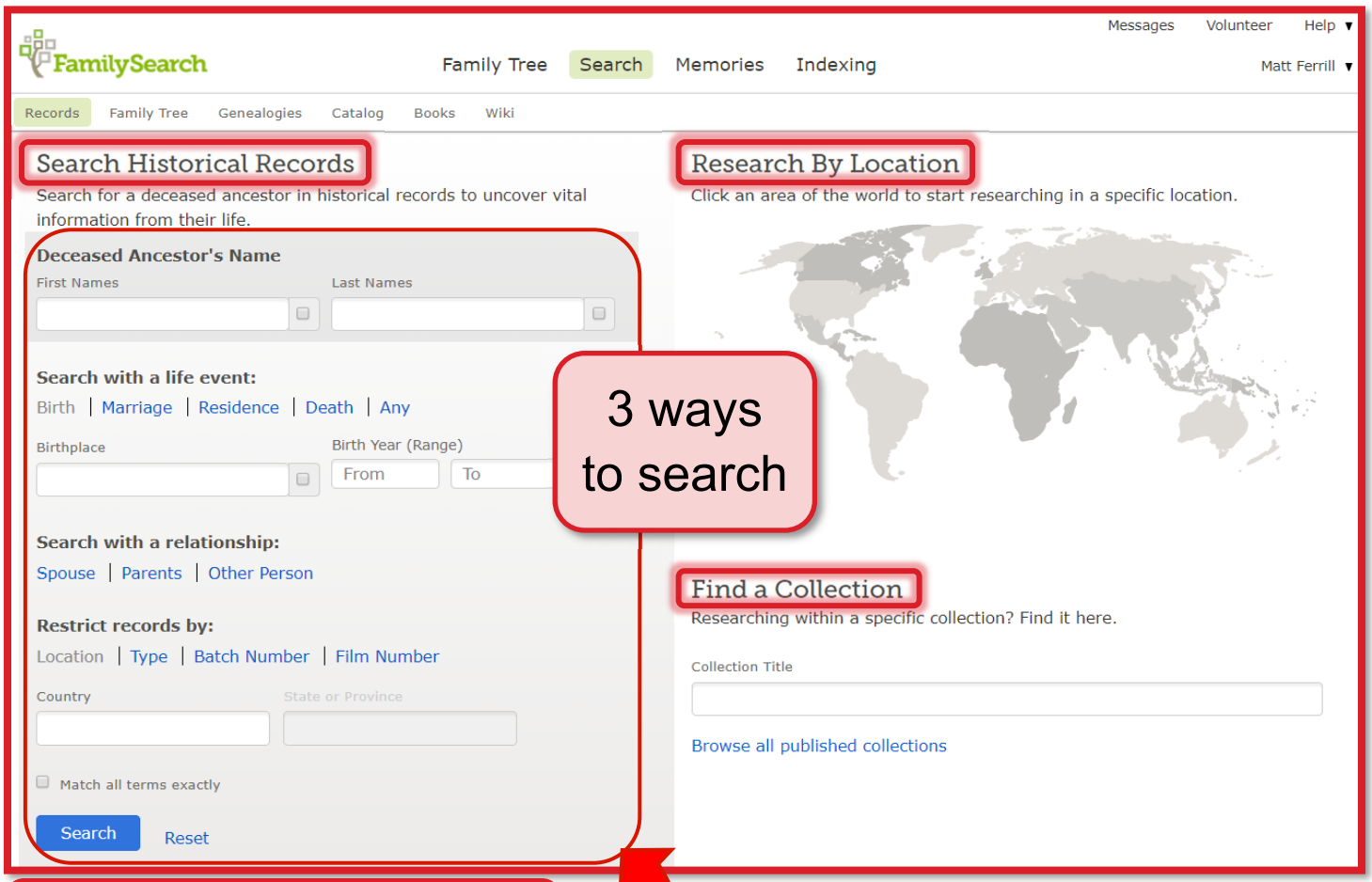
Germany Research Tools

Links to tools and websites that assist in German research:

- Meyers Gaz Online Gazetteer
- Kartenmeister
- German Genealogical Word List
- Latin Genealogical Word List
- French Genealogical Word List
- Old German Script--1: Letters--2: Words--3: Records
- Reading German Handwritten Records--with practice exercises--Records
- German Church and Civil Records
- German Script Tutorial
- German Letter Writing Guide

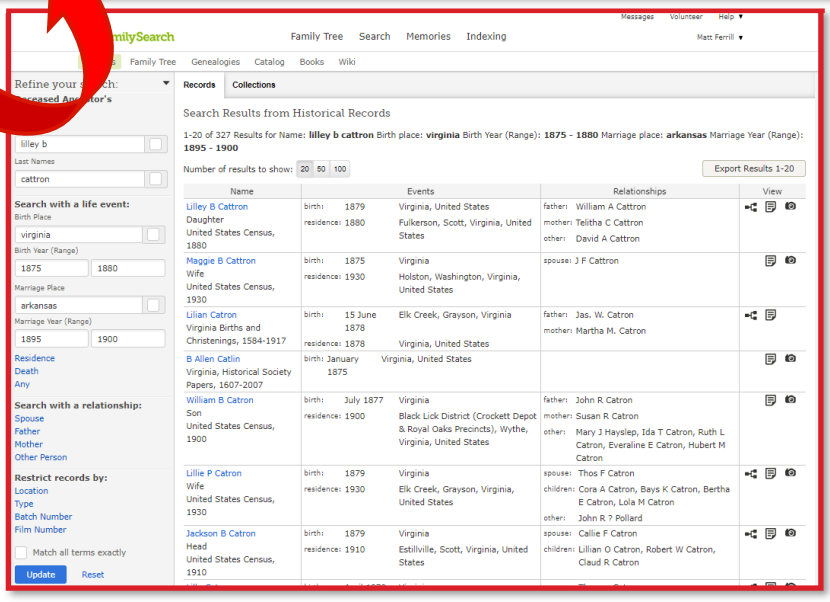
See More Research Tools

Searching for Records



3 ways to search

Search Historical Records



Search Strategies

Less *can be* more!
Entering fewer facts in the search wells will bring up more results, as will leaving the "Match all terms exactly" box unchecked.

Win with Wild Cards!
An asterisk (*) replaces multiple characters, a question mark (?) stands in for a single character. To use a wildcard, you must use at least 3 letters of the name.

Fudge the facts!
Experiment with leaving search wells empty, try different spellings and expand date ranges.

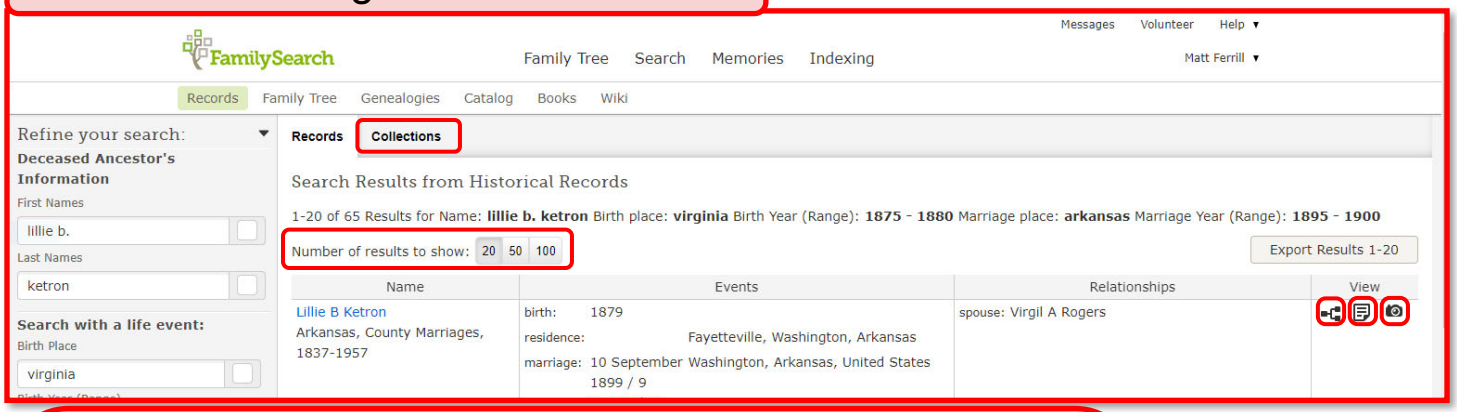
Wildcard Examples

?ettron, Ke*on, C*ron,

?et?on, *ron

Based on results, you can adjust to your search strategy using the **Refine Your Search** menu.

Understanding Search Results



The search results page offers several options for reviewing your records:

- Filter results by collection
- Adjust the number of results displayed
- Already attached to tree—click to view
- View indexed details about the record
- View image of the record

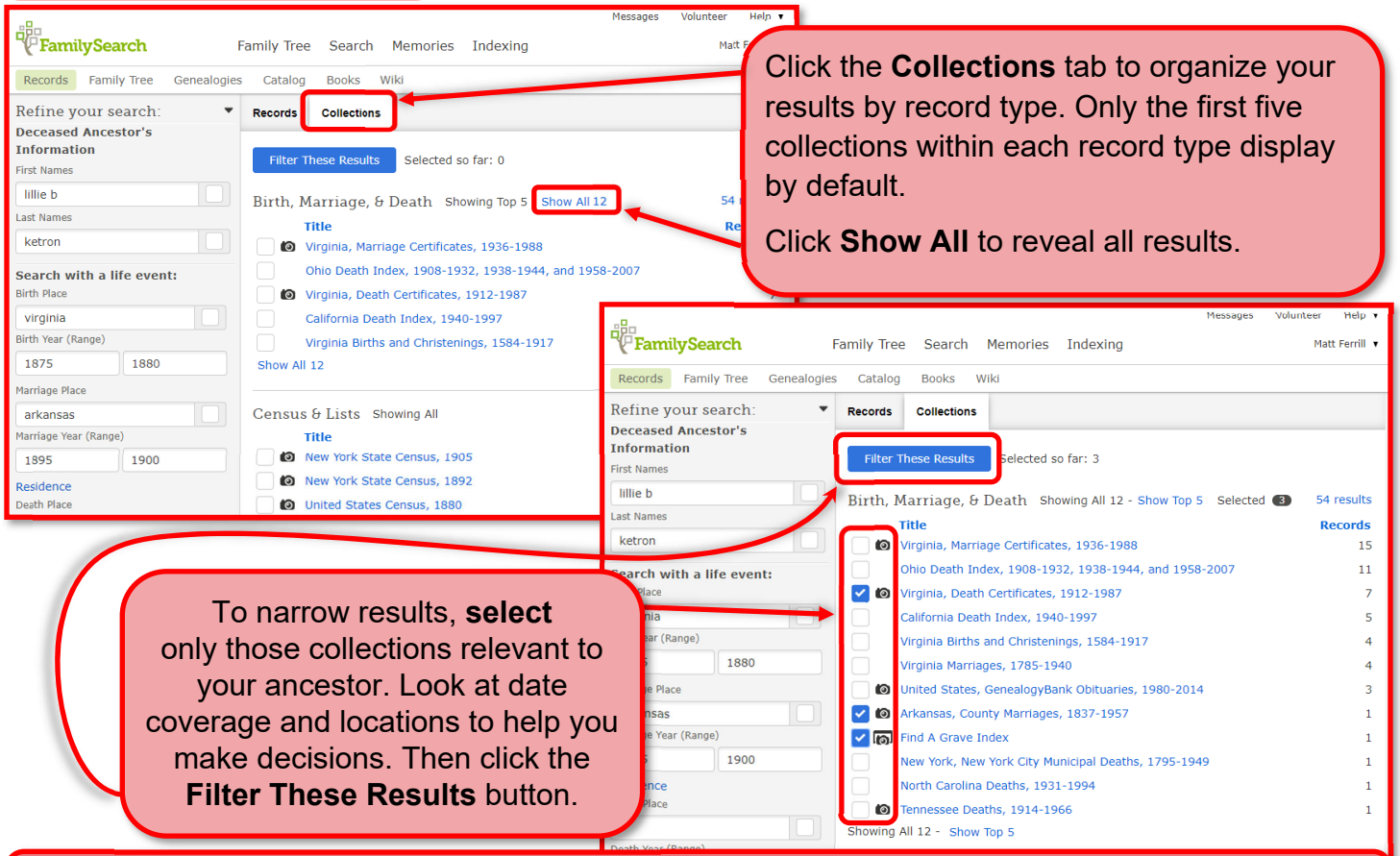
TIP: Differences in the camera icon denote whether the image of the record is available at a Family History Center, through FamilySearch.org or through a partner website.

Image is available in FamilySearch

Image is available only at a Family History Center

Image is available on another website

Sorting by Collection



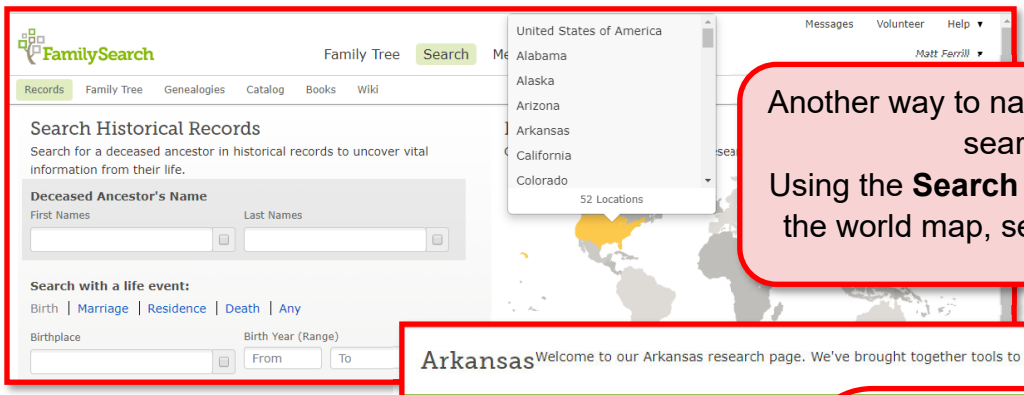
Click the **Collections** tab to organize your results by record type. Only the first five collections within each record type display by default.

Click **Show All** to reveal all results.

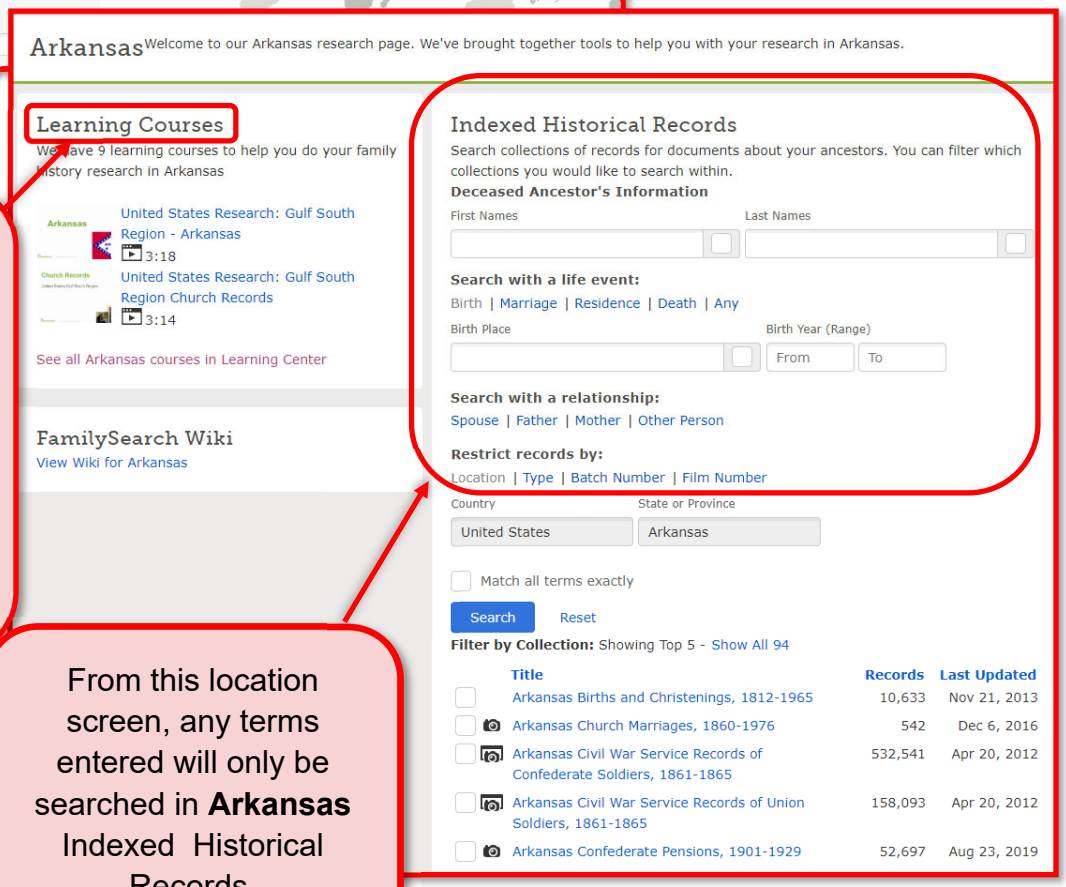
To narrow results, **select** only those collections relevant to your ancestor. Look at date coverage and locations to help you make decisions. Then click the **Filter These Results** button.

TIP: Be flexible! Remember that ancestors sometimes traveled to nearby states to get married, womens' lives before marriage were documented by maiden names, and family stories are sometimes just stories!

Searching by location



Another way to narrow your results is to start a search by location.
Using the **Search** menu, choose **Records**. On the world map, select a country and/or state.



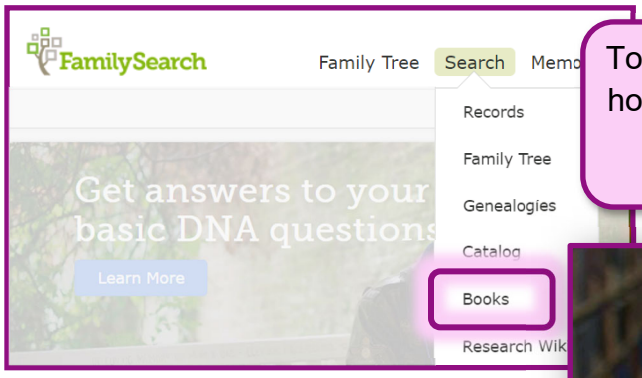
The **Learning Center** provides online instructional videos to help researchers like you learn about what records are available, as well as the historical context of the area. It can also be accessed from the Help Menu.

From this location screen, any terms entered will only be searched in **Arkansas** Indexed Historical Records.

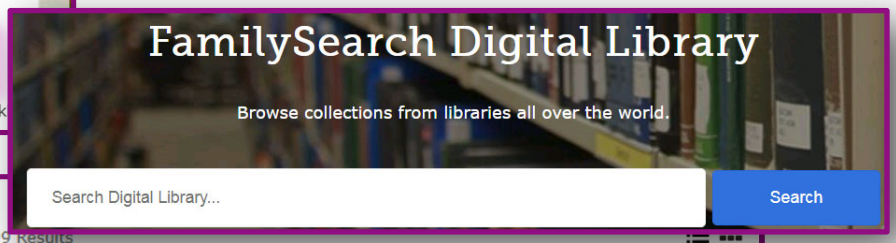
TIP: Remember to scroll down to see other collections that have not been indexed. These ***Image Only*** collections can not be searched by keyword but they can be browsed just like browsing through a book or microfilm.

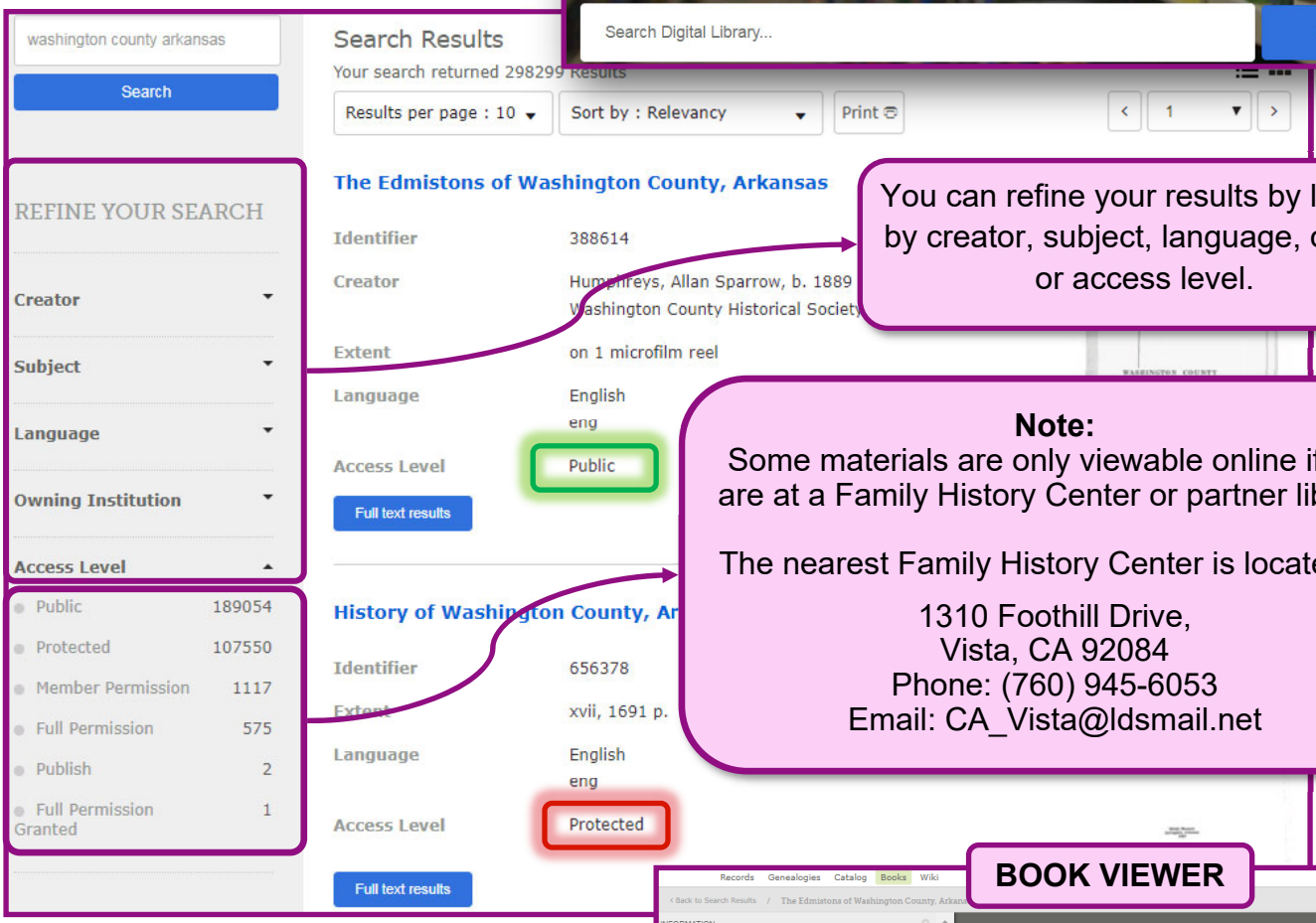
Click on the title for more information and to navigate through the digitized pages, one image at a time.

Searching for books in the FamilySearch Digital Library



To search the collection of digital books on FamilySearch, hover over the **SEARCH** tab on the homepage and select **BOOKS** in the dropdown menu.





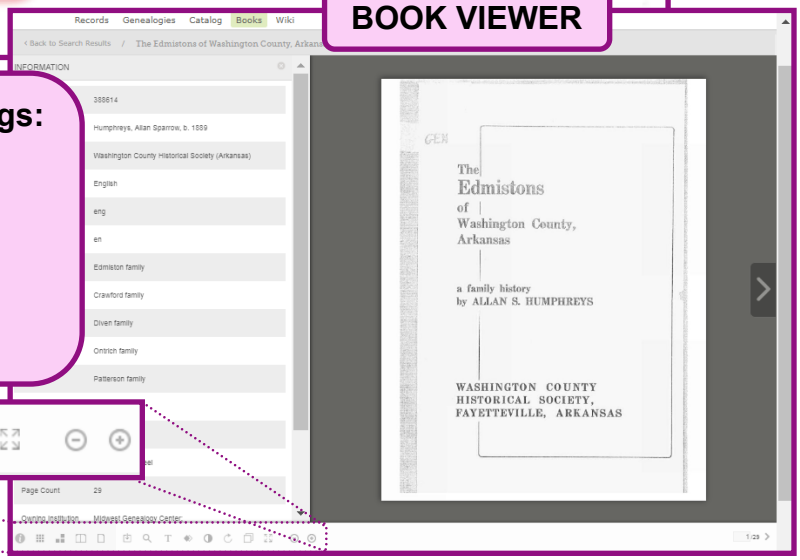
You can refine your results by limiting by creator, subject, language, owner, or access level.

Note:
Some materials are only viewable online if you are at a Family History Center or partner library.

The nearest Family History Center is located at:

1310 Foothill Drive,
Vista, CA 92084
Phone: (760) 945-6053
Email: CA_Vista@ldsmail.net

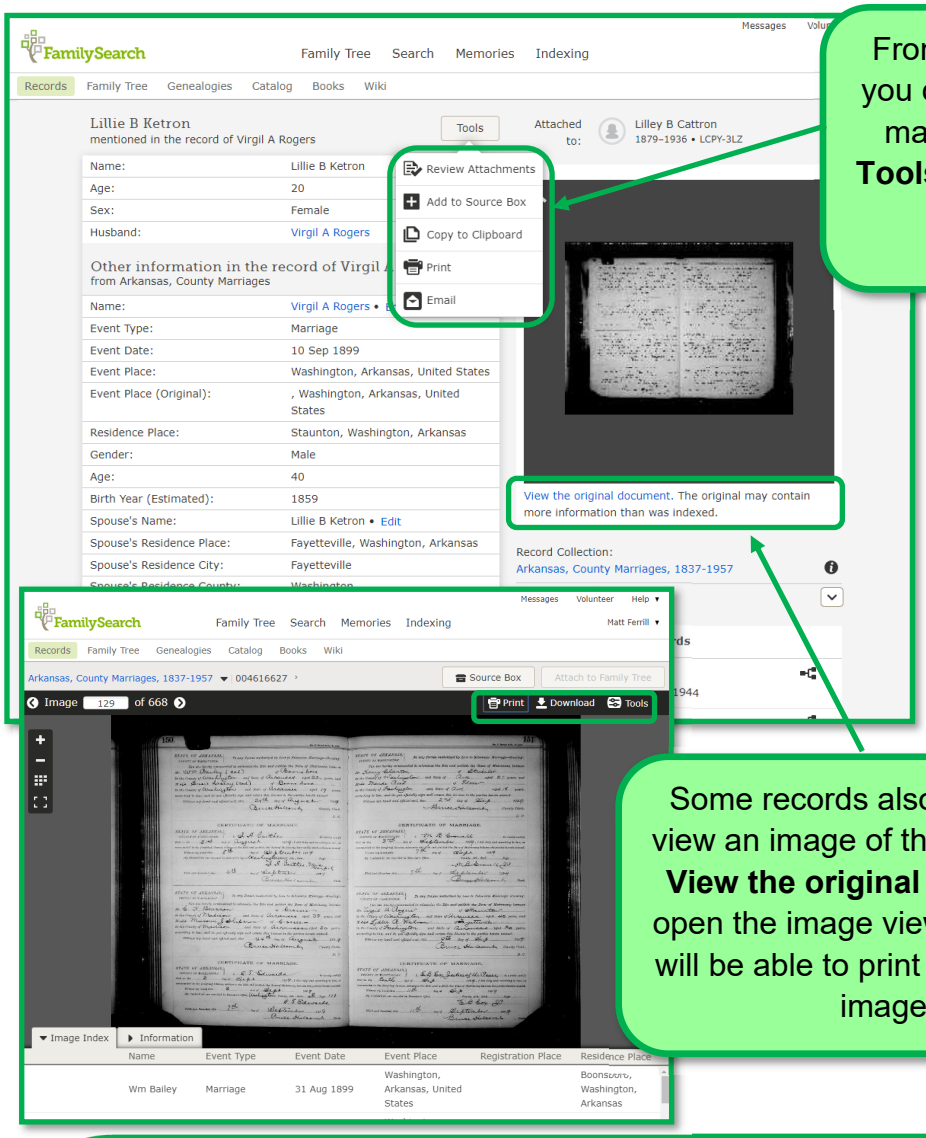
BOOK VIEWER



TIP: The tool bar allows you many things:

1. **Search keywords**
2. **Adjust the readability of the text**
3. **Rotate and enlarge image**
4. **View multiple pages**
5. **Download/Print**

Viewing and saving records



From the record view screen, you can see any indexed information and by selecting the **Tools** button, can save print, or email the record.

Some records also allow you to view an image of the record. Click **View the original document** to open the image viewer where you will be able to print and download images

TIP: Check out the following resources at the bottom of the main page to get the most out of FamilySearch.org:

Blog Feedback Site Map Solutions Gallery

- **Blog– Read about new features on the website and the act of preserving family history.**
- **Feedback– Tell FamilySearch what you think! Through Feedback users can submit problems, suggestions or compliments!**
- **Solutions Gallery– Links to an array of genealogy apps (free and $$) to use through your desktop/laptop and on iOS or Android mobile devices.**
- **Site map– A easy-to-use guide to the layout of FamilySearch that provides a quick way to find different areas on the site.**