

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.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. Catron

- 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

FamilySearch

Messages Volunteer Help ▾

Matt Ferrill ▾

Family Tree Search Memories Indexing

Records

Family Tree

Genealogies

Catalog

Books

Research Wiki

Help make records searchable by transcribing images

Add your own photos, documents, and stories to your family history

Browse and edit your tree
This will be the topic of the next Focus On session: FamilySearch.org: Universal Family Tree

Access the informational resources of the site.
This session will focus on the highlighted items.

- **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

Messages Volunteer Help ▾

Matt Ferrill ▾

Settings

Source Box

Sign Out

Communicate and collaborate with other users. Get messages and updates from FamilySearch.org

Adjust your account settings, choose which notifications you receive

Access, organize, and work with your saved records

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.

Search by place or topic
(or click on the map)

Washington County, Arkansas

Search Tips:

- Use keywords, not phrases
- Example: *Hispanic Resources*
- Start with broad localities, then click through to smaller ones:
- Example: *England*

2 ways to get to what you're looking for

Washington County, Arkansas Genealogy

United States → Arkansas → Washington County

Guides to Washington County, Arkansas ancestry, genealogy and family history, birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, family history, and military records.

Contents

- County Information
- 1.1 Description
- 1.2 County Courthouse
- 1.3 Washington County, Arkansas
- 1.4 Record Loss
- 1.5 Boundary Changes
- 1.6 Populated Places
- 1.7 History Timeline
- 2 Resources
- 2.1 Bible Records
- 2.2 Biographies
- 2.3 Business, Commercial, and Occupations
- 2.4 Cemeteries
- 2.5 Census Records
- 2.6 Church Records
- 2.7 Court Records
- 2.8 Directories
- 2.9 Emigration and Immigration
- 2.10 Ethnic, Political, and Religious Groups
- 2.11 Funeral Homes
- 2.12 Genealogies
- 2.13 Guardianship
- 2.14 Land and Property Records
- 2.15 Local Histories
- 2.16 Maps and Gazetteers
- 2.17 Migration
- 2.18 Military Records
- 2.18.1 Revolutionary War
- 2.18.2 Mexican War
- 2.18.3 Civil War
- 2.19 Naturalization and Citizenship
- 2.20 Newspapers
- 2.21 Obituaries
- 2.22 Other Records
- 2.23 Periodicals
- 2.24 Probate Records
- 2.25 School Records
- 2.26 Tax Records
- 2.27 Vital Records

County Information

Description
The county was named for George Washington.^[H] It is located in the northwest area of the state.^[H]

County Courthouse
Washington County Courthouse
280 N College Ave #200
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone: 501.444.1711
Washington County Website^[g]

County Clerk has marriage records from 1845 and probate records from 1828; Clerk Circuit Court has divorce, court and land records; City Librarian has cemetery records.^[H]

Washington County, Arkansas
Information for this chart was taken from various sources, often containing conflicting dates. This information should be taken as a guide and should be verified by contacting the county and/or the state government agency.

Known Beginning Dates for Major Records ^[H]						
Birth	Marriage	Death	Court	Land	Probate	Census
1814 ^[g]	1845		1835	1834	1828	1830

^[g]State birth and death records from 1894. Limited compliance until 1920's

Record Loss
1881 to 1884 Some records missing. Also, probate and will records, A...

For suggestions about research in places that suffered historic record losses, see:
• **Buried Counties**. By Michael John Neill. Online at Family History Circle.^[g]

Boundary Changes
• 1828--Washington County was created 17 October 1828 from Lovely County.
• Encyclopedia of Arkansas 2940.^[g]
• Encyclopedia of Arkansas 613.^[g]
• **County seat**: Fayetteville^[H]

Arkansas Online Records

County Facts

County seat: Fayetteville

Organized: October 17, 1828

Parent County(s): Lovely^[H]

Neighboring Counties
Adair (OK) • Benton • Crawford • Madison
See County Website

In addition to links to resources, FamilySearch wikis provide valuable information about the history of records related to a place or topic. For example, on the Washington County, Arkansas wiki you can learn that marriages were recorded beginning in 1845. *Any blue text on the results page are links to digitized sources. The arrow icon indicates the records are located on external website.*

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:

- [Meiers 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

Search Historical Records
Search for a deceased ancestor in historical records to uncover vital information from their life.

Research By Location
Click an area of the world to start researching in a specific location.

Find a Collection
Researching within a specific collection? Find it here.

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.

Search Results from Historical Records
1-20 of 327 Results for Name: **lilley b catron** Birth place: **virginia** Birth Year (Range): **1875 - 1880** Marriage place: **arkansas** Marriage Year (Range): **1895 - 1900**

Name	Events	Relationships	View
Lilley B Catron Daughter United States Census, 1880	birth: 1879 residence: 1880	father: William A Catron mother: Talitha C Catron other: David A Catron	🔍 📄
Maggie B Catron Wife United States Census, 1930	birth: 1875 residence: 1930	spouse: J F Catron	🔍 📄
Lilian Catron Virginia Births and Christenings, 1584-1917	birth: 15 June 1878 residence: 1878	father: Jas. W. Catron mother: Martha M. Catron	🔍 📄
B Allen Catron Virginia, Historical Society Papers, 1607-2007	birth: January 1875	Virginia, United States	🔍 📄
William B Catron Son United States Census, 1900	birth: July 1877 residence: 1900	father: John R Catron mother: Susan R Catron other: Mary J Hayslep, Ida T Catron, Ruth L Catron, Everaline E Catron, Hubert M Catron	🔍 📄
Lillie P Catron Wife United States Census, 1930	birth: 1879 residence: 1930	spouse: Thos F Catron children: Cora A Catron, Bays K Catron, Bertha E Catron, Lola M Catron	🔍 📄
Jackson B Catron Head United States Census, 1910	birth: 1879 residence: 1910	spouse: Callie F Catron children: Lillian O Catron, Robert W Catron, Claud R Catron	🔍 📄

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 screenshot shows the FamilySearch search results page for 'lillie b. ketron'. The search criteria include: First Names: lillie b., Last Names: ketron, Birth Place: virginia, Birth Year (Range): 1875 - 1880, Marriage Place: arkansas, Marriage Year (Range): 1895 - 1900. The results show 1-20 of 65 results. A table lists the record for Lillie B Ketron, born 1879 in Fayetteville, Washington, Arkansas, married to Virgil A Rogers on 10 September 1899 in Washington, Arkansas, United States. The table has columns for Name, Events, Relationships, and View. The View column contains icons for 'Already attached to tree', 'View indexed details', and 'View image of the record'.

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

The first screenshot shows the 'Collections' tab selected. A list of collections is displayed under 'Birth, Marriage, & Death' and 'Census & Lists'. A 'Filter These Results' button is highlighted. A 'Show All 12' button is also visible. The second screenshot shows the 'Filter These Results' button selected, and a list of collections with checkboxes. Three collections are checked: 'Virginia, Death Certificates, 1912-1987', 'Arkansas, County Marriages, 1837-1957', and 'Find A Grave Index'.

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

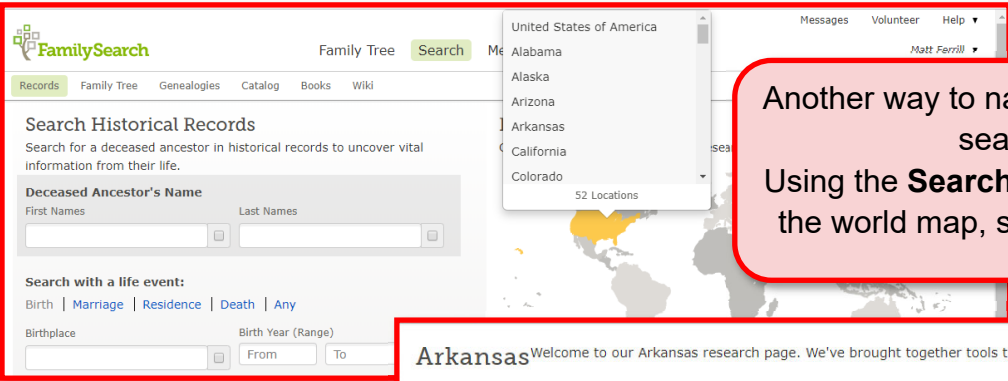
Click **Show All** to reveal all results.

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, women's 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.

Learning Courses

- United States Research: Gulf South Region - Arkansas 3:18
- United States Research: Gulf South Region Church Records 3:14

[See all Arkansas courses in Learning Center](#)

FamilySearch Wiki

[View Wiki for Arkansas](#)

Indexed Historical Records

Search collections of records for documents about your ancestors. You can filter which collections you would like to search within.

Deceased Ancestor's Information

First Names: Last Names:

Search with a life event:
[Birth](#) | [Marriage](#) | [Residence](#) | [Death](#) | [Any](#)

Birth Place: Birth Year (Range): From To

Search with a relationship:
[Spouse](#) | [Father](#) | [Mother](#) | [Other Person](#)

Restrict records by:
[Location](#) | [Type](#) | [Batch Number](#) | [Film Number](#)

Country: State or Province:

Match all terms exactly

Filter by Collection: Showing Top 5 - [Show All 94](#)

Title	Records	Last Updated
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Births and Christenings, 1812-1965	10,633	Nov 21, 2013
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Church Marriages, 1860-1976	542	Dec 6, 2016
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Civil War Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865	532,541	Apr 20, 2012
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Civil War Service Records of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865	158,093	Apr 20, 2012
<input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Confederate Pensions, 1901-1929	52,697	Aug 23, 2019

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.

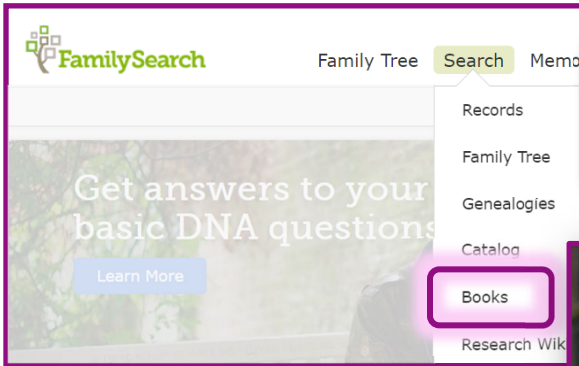
Image-Only Historical Records

Can't find records for your ancestors when you search? Try our collections that haven't been indexed yet. Select a collection to start browsing the images.

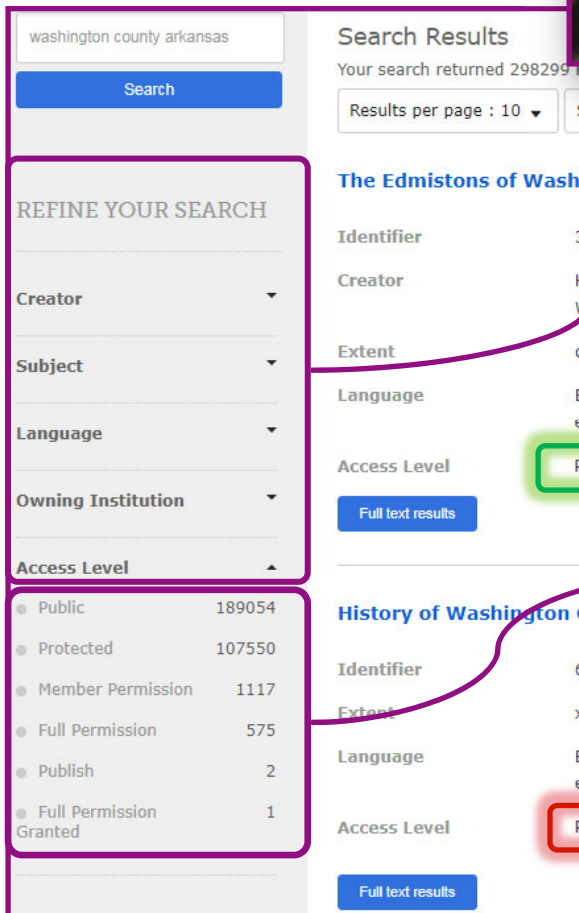
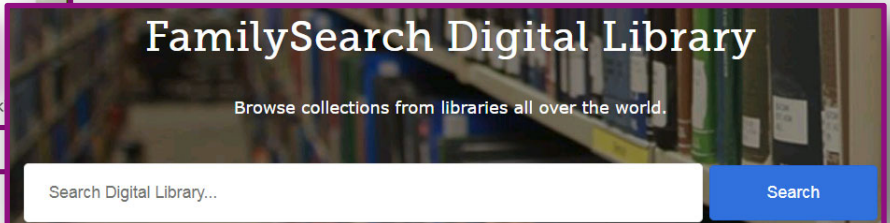
Census and Lists: Showing All	Images	Last Updated
United States Census (Slave Schedule), 1860	49,346	Aug 16, 2019
United States Enumeration District Maps for the Twelfth through the Sixteenth US Censuses, 1900-1940	63,619	Jun 20, 2014

Military: Showing Top 5 - Show All 8	Images	Last Updated
United States Confederate Navy and Marine Service Records, 1861-1865	21,529	Jun 18, 2014
United States Records of Confederate Prisoners of War, 1861-1865	51,108	Feb 28, 2013
United States Revolutionary War, Virginia Pension Application Files, 1830-1875	10,771	Jun 18, 2014

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.



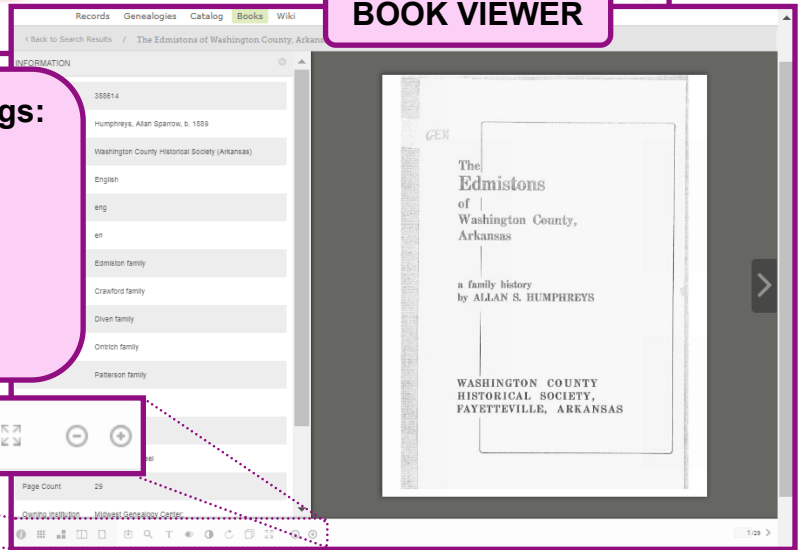
You can refine your results by limiting by creator, subject, language, owner, or access level.

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

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

BOOK VIEWER



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.

View the original document. The original may contain more information than was indexed.

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

The image shows three screenshots from the FamilySearch website. The top screenshot displays a record for Lillie B Ketron, with a 'Tools' button and a dropdown menu containing options: 'Review Attachments', 'Add to Source Box', 'Copy to Clipboard', 'Print', and 'Email'. A callout box points to the 'Tools' button. The middle screenshot shows the 'View the original document' button, with a callout box pointing to it. The bottom screenshot shows an image viewer with a 'Print' button and a callout box pointing to it.

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.