



## *familysearch.org - A Quick-Start Guide* by Valerie Phillips Gildehaus, March 2020 Registrar Daniel H Brush Chapter, NSDAR

Amazing site and almost everything is FREE.  
(A few links take you to paid sites.)  
To access microfilms on FamilySearch, you do need to sign up for a "free" membership.  
Don't worry – they won't try to sell you anything!!

Login (top right corner), then click on "Search" in the top middle of your screen. In the pop-up list, find **Records**, **Catalog**, and **Research Wiki**. Let's look at each one:

**Records** (Click "Search" then "Records")

Sample search: records for Lewis Britton and his wife Mary Paine

Enter Lewis Britton in the top left, click on the word "Spouse" and enter Mary Paine, click search button.

On the right side of each entry click, under "View," click the page or camera icon to see the original image. You may have to search through several images to find the one you want. There are often indexes at the beginning or end of filmed volumes.

**Research Wiki** (Click "Search" then "Research Wiki")

In top right of screen where it says Search, start typing the name of the county you want to search. You will get a pop-up list of places with that name. Click on the one you want. (For a common name like Jackson County, you may need to type out "Jackson County, IL" before it pops up.)

Example: Click on "Jackson County, Illinois Genealogy". You will find lots of useful information here, like when the county was formed and parent counties, and where to locate records. Many times there are links to the records that you can click on.

**Catalog** (Click "Search" then "Catalog")

Click in the blank under "Place" and begin typing your county name.

Example: To find tax records for Medina County, Ohio, start typing Medina and "United States, Ohio, Medina" will pop up, click on it, then click on the blue Search button about 2 inches below that.

Once the list comes up, scroll down to "Taxation" and click on it (there are two items under it). Click on the first item, "Duplicate tax records : 1819-1838." Click on that then scroll down to find 5 different films. Click on the "Camera" to access the films.

You can check under anything in the catalog and if there is a Camera, there are digital images, mostly unindexed for searches, but there are often indexes at the beginning or end of filmed volumes. Sometimes you have to be at a FHL or affiliate library to access the films, but it will tell you that. If there is just a "microfilm roll," it hasn't been digitized yet.

Keep checking back. They are adding digitized records all the time and eventually, everything will be digitized and mostly available to us at home.