FamilySearch Full-Text Search: Resources

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Full-Text Search

- Full-Text Search: the search page, with Simple Search and Advanced Search tabs. Turn on "Include limited access content" to see records you can only open at a center or affiliate library.
- How do I use Full-Text Search?: FamilySearch Help Center instructions.
- Your Golden Path to Ancestral Discovery: FamilySearch guide to Full-Text Search (PDF).
- Video: How to Use FamilySearch's Simple Search for Easier Full-Text Searching
- Video: How To Find Your Ancestors with Full-Text Search

Know what exists before you search

- Research Wiki: search by place to learn what records were created, which years survive, any record losses, and where the records are kept today.
- Catalog: search by place to see what FamilySearch has, whether you can view it from home, and whether it is full-text searchable. Sign in first.
- Records Search: indexed records such as vital, census, military and church records.

Restricted records

Many records marked with a camera and warning symbol can only be viewed at a FamilySearch Center or an affiliate library, such as the Virginia Beach Public Library. These restrictions come from the repositories that hold the originals.

- Image restrictions on Historical Records: what each restriction message means.
- Find a FamilySearch Center: In Virginia Beach - 4784 Princess Anne Rd 23462
- Find an affiliate library: In Virginia Beach - Virginia Beach Public Library - Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library

Search symbols (Advanced Search)

Symbol	What it does	Example
" "	Exact word or phrase	"John L. Hairston"
+	Word must appear	+Cynthia
-	Leave this word out	-Houston
?	One unknown letter	Jens?n finds Jensen, Jenson
*	Any ending or letters	Car* finds car, carriage, carpenter

Wildcards (? and *) cannot go inside quotation marks. Search broad, then use the filters to the left of your results to narrow by place, year, collection or record type.