

family history library in salt lake city

Family History Library in Salt Lake City is a prominent and invaluable resource for genealogists, historians, and anyone interested in tracing their family lineage. Nestled in the heart of Salt Lake City, Utah, this library is one of the largest and most comprehensive genealogical libraries in the world. Operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church), the Family History Library is not only a haven for members of the church but also a welcoming space for individuals from all backgrounds who seek to uncover their ancestry. This article delves into the features, resources, and services offered by the Family History Library, as well as tips for utilizing these resources effectively.

History and Overview

The Family History Library was established in 1894, evolving from a small collection of genealogical records to a vast repository of information spanning centuries and continents. The library is a part of the Family History Department of the LDS Church, which has been dedicated to preserving and sharing genealogical records since its inception.

Today, the library houses millions of records, including:

- Census records
- Birth, marriage, and death certificates
- Immigration and naturalization documents
- Land and probate records
- Church records
- Military records

Located at 35 N West Temple, Salt Lake City, the library is strategically positioned near the Salt Lake City Temple, making it a spiritual and historical landmark for many visitors.

Facilities and Resources

The Family History Library offers a wealth of resources that cater to both novice and experienced genealogists.

Physical Resources

1. **Microfilm and Microfiche:** The library boasts an extensive collection of microfilm and microfiche records, many of which cannot be accessed online. Visitors can view these records using specialized readers available on-site.
2. **Books and Publications:** The library's collection includes a vast array of books on genealogy, local histories, and family histories from various countries. This collection is particularly valuable for those looking to understand the historical context surrounding their ancestors.
3. **Maps and Atlases:** Historical maps can provide critical information about where your ancestors lived, the jurisdictions they fell under, and migration patterns.

Digital Resources

In addition to physical resources, the Family History Library offers access to numerous digital repositories, including:

- **Ancestry.com:** A popular genealogy website that allows users to search a vast database of historical records.
- **MyHeritage:** Another genealogy platform that provides access to records, family trees, and DNA testing.
- **Findmypast:** Focused on UK records, this resource is invaluable for those with British ancestry.

Services Offered

The Family History Library is not just a repository; it also provides various services to assist patrons in their genealogical pursuits.

Research Assistance

Trained staff members and volunteers are available to help visitors navigate the vast resources of the library. Whether you need help with specific records or guidance on where to start your genealogical research, assistance is readily available.

Classes and Workshops

The library regularly hosts free classes and workshops that cover a broad range of topics related to genealogy. These sessions can include:

- Introduction to genealogy

- Using DNA in genealogy research
- How to conduct research in specific countries
- Preservation of family history

These educational opportunities are invaluable for anyone looking to deepen their understanding of genealogical research methods.

Family History Center Network

The Family History Library serves as the hub for a network of Family History Centers located throughout the world. These centers offer many of the same resources and services available at the main library, making genealogy accessible to individuals in various locations.

Planning Your Visit

If you're planning a visit to the Family History Library, several tips can help you make the most of your experience.

Hours and Admission

The Family History Library is typically open from 8 AM to 9 PM, Monday through Saturday. Admission is free, making it an accessible resource for everyone.

What to Bring

To maximize your visit, consider bringing:

- Research Notes: Any information you already have about your family tree can help guide your research.
- Names and Dates: Specific names, dates, and locations can help staff assist you more effectively.
- Laptop or Tablet: Many visitors find it helpful to bring their devices to access online resources, take notes, or organize information on the go.

Accommodations and Amenities

Salt Lake City offers a variety of accommodations, from hotels to vacation rentals, catering to different budgets. Additionally, the library provides free Wi-Fi, computer access, and a comfortable environment for research.

There are also spaces for group research and family history activities, making it an excellent venue for family reunions or genealogy groups.

Community and Networking

One of the most significant advantages of visiting the Family History Library is the opportunity to meet others who share your interest in genealogy. The library often hosts events that allow visitors to network, share tips, and collaborate on research projects. This sense of community can be incredibly motivating and rewarding.

Genealogy Societies and Groups

In addition to individual visitors, various genealogy societies and groups frequently utilize the library's resources. Engaging with these organizations can provide additional support and knowledge for your family history journey. Some groups focus on specific ethnicities, while others may be dedicated to particular geographic areas.

Conclusion

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City stands as a beacon for those seeking to explore their roots and connect with their heritage. With its vast resources, expert assistance, and commitment to preserving history, it is an essential destination for genealogists of all levels. Whether you are just starting your journey or are an experienced researcher, the Family History Library offers tools and community support that can significantly enhance your genealogical pursuits. By planning your visit thoughtfully and taking advantage of the services offered, you can uncover stories from your past that will enrich your understanding of who you are and where you come from.

Frequently Asked Questions

What resources are available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City?

The Family History Library offers a vast collection of genealogical records, including microfilms, books, and online databases. It also provides access to international records, local historical societies, and various genealogy software.

How can I access the Family History Library's online resources?

You can access the Family History Library's online resources by visiting their official website. Many records and databases are available for free, while some may require a FamilySearch account.

What are the hours of operation for the Family History Library in Salt Lake City?

The Family History Library typically operates from 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Saturday. However, it's advisable to check their official website for any changes in hours or special holiday schedules.

Are there any classes or workshops available at the Family History Library?

Yes, the Family History Library offers a variety of free classes and workshops on topics such as genealogy research techniques, using specific genealogical tools, and accessing online records. Check their calendar for upcoming events.

Is there any assistance available for beginners at the Family History Library?

Absolutely! The Family History Library provides assistance for beginners through staff members and volunteers who can help guide you in your research. They also offer orientation sessions for new visitors.

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