

WIKI – THE ULTIMATE RESEARCH TOOL

Presentation by Carma Lee Ellingson, 2015 Family History Conference sponsored by Mesa FamilySearch Library.

Like an indispensable multi-purpose tool, Wiki can help you with almost any family history task. In Wiki there is information on how to: Organize, Educate, Solve Problems, Access Links to billions of records, Find Help, or learn How, What, and Where.

WIKI BASICS:

- Finding Wiki: At *FamilySearch.org* click on *Search*. Open the drop down window. Wiki is at the bottom. Or: click on *Get Help*. Open drop-down window. Wiki is in the left column.
- Contains 82,000+ articles about 1000s of topics.
- Full of links to sites on the Internet outside of Wiki, including record collections.
- Blue lettering indicates a clickable link to additional information.
- Best searched with Less rather than More. Questions and long statements don't work when searching. Put 1, 2, or 3 words in the search window for best results.
- Not intuitive when it comes to spelling. Words must be spelled correctly in the search window. And, Wiki is not case sensitive, capitalize or not it doesn't matter.
- Organized by categories. In the search window type the word *category* followed by a colon and then a topic or place without a space after the word category. For example, *category:Arizona*. A category page appears that enumerates subcategories, pages, and media within Wiki related to that topic or place.
- Full of record keeping help. Type *Research Forms* in the search window. Open it and discover links to dozens of printable forms to help record and track research.
- Constantly changing. People add to and edit articles on a daily basis.
- Designed to help people with research skills at all levels.

GET ACQUAINTED WITH WIKI:

In the search box enter the following titles and explore the articles:

New to Wiki - How to Use the Wiki - Getting Started on the Wiki
Help:Browsing the Wiki - About the Wiki - FamilySearch Wiki>About Us

SEARCHING TIPS:

1. Think outside the box. Be creative when searching. Do not assume because information was not found looking one way that it cannot be found. Rethink and look again searching with different words and/or word combinations.
2. There is always more than one way to find information. Do not be hesitant to click and explore. It may lead to sources that initially did not come to mind.
3. Wiki contains three articles on searching that will increase searching success.
1. Help:Searching 2. Help:Search Tips 3. Help:Advanced Searches in Wiki

EXAMPLES: In the Wiki search box type: *Success Stories*. Open the link *FamilySearch Wiki:Success Stories* for many detailed examples of success using Wiki.