

The Family History Guide, Featuring New Updates Ann Tanner • October, 2017

The Family History Guide (TFHG) was developed to provide training for FamilySearch Family Tree and for genealogy research in general. Many people find the FamilySearch experience complicated and frustrating. In the past two months learning tracks for Ancestry, MyHeritage, and Findmypast were added that gives the same learning experience to these partner sites. The mission of TFHG “is to greatly increase the number of people involved in family history worldwide and to make everyone’s family history journey easier, more efficient, and more rewarding.” TFHG is set up as a comfortable yet powerful learning framework, research framework, and it is FREE.

thefhguide.com

TFHG is built on Projects, Goals, Choices, and Steps. A person moves through a project of his choice and then chooses goals to learn about a particular concept.

Features: • Free • Donations are accepted • They do not own genealogy records but point you to the records you need • The official training partner for FamilySearch • On Facebook, • Available in other languages via Google Translate, • A dedicated training section.

In August 2017 the site was greatly expanded by adding 3 additional Learning Paths. In addition to detailed instructions for FamilySearch, a person can also choose the same type of learning about Ancestry, MyHeritage, and Findmypast.

On the home page is a 5 minute Quick Start video to help you navigate the site. Additional choices on the home page will direct a person to information About TFHG, a section for Beginners, Projects and Research, and Training.

You will choose one of four Learning Tracks and can then follow through the Projects (usually 7-9 for each track). Under each Project are up to 14 goals to help you learn about the website, such as FamilySearch. There are thousands of links to learning videos, articles, as well as very detailed step-by-step instructions for learning FS, Ancestry, MyHeritage and Findmypast. If you know quite a bit about one of the four websites, just look for a project and goal to help you learn those things you do not know.

Each learning track is customized to the website so you can become more proficient in each of these powerful genealogy programs that each compliment and help the researcher with a variety of tools and records.

The Training section contains Presentations, a Catalog, Training for individuals, families, groups, and consultants. The lessons are ready for a teacher to use as-is.

The Tracker is available in a Word version or the new Online Tracker. By using this a person can keep track of his/her progress in learning the programs. The tracker is very useful for teaching others and helping them focus on those tasks that will enhance their proficiency in the programs.

Under the Miscellaneous tab are links to amazing resources for Families, Singles, Youth, and Children. These activities make sharing and organizing family history events a snap!

The last tab is More. Found under this robust section are links to What's New, the Blog, Quotes, a Newsletter, Brochures, Events, BSA merit badge, About Us and Terms of Use. Each of these topics has a wealth of information.

One of the great features of TFHG is the Countries/Ethnic section which is the entry point to fabulous research tools! You can get to this section from the home page or under each of the Learning Tracks

The Countries/Ethnic section is a world of research at your fingertips, literally. You can choose from North America, British Isles, Scandinavia, Central/Western/Southern/Eastern Europe, Asia/Pacific/Africa, South America, and Ethnic Groups such as African American, Jewish, etc.

From the general sections you then choose a state, shire (British Isles), or Country. This will take you to very specific and comprehensive Goals to explore research in each area. There are thousands of links to help you get started, learn about archives, BMD, church and cemetery records, probate, maps, newspapers, additional websites. You will also have links to the records specifically from the area you are researching. In addition to state-specific information in the US, there is a wealth of information about each county in the state. In addition to a current county map there are links to research, archives, vital and census records, church and cemetery records, Emigration and Immigration, Military, probate, land, and court, Maps, Newspapers, websites, etc.

Additional resources:

- BYU Family History Library homepage which has links to more than 300 webinars and training videos. <https://sites.lib.byu.edu/familyhistory/>
- YouTube.com BYU Family History Channel is another way to access the videos. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7hqNOQt-2AfeVEpDuc7sCA>
- FamilySearch.org has a learning center, Research Wiki, and Help Center.