

# FamilySearch Past, Present, and Future (Product Roadmap)

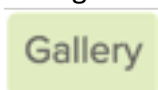
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In the class, we will discuss many features that have been released on the FamilySearch website. We will also discuss some new features that are coming soon and a few that are further out. Since we will cover so much in class, we won't have time to deep dive into any of these features so please stop by the FamilySearch booth here at the show and try them out and ask more questions there.

Here are just some of the changes and upcoming improvements on the FamilySearch website.

## Memories

### Recent Changes



- The biggest change happening is the change from individual areas for photos, stories, documents, and audio to finding all of these features in one place called the “Gallery”.
- Other features of the Gallery include:
  - Easy access to albums
  - Drag and drop memories into albums
  - Archive: This is a place to move items from the main view in the gallery. If for any reason, you no longer want to view items in your main gallery view, move them to the Archive. They are still in any albums, sources, attached to the family tree, etc. The only change is that they will no longer show in your main gallery view.
  - Actions button: Select a photo and then click on the “Actions” button that appears at the top of the page to
    - Open in new window
    - Rotate left or right
    - Download it
    - Add to an album
    - Change a photo to a document
    - Move to “My Archive”
- We have also made all of these pages work on any size screen including a mobile phone. When uploading a photo or document from a mobile device, you can also add them by taking a picture or from the photos on your mobile device.

### Future Improvements

- We have only released this to a subset of users as we continue to test and improve it. We will roll it out to everyone soon.

- We are simplifying the process to add memories from the family tree
- Gallery List View: See all of your memories in a list view. This view will make it easier to spot which memories have not yet been attached to the family tree or are missing a title, place, or date.

### Personalized Home Page

This page is currently under development. A percentage of site visitors get this page as part of a test but they can opt out at any time. This new home page includes the following features:

- Activity: See new photos, stories, sources, audio, and documents added to any one in the first four generations of your family tree.
- Suggested tasks: Discover record hints, data problems, and other tasks that may help you in your family history
- To do list: A simple to do list where you can add things you want to do and then check them off as you complete your tasks
- Recently viewed ancestors: View the last 20 people you have visited in the family tree.
- Free Help: Quick phone or other ways to contact someone who can help

### FamilySearch Messaging



This is a new feature that allows you to contact any user on FamilySearch whether or not they have made their email address or phone number public. When you click on someone's name, a contact card pops up. At the bottom of that card, there is a link to "Send a Message." Enter your subject line and message and press send. We will email them and post an alert on FamilySearch that they have a message. Users can opt out of receiving email but we will still notify them on the site.

### Contextual Help



On many pages on the website, you may notice a purple box with a light bulb in the lower right hand side of the page. Clicking on this icon will slide out a help panel that has tips and instructions on how to accomplish key tasks on that page. We have this in the family tree, the new Gallery in Memories, search, and other pages on the site.

### Help Others



This is probably the best kept secret on the website. If you often help other people, this feature will allow you to login and see what they see in the family tree and memories sections of the website. You can also make modifications or add memories on their behalf – but please only do this with their permission.

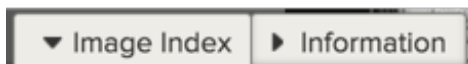
To use it, first talk to the person and get their permission. When you do that, ask them for their username and their “Helper Number”. They can find this by logging in, clicking on their name in the site header, and going to “Settings.” At the bottom of that page will be a 5-digit number. With this information, you can go into the family tree and see what they see which will allow you to determine how you can best help them with their family history research.

To do this, go to the family tree or memories and click on the “Help Others” link on the top right of the page. Enter their username and helper number and press “Sign In”. When you are done, press the link called “Stop Helping Others”.

Future improvements include the ability to send someone an email through the tool to ask for permission to view their family tree. If they agree, they can login and accept the invitation and you can go into to “Help Others” mode for them without your having to know their username or helper number.

## Search

### Image Viewer Changes



If a collection is indexed, we now include the indexed information in a panel at the bottom of the image viewer. You can open and close this

When viewing images of historical images, you can now toggle between viewing just that single image or viewing a thumbnail of all the images in that collection or group of images. For a US census collection, it will include the images in the particular enumeration district. This toggle is available on the image viewer for unindexed image collections, too. Many people have found they can move around faster and more accurately this way than they could if they were viewing them on a microfilm viewer.



In the FamilySearch Catalog, if the images from a collection are online, we include a link directly from the catalog to the images in question. The camera icon will take you to the images.

Future Improvements include getting record hints faster when you change a person in the family tree, better international support including better searches and hints for Latin American ancestors with multiple surnames, hints from more record types, and a federated search that would search across many content types (tree, records, memories, etc.) from a single search

## Indexing

The biggest change happening on indexing is the move to a web-based indexing client. Currently, you have to install a Mac or Windows software application. In the future, you will be able to index from any tablet or computer that has a web browser and a large enough screen so you can see the image and index the information. Sorry, a mobile phone is too small to do all of this. This is currently out in limited release to some users and will be rolled out over time.

## Family Tree



Recent changes include:

- Showing hints, research suggestions, and data problems in the landscape view
- View My Relationship option for people within four generations of you – parents to great-great grandparents
- The ability to search from the tree person page to FamilySearch, Ancestry, FindMyPast, and MyHeritage records. This will open a search page on the appropriate website and automatically populate and execute a search with information from the person in the family tree.
- You can no longer delete someone in the family tree unless you created the person and no one has yet edited any information on this person.

Future Improvements:

- Better scaling and system capacity so the family tree can handle many more people at the same time
- The ability to add family members directly from the descendant view
- A relationship calculator that will work on almost any person in the family tree
- Sources on living people
- The ability to share information on living people

## Support for Multiple Languages

In addition to the core ten languages we support on the website, you can now (1) create and account, (2) login, and (3) add information to the family tree via the online “My Family Stories that Bring Us Together” booklet tool in 42 languages.

## App Gallery

Find new and creative apps and websites from our partners at <https://familysearch.org/apps>.