

GLOSSARY

The following are some definitions to some common family history terms.

abt. (abbreviation) – about

ancestor – Any person from whom one is descended, especially one earlier in a family line than a grandparent; forefather; forebear

Ancestral File – A computerized file of individual and family records, created from records and pedigree charts submitted to the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints since 1979. The purpose of the Ancestral File is to help people coordinate their research.

Archives – Records of a government, organization, institution; the place where records are stored; reference to the storage of older records

.bac – Suffix for a TempleReady DOS file. An example of a file name is “yourfile.bac”

.bak – Suffix for a PAF 2.31 backup file. An example of a file name is “Indiv2.bak” Also a suffix for a PAF 3 or 4 backup. An example of a file name is “Yourfilename.bak

bef. (abbreviation) -- before

BIC (abbreviation) – Born in the Covenant

biography – The history of an person's life

Born in the Covenant – when parents were married in the temple before children is born the children are automatically sealed to their parents

c., ca. (abbreviation) – about or around, from the Latin word circa.

Calc. (abbreviation) – Calculation

Census – periodic official tally of the population with details as to ages, sexes, occupations, etc., U.S. Federal censuses have been taken every 10 years since 1790.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – A major Christian religion founded in 1830 by Joseph Smith, the Mormons. In 1894 it founded the Family History Library to gather records which help people trace their ancestry. The Library has grown to acquire the world's largest collection of genealogical information. The Library is located at 35 North West Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150 (Telephone: 801-240-2331). You do not need to visit the Library to utilize its resources. Most of the library's films and microfiche can be loaned for use at one of their Family History Centers, located in many cities around the world. The key library resources include FamilySearch[®], Family History Library Catalog[®], the International Genealogical Index[™] (IGI), Ancestral File[™], Family Registry[™], and Personal Ancestral

File® (PAF). Many of the resources of the church are available at the Family History Centers without charge.

.dat – suffix for a PAF 2.31 data file. An example of a file name is “Indiv2.dat”

direct line – line of decent traced through persons who are related to one another as a child and parent.

download – downloading is electronically extracting files from a network or bulletin board system for use on your own computer. Many bulletin board systems with genealogy sections have files that you can download.

est. (abbreviation) – Estimated

family group sheet – a family group sheet is a form which presents genealogical information about a nuclear family – a husband, a wife, and their children. A family group sheet usually includes birth dates and places, death dates and places, and marriage dates and places.

Family History Library – 35 North West Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84150

family tree – A genealogical diagram

FamilySearch – you can find FamilySearch computers at the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or at one of the branch Family History Centers. The FamilySearch computer contains several databases of information: the Social Security Death Index, the Military Index, the Ancestral File, and the International Genealogical Index. You can use these resources to search for information about your family members right on the computer. You can also use the FamilySearch computer to look up items in the Family History Library Catalog. Because of the popularity of the FamilySearch computer, many Family History Centers require you to sign up for a time slot in advance. FamilySearch is also now available on the Internet through the Web site of the LDS Church.

FHC (abbreviation) – Family History Center

FHL (abbreviation) – Family History Library

FHLC (abbreviation) – Family History Library Catalog

.ged – Suffix for a GEDCOM file. An example of a file name is “Anyfamily.ged”

GEDCOM – Genealogy Data COMmunications, a standardized format for genealogy databases that allows the exchange of data among different software programs and operating systems.

genealogist – A person who pursues the science or study of family descent. A professional genealogist is one who compiles family histories and genealogies for clients for a fee.

genealogy – study of one's ancestry; summary history or table of a person's ancestry.

Given name – Name given to a person at birth or baptism, one's first and middle names.

.htm – Suffix for a TempleReady Windows HTML document. An example of a file name is “yourfilename.htm”

IGI (abbreviation) – International Genealogical Index

index – in genealogical terms, an index is an alphabetical list of names that were taken from a particular set of records. For example, a census record index lists the names of individuals that are found in a particular set of census records. Indexes mostly come in book form, but you can also find them on CD-ROM, microfilm, and microfiche.

International Genealogical Index (IGI) – the International Genealogical Index (IGI) is one of the resources of the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Containing approximately 250 million names, it is an index of people's names that were either submitted to the church, or were extracted from records that the church has microfilmed over the years. You can use the IGI to locate information about your ancestors.

LDS (abbreviation) – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

maiden name – a woman's last name / surname prior to marriage.

maternal line – line of descent traced through the mother's ancestry.

Microfiche -- Sheet of microfilm with greatly reduced images of pages of documents.

Microfilm -- Reproduction of documents on film at reduced size.

.oup – Suffix for a TempleReady Windows ordinance update file. An example of a file name is “Yourfilename.oup”

PAF (abbreviation) -- Personal Ancestral File

.paf – Suffix for a PAF 3, 4 or 5 data file. An example of a file name is “Yourfilename.paf”

Paleography – the study of ancient forms of writing

paternal line – line of descent traced through the father's ancestry.

patronymics – patronymics is the practice of creating last names from the name of one's father. For example, Robert, John's son, would become Robert Johnson. Robert Johnson's son Neil would become Neil Robertson.

Pedigree Chart – a standard genealogical form for recording several generations of ancestry

Personal Ancestral File® – A widely used genealogy program created by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Posterity -- Descendants; those who come after.

Primary Source – A record that was created at or near the time an event took place by someone closely associated with the event. Also called original document, original record, or original source.

prob. (abbreviation) – probably; probated.

progenitor – An ancestor in the direct line, forefather / mother

.rec – Suffix for a TempleReady DOS working data file. An example of a file name is “yourfile.rec”

.rpt – Suffix for a TempleReady DOS printout report. An example of a file name is “yourfile.rpt”

Secondary Source – A source of information created or compiled from original records, compiled records, or both. Secondary sources are good sources of information, but they must be evaluated for accuracy.

Social Security Death Index – A database of information about people that were receiving Social Security benefits at the time of their deaths and whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration Also included in the millions of records are approximately 400,000 railroad retirement records from the early 1900s to 1950s.

soundex – A filing system, usually for recording surnames, using one letter followed by three numbers. The Soundex system keeps together names of the same and/or similar sounds, but of variant spellings.

source – the document, record, publication, manuscript, etc. used to prove a fact.

.sub – suffix for a TempleReady submission file. An example of a file name is “Yourfilename.sub”

suffix – a three letter code the computer assigns to a file name.

surname – last name, family name.

.tbk – Suffix for TempleReady Windows backup file. An example of a file name is “Yourfilename.tbk”. This file also includes a copy of the submission report.

TIB (abbreviation) -- Temple (Records) Index Bureau

Vital records – Records of birth, death, marriage or divorce.

.zip – Suffix for a PAF 5 backup file. An example of a file name is “Yourfilename.zip”