

Finding Fiji Records on FamilySearch

A Step-by-Step Guide for Genealogy Research

If you've been wondering how to find Fiji records without travelling to Fiji, there's a convenient solution: the FamilySearch website. This free resource makes it possible to access many historical Fiji records from your local area.

FamilySearch website: <https://www.familysearch.org>

What Is FamilySearch?

FamilySearch is a free genealogy service operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which also owns Ancestry and other genealogical websites. You can search for ancestors by name and location to see if any records surface.

Important note about Fiji records: The majority of Fiji's records are not indexed, which means they can't be searched by name directly. However, the records — originally held on microfilm — have all been digitally scanned. To view these images, you'll need to visit a FamilySearch Centre or one of their affiliates.

Finding a FamilySearch Centre Near You

FamilySearch Centres are typically located in Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints buildings. Affiliated locations include many local libraries and genealogical societies. Facilities vary — some (particularly in the US) are extensive, while others are smaller with limited computers and hours.

Find a centre near you: <https://locations.familysearch.org/en>

Getting Started: Step-by-Step

1. Create a free account at FamilySearch.org.
2. At the top of the page, click "Search" and then select "Records."
3. Under Find a Collection, type "Fiji" in the Collection Title field.
4. Choose a collection (see below for what's available).

Available Collections

When searching from home, you'll see two collections:

- **Fiji, Passports 1915–1991** — Application cards filled out when applying for a passport.
- **Fiji, Vital Records 1871–1990** — Birth, marriage, and death records.

If you're visiting a FamilySearch Centre, additional collection titles will be visible.

Navigating the Vital Records Collection

After selecting Vital Records, click on “Browse the Wiki” in the yellow box. Scroll down to FamilySearch Catalog. Here you will see all the categories. Click on the title you want and you will see a list of record reels broken down by year and registration number.

Understanding the icons:

- **Camera icon with exclamation mark** — Only viewable at a FamilySearch Centre or affiliated library.
- **Magnifying glass icon** — Records that have been indexed and are searchable by name.

Helpful Tips for Searching

- An index makes searching much easier. For births, the 1961–1968 index is viewable at any FamilySearch Centre. The 1875–1960 index is only available at the main Salt Lake City location (and possibly Suva).
- Without an index, you'll need to scroll through every image. Records are filed by registration date, so you can narrow your search by time period.
- Registration can lag behind the event. For example, a birth in December may not be registered until January or later, especially in remote areas.
- Don't be surprised to find marriage records within a file labelled “Births.” Mixed record types do appear.

Questions?

Feel free to reach out to me with questions. My email is: janetlee2137@gmail.com

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