



South Africa: FamilySearch Collections Online

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There are several ways to access the FamilySearch collections. **To access** the FamilySearch collections by browsing the collection:

- Go to FamilySearch at www.familysearch.org
- Click on “Search”
- Do not type in the name you are looking for – instead, click on the continent of Africa on the map next to the search boxes
- Choose South Africa from the list of countries
- Click on “Start researching in South Africa”

To access the FamilySearch collection through the catalog:

- Go to FamilySearch at www.familysearch.org
- Click on “Search”
- Click on “Catalog”
- Enter in the name of the locality
- Choose the collection type
- If the catalogued records are available as online images, a red notice will appear, along with a clickable link to the collection. Once in the collection, choose the locality.

Notes about the FamilySearch collections:

- Images are organized by archive holding – a locality may appear in more than one collection
- Most collections are not indexed at all; other collections are only partially indexed
- On the screen listing all Historical Record Collections, the number of indexed records are indicated in the column “Records.” If the collection is completely unindexed, the column has a link stating “Browse Images”
- All collections are browseable, including those that are indexed
- The collections include a variety of records, including
 - church baptism, marriages, and burials
 - estate files
 - membership records and church correspondence
 - census records
- Not all online records show up in catalog, particularly those grouped by year (e.g. Cape Province death certificates, some church record collections from the 1900s)
- Estate files are organized by year and file number
- Some records are ‘hidden,’ i.e. do not show under town search, but do show up alphabetically in groupings

Limitations of this resource include:

- Exact search options only. There are no wild card searches.
- There is no alphabetical list, as found in the print version.
- The surnames recorded are a snapshot of surnames in Switzerland as of the year 1962, meaning that:
 - Surnames that died out or ‘daughtered’ out before 1962 do not show up
 - Municipalities annexed before 1962 or created after 1962 will not show up in the community search
 - Citizenships acquired after 1962 are not listed

ACTIVITY:

Fill in the blanks with the answers to the following questions:

1. Go to the online Collection called “South Africa, Reformed Church Records, 1856-1988”. The record we are looking for is under Transvaal, Johannesburg, and Baptisms or christenings 1920-1937. Go to image 125. Who is the person being baptized on page 248, entry 10?

2. Do a search for the surname “Kruger” in all collections for South Africa. How many results were returned? _____

3. Now do a search for the surname “Kruger” in just the Natal Province Civil Marriages collection. How many results were returned? _____

4. In the collection Cape Province, Western Cape Archives Records, 1792-1992, what kind of records are listed under Cape Town?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

5. Where else can you go to find out if FamilySearch has any more records for the locality?
