



Search Tips

1. Start with a broad search

For example, search for an ancestor by name without including any places or dates. If you get too many results, you can always add more information and search again.

2. Try variant name spellings

Most names can be spelled in a variety of different ways. If you can't find the person you're looking for, try some variant name spellings. On the Advanced Search Page you'll find an option to search with "Exact" spelling or "Soundex." If you select Soundex, Ancestry.com will search for variants of the name you are searching for.

3. Wildcard searching

If you aren't sure how to spell a name, you can try using wildcard characters in your search. Wildcards are special symbols (e.g. the asterisk "*" and the question mark "?") which are used in searching to represent some number of unknown letters in a word.

"*" = zero to six characters (i.e. a search for "john*" might return "john, johnson, johnsen, johnathon, johns," etc.)

"?" = a single character (i.e. "Sm?th" equals both "Smith" and Smyth")

Read more search tips at <http://www.ancestry.com/search/help/main.htm>

Key databases to start searching

1. US and UK Census Images and Indexes

Census schedules are among the most useful resources available to family historians. Not only do they include almost entire populations, they are rich with personal detail. Ancestry.com contains census images and indexes for the United States and the United Kingdom.

2. Social Security Death Index (SSDI)

The SSDI can be particularly helpful if you are looking for a comparatively recent ancestor. The index includes deceased persons who received Social Security benefits and whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration.

3. Ancestry World Tree

Ancestry World Tree contains more than 200 million names from family trees submitted by Ancestry.com users. Since Ancestry World Tree contains assertions made by other researchers, you'll probably want to look for primary sources (e.g. census records, birth, marriage or death records) to support the assertions you find.

You can search Ancestry World Tree by going to the home or advanced search pages and then looking in the Trees and Community section.

Ancestral Chart

Ancestry.com

Chart No. _____

No. 1 on this chart is
the same person as No. _____

On Chart No. _____

1 BORN PLACE MARRIED PLACE DIED PLACE		2 BORN PLACE MARRIED PLACE DIED PLACE		3 BORN PLACE DIED PLACE	
4 BORN PLACE MARRIED PLACE DIED PLACE		5 BORN PLACE DIED PLACE		6 BORN PLACE MARRIED PLACE DIED PLACE	
8 CONT. ON CHART _____		9 CONT. ON CHART _____		10 CONT. ON CHART _____	
11 CONT. ON CHART _____		12 CONT. ON CHART _____		13 CONT. ON CHART _____	
14 CONT. ON CHART _____		15 CONT. ON CHART _____		16 CONT. ON CHART _____	

Family Group Record

Prepared By _____ Relationship to Preparer _____

Address _____ Date _____ Ancestral Chart # _____ Family Unit # _____

Husband

Date — Day, Month, Year		City		County		State or Country		Religion	
Born									
Christened								Name of Church	
Married								Name of Church	
Died								Cause of Death	
Buried								Date Will Written/Proved	
Father									
Mother									

Wife maiden name

Occupation(s)		Religion	
Born			
Christened			
Died			
Buried			
Father			
Mother			

* #	Sex M/F	Children Given Names	Birth		Birthplace		Date of first marriage/Place		Date of Death/Cause		Computer I.D. #	
			Day	Month	Year	City	County	St./Ctry.	Name of Spouse	City		County
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												

