



# Getting the Most from Ancestry



Juliana Szucs –

Email: [Juliana@Ancestry.com](mailto:Juliana@Ancestry.com) - Twitter: @JulianaMSzucs

RootsTech 2016 – Session GS2567

## ONLINE TREES

### Start Your Tree

- Start from scratch by entering what you know, or
- Upload a GEDCOM file from a genealogical software program

### Family View

- View as a pedigree chart or a descendant chart
- Click on a person to get to their profile page

### Profile Pages

- LifeStory takes the details, records, documents, and photographs and creates a narrative that you can edit and use to create your family story.
- Fact View arranges facts chronologically and shows you what sources relate to each fact, and vice versa. This is where the research happens.
- The Gallery is home to records and images you have attached to that person.
- Using the information in your tree, we'll search our collections behind the scenes and when we locate possible matches, we'll send you a Hint. Remember they're just Hints though and verify that it's the correct person before you merge them into your tree. And use care with what facts you merge.

## SEARCH STRATEGIES

- There are a lot of different ways to search on Ancestry.com. Which way presents the most efficient way to achieve your goal? Let's take a look.

### Have a Goal

- If you have a target in mind, you'll be better able to choose the type of search and formulate that search to achieve that goal.

## GLOBAL SEARCH

- **What it does:** Global searches search everything on Ancestry.com that is indexed. It is very efficient for rich collections like census records that have lots of detail.
- **When to use it:** When you're just getting started researching a person or if you want to see if there are new results for someone you've researched in the past.
- Two ways to do a global search:
- Using the Search Form...Start basic and tweak
- Searching from Trees...Try one search with all info and then edit search to target records for that person as a child, or records of that person as an adult.

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## CATEGORY SEARCHES

- **What it does:** Category searches focus on a particular group of records (e.g., immigration, military, vital records, etc.).
- **When to use it:** When your goal applies to a particular record. For example, you have learned that your ancestor came over in 1897 from one of the U.S. censuses taken between 1900 and 1930 and you'd like to find his arrival record. You would search the immigration category and maybe even narrow it to passenger lists only (if you know that he didn't come in via Canada or Mexico; if they did or you're not sure, you'll want to search the higher level to include border crossings).

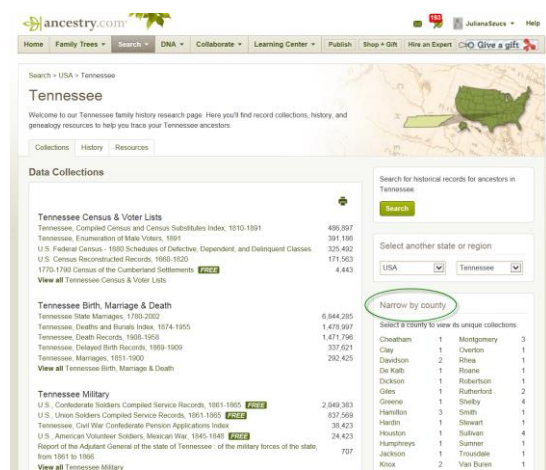
## EXPLORING INDIVIDUAL COLLECTIONS

### The Card Catalog

- The Card Catalog can help you locate unique collections for the times and places where your ancestor lived. It is searchable and also uses filters to help you get at the content you need.
- Searching the Card Catalog
  - Title search field searches only the titles of collections.
  - Keyword search field searches the titles of collections and the descriptive materials as well.
  - You can add filters or skip the search terms and filter only by:
    - Record category (e.g., Immigration records, Census records, Birth, Marriage, and Death records, etc.)
    - Geographic location (Country/state/county for U.S.)
    - Time period (Century or decade)
    - Languages

### Place Pages (Lists of collections by location)

- State pages are also available (and equivalents for some foreign countries) and can be accessed from the **Search** tab. They include links to collections unique to that state listed by category. County-specific collections can also be accessed via the State pages.



Visit the Ancestry.com Learning Center at [www.ancestry.com/learn](http://www.ancestry.com/learn).

For account questions or technical help, call 1-800-262-3787.

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## SEARCH TIPS

- Start broad with name, residence and age, then tweak to narrow results.
- Use categories to the left of results to narrow by category.
- Don't be afraid to estimate dates
- Always choose locations from the drop-down choices. If a town or county isn't found, go up a level and enter the town or county name in the keyword.

## WILDCARD SEARCHES

- \* matches zero or more characters
  - Fred\* matches Freddy, Freddie, Fred, Frederick, etc.
- ? matches one character
  - Ann? matches Anne, Anna, but not Ann
- A few other things...
  - Either the first or last character must be a non-wildcard character
  - Names must contain at least three non-wildcard characters

## PROBATES

- Link to all is on the **Search** page under **Tax, Criminal, Land & Wills**
- Individual state collections can also be found in catalog or on state pages.
- Only the decedent is indexed
- Be prepared to browse
- Some are not indexed

## VIEWER NAVIGATION

Open/close side panel

View index

Open/close filmstrip

Texas, Wills and Probate Records, 1800-2000 for Isabella Hopkins

Isabella Hopkins

Texas, Wills and Probate Records, 1800-2000

DETAIL	RELATED	SOURCE
Name	Isabella Hopkins	
Probate Date	30 Sep 1870	
Probate Place	Gonzales, Texas, USA	
Inferred Death Year	Abt 1870	
Inferred Death Place	Texas, USA	
Case Number	747	
Item	Probate Case Files, 1860-1870, 730-760	
Description		

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Filmstrip

1253 - Sales Paper 1254 - Cover Page 1255 - Petition Papers

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