

Become a Master Ancestry Searcher

What do you want to know?

Are you trying to answer a specific question or are you just trying to find out everything you can about a specific person? We will show you how to sketch out your research plan so that you can achieve your goal.

What exactly happens when you press the search button?

If you know what is going on behind the scenes you will be able to construct queries that bring back the results you are looking for.

How to Find Your Ancestor in the Census

One of the most common searches that every genealogist performs is a census search. A few basics and a couple of tricks and you will be an expert.

Birth, Marriage and Death

Basic vital facts will guide you to finding other records and the people who were part of their lives. How do you find them? How do you haven know if they exist? We show you how.

Beyond the Basics: Immigration and Military

Once you have found the basics of when and where they lived and basic vital information there are still a lot of records to investigate. Immigration and military records can bring your ancestor to life.

Family and Local Histories and the Secrets of Text Based Searches

Census records, vital records and passenger lists are structured databases with names and places identified. But Ancestry has a vast collection of text documents that include Family and Local Histories. Searching effectively is a little different, but you can master it quickly.

Going Global

Targeted searches help you find what you are looking for quickly. But global searches might reveal fascinating nuggets about your ancestors' lives.

Hidden Gems in Public Member Trees

With over a billion nodes in public member trees there is no telling what treasures you might find in them. We will show you how to look for photos, stories and maybe an elusive ancestor or two.

How To Find Exactly the Data Collection You Are Looking For

Description: Ancestry has over 31,000 data collections, but how do you know which ones has the answer you are looking for? We show you how. There is more to a record than finding one about your ancestor. To really understand it you will need to know why the data collection was created.

Some Unique Searches You May Not Have Thought Of

Not every search is for a person. But there is a variety of ways to search that will reveal information about your ancestors lives or help you find that one person who seems determined to hide from you.

Let's Review

Search plans, controlling your results, targeted vs global: let's review the basics so you can get started honing your expert search skills.