

Global Search

Listed below are some of the steps you can take in trying to locate information about an ancestor.

1. Enter as much name information as you have.

If you have a very uncommon first or middle name, you may want to try that by itself. The same is true for a very uncommon last name. You can also choose options describing where the person lived and during what time they lived. The time limit doesn't work in every collection.

2. Review the Results Overview for the most likely matches.

For example, if you know your ancestor was a veteran of the Civil War, you might want to look at those military records first. If in doubt, the census records are a good place to start.

3. If you don't find any matches, check the "Exact Matches Only" box.

On the Home or Search pages you can expand your search by selecting the **Soundex** option in the Spelling field. Soundex searching looks for similar names based on the sounds of the consonants. If your family name may have changed spelling over the years, this is a good option to try.

4. If you still aren't finding the person you want, consider using wildcards or truncation in the name.

The **wildcard character (*)** will account for various name endings. For example, searching Sam* will find Sam, Sammy, Samual, Samuel, Sammie, Samantha and any other names beginning with Sam. Note that you must type in at least the first three letters of the name before putting in the wildcard.

The **truncation symbol (?)** is used when you only want one letter of a name to be different. If you are trying to find the name Hansen that was also sometimes spelled Hanson, you could type in Hans?n to find both variants. Note that you must type in at least the first three letters of the name before putting in the wildcard.

5. Try searching an individual collection or database.

You can find the collections listed on the right hand side of the Search screen. Each collection, and each database within a collection, may have additional search fields beyond the common ones that are listed on the Home or Search screens. You might have a piece of information that matches one of the searchable fields.

For example, if you are looking for a male ancestor who might have served in the military, you would choose the Military collection by clicking on the Military heading in the More Records box on the right side of the Search screen. Then, browse the list of individual databases and select one from the right state or time period.

If you are looking for an ancestor who immigrated to the United States, you should try the Immigration Records collection. Search the entire collection if you don't know where the person entered the US, or select a specific collection that pertains to the entry port or departure port of that person.

Where to find help

In North America:

- **Technical Support**
Phone: 800-889-3358
Email: tsupport@proquest.com
Web: <http://proquest.com/techsupport>
- **Search Assistance**
Phone: 800-889-3358
Email: technicalsupport@proquest.com
Web: <http://proquest.com/techsupport>
- **Product Help**



Sample Searches: Ancestry Library Edition

Product help and downloadable guides:
http://proquest.com/products_pq/training

Outside of North America:

- **Technical Support**
Email: support@proquest.co.uk
Freephone: 0880 220 710 (UK only)
Telephone: +44 1223 271 496 (Outside of UK)
- **Product Help**
Product help and downloadable guides:
<http://proquest.co.uk/pqtraining>