

[Take Another Look: New Records Are Being Added Along With Other Creative Options Whenever Dealing With Unsuccessful & Difficult Research Assignments](#)

Note: This Facebook Posting and the previous one of yesterday are now listed on this Facebook Group's Table of Contents under the topic of "Problem Solving" at <https://foothills-family-history.org/>. Here's a true story that is worth repeating mention of on **The Family History Guide**. From [Amy Johnson Crow](#): "My question for all these years has been, 'When and where did Matilda die?' ... I hadn't looked for Matilda on FamilySearch for a while, so I started exploring. And there she was. Matilda McFillen in FamilySearch's collection, 'Illinois Deaths and Burials, 1749-1999. Death in 1899 in Kankakee County, Illinois.'" This shows the value of checking the major sites for new record collections, as they are frequently being added and made accessible. Learn more about [breaking through research brick walls](#). Researching can be tricky for a number of factors. Below are some variations with optional tips that you might need to be aware of in finding the research that you really need that is still missing. Opening doors is the mystery of doing original family history research which does require both patience and tenacity. Consider these extra tips below.

How do I understand my search results in Historical Records?

After performing a search in [FamilySearch Historical Records](#), you see a page with the results from your search. The large section on the right displays possible search matches. The panel on the left displays your search terms and gives you options to filter your results or change your search terms.

Note: If you do not find the information you expected, try your search again with variations:

- Increase or decrease the date range.
- Add or remove information. For example, if you searched with a birth city and county, try searching only with the county.
- Search for a family member instead.
- Search for women using their maiden names and again with their married names. You can also search with just the first name of a woman and the name of her spouse or parents.
- Estimate dates and places.
- For more tips click [here](#).

Why are search results different in Historical Records?

When searching for records, keep in mind that the general search page and the search box attached to a specific collection can yield different results. This is because each system uses different search parameters. Names of places, for example, may be interpreted differently, and lead to different records. For this reason, it may be in your best interest to conduct your search using both options.

For more insight, click [here](#).

Introduction to the FamilySearch Catalog

The Catalog is a guide to birth, marriage, and death records; census records; church registers; books; periodicals; family histories and many other records that contain genealogical information. These records may be searchable online, on microfiche or microfilm, in a book or in a computer file.

Some entries in the FamilySearch Catalog include images of records. When an image is available in the catalog, a camera icon will appear to the right of the microfilm note associated with that image. A description of the images is found at [News Flash! Digitized Microfilm: From the Drawer to Your Computer](#)

For more tips, click [here](#).

How do I search the FamilySearch Research Wiki?

The Research Wiki allows you to conduct a search for family history articles. Most often you search by place or with key words.

Steps

1. Sign in to FamilySearch.org and click **Search**, and then **Research Wiki**.
2. In the search box, type one or more key words or the title of the article you want to find, such as **United States Census**.
3. Click the **search icon** .
4. Review the list of articles in the search results.
5. Click the title of the article you want to read.
6. For more tips on searching, click [here](#).

Searching FamilySearch Community

You can search all the groups and general discussions, your feed, or a group.

Steps (Community)

To find all discussions, topics, or articles in FamilySearch Community, use the Search box at the top right.

1. Enter your search terms and press **Enter** on your keyboard.
2. At the top of the results, you see Search Results and Questions.
3. For more insight, click [here](#).

In Historical Records, the search results don't match my search

When you search Historical Records, the search results may include information that does not exactly match your search terms. The results are listed in relevance order. The best matches appear first. Partial matches appear later.

If you do not see how a record on the search results matches what you searched for, consider the following:

- The search results may include the name as you entered it and also common variations and nicknames.
- The results also include records from the place one level higher than the one you entered. For example, if you entered the name of a city, county, and state, you get results that include records from the county level, not just from the city level.

If you are not finding what you need, try these additional tips, click [here](#).

Advanced search options for Memories

When you search FamilySearch Memories, you can often find what you want with a simple search. You can also focus your search results using advanced options, also called Boolean operators.

Note: These advanced operators work when you use the Find option in FamilySearch Memories. They may not work as described in other parts of the FamilySearch site, such as Historical Records or Family Tree.

For more options for searching Memories, click [here](#).

African American Records

They are kept by the county, search county records first. Then search for town and state records if they exist. For records in New England, search town records first.

More tips are offered by clicking [here](#).

Closing Comments

We all need success in our research. Without it, we can easily lose interest and become discouraged from trying further. The above strategies can be significant and provide insightful. Don't hesitate to try again with these optional tips offered. Don't ever underestimate the power of prayer and fasting with prayer as an individual and/or as a family because your ancestors are waiting for you patiently. Don't let them down.



LOOK

