Genealogy Research Tips

Collect Family Information

Write down the names of people on your immediate family tree. Talk with your relatives. Find out if someone already started a family tree. Gather as much information as possible from people before starting your digital research. Set up a family tree on paper to aid with your research.

Begin the Digital Search with Known Information

Always start your digital search with the people you can verify. This typically means starting your search with individuals living in the early part of the 1900s and included in the 1900-1940 census records.

Starting with yourself or relatives who were not yet born in 1940 can be problematic. The HQO database does not include many records earlier than 1940.

Narrow Your Search Results

Instead of performing a simple search by name, which can result in thousands of potential results, include a birth date, a spouse's name, or known location for better results. Note that exact dates are not necessary. It is possible to search for individuals by an approximate birthdate.

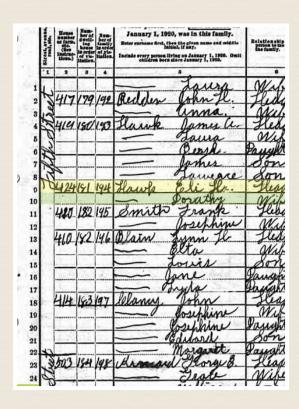
HeritageQuest Online can be used at the library and at home.

Username: NHSTATE

Password: FAMILYRESEARCH1!

New Hampshire State Library 20 Park Street Concord, NH 03301

FAMILY RESEARCH



Using HeritageQuest Online from New Hampshire State Library to Search the US Census Records between 1790-1940.



Genealogy Research Tips

Search Creatively

If your ancestors moved around the country or had names that could be easily misspelled, it is likely that you will need to perform multiple searches before finding a match. It is not unusual for names to be misspelled and data to be given incorrectly. If you know where your ancestors were living, try browsing census records by location or searching for known neighbors to find them.

Gather Information from Each Census Year
Each decade of census records collects different
sets of data. Do not assume that you have
discovered everything about an ancestor from
one census record. Some records contain
conflicting information about the person and
some records asked for different information
altogether.

Consider Additional Resources

A wide range of genealogical data is available online for free. Check out Rootsweb for links to free resources. Additionally, sites like WikiTree.com and FamilySearch.org allow you to create an online family tree to share with others. Vital records from the 1900s for New Hampshire ancestors can often be found within the town reports.

HERITAGEQUEST ONLINE

Discover your ancestors with HeritageQuest Online from your public library!

http://heritagequestonline.com



U.S. CENSUS RECORDS

The U. S. government has been taking a census of its residents every 10 years from 1790. Due to privacy laws that prohibit making the records public for 72 years, the most recent census available is 1940.

Tip: Start your search with a known person living in the early 1900s and find that same person in each census during his or her lifetime. Each census collected a different set of data and could potentially provide more clues to aid your research.

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CITY DIRECTORIES

HeritageQuest Online includes a database of city directories for years 1821-1989. Not all locations or years are available. City directories include an alphabetical listing of the city's residents and their address. Some directories will include the wife's name in parenthesis and an occupation.

Tip: City directory searches let you discover where your family members could have moved between census years and narrow down dates of death.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HeritageQuest Online also offers a variety of U. S. based resources including an 1890 Veterans Schedule — a useful tool, as a fire destroyed most of the 1890 census records — and Revolutionary War pension records. U.S. Census Mortality Schedules list the names of individuals who died during the previous year. Full-text and searchable family and place histories can be found in the Books section of the site.

Tip: Check the availability of resources by location and date before searching.

