Search Tips On Finding Historical Records at Familysearch.org

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Start out with minimal information. (I use name and year of birth) If there are too many hits, start adding information like where they were born or where they are residing or even the spouse's name. Just be careful not to limit your searches too much.   You don't want to miss a little piece of information that could open up the line for you.

Remember – Writing and spelling were not a big issue back then, so be flexible on how names are spelled. Also the indexers may have had trouble reading the writing, so if you can't find your person, get creative. Write out the name in cursive and figure out what other letters may be mistaken for the one you need. Also spell your name phonetically. The German name Janke, I found spelled Yankee because that was how it was pronounced.

On Familysearch.org, you can search by location. Under the search tab on the right side of the screen, there is a picture of a map. Click on the area you are looking at. It will bring up a list of collections in that area. You can also get to the collections by clicking on the "collections" tab, just above your search results.

You can organize what you are looking for by clicking on the column headings. By clicking on the title column sorts those titles alphabetically, clicking on the records column will sort them by the most number of records, and the updated column will show the most recent updated records.

Using wildcards – The special characters you can use are a question mark (?) to represent one missing letter or an asterisk (*). They can replace one or more characters. You must have at least one letter in the search box and you can place the wildcard at the beginning, middle or end of a search field. Familysearch doesn't support quotation marks or operators like (AND/OR) like you would use in google.

Digitized books – You can search more than 150 thousand digitized genealogies, family histories, county, church and local histories, genealogy periodicals gazetteers, school yearbooks and more. I recommend using the advance search form because it will give you more control over what you need to search for. If you get the message "you don't have sufficient rights to view the requested object" when you click on a digital publication, you'll need to access it at the Family History Library.   Because not all digitized books may be available on-line due to being copyrighted.

When you find a publication that you would like to look at, download it as a .pdf. You can then search within the pdf for your ancestors name by using the "ctrl F". Plus you can save it to your computer to look at again later.

Wiki – Are you wondering what the best way to research something in particular? Check out the wiki on familysearch.org. It is loaded with webinars that you can watch, county and state information, other country information and what resources may be available for that area. Need some blank forms or language and handwriting helps, it's all there.

Karen J. and Merrily's Favorite Websites and More

Free Forms (these sites also have census worksheets)
www.ancestry.com/download/charts#ancchart
https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/reserch_forms

Free Webinars & Learning Techniques
www.ancestry.com/cs/us/videos
https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html
www.legacyfamilytreewebinars.com (free for 7 days after it airs)

Free at the OPL Library (with card)
        Ancestry (at library only)
        Historical Omaha World Herald (home access with card at omahapubliclibrary.org)
        My Heritage (home access with card at omahapubliclibrary.org)

Free websites
www.familysearch.org
www.findagrave.com
www.billiongraves.com
www.wikipedia.com
www.usgenweb.com
www.genealogyintime.com (free search engine & newsletter)
blog.eogn.com (Dick Eastman's newsletter)
www.cyndislist.com
www.rootsweb.com
www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov   - Newspapers
www.smalltownpapers.com – Newspapers

www.gogsmembers.com – GOGS website