

Google Tips for Genealogists

Google.com –General Search Tips:

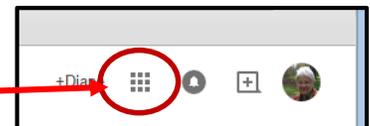
- Search for an explicit phrase: Enclose the phrase in quotation marks, e.g., “Mary Lincoln.”
- Exclude terms: To exclude a word from the search, precede it with a minus sign, e.g., “Mary Lincoln” – Abraham
- Search a specific site that doesn’t have its own search: Add “site:” and the URL after the search terms, e.g., “Irish Research” site:svrgensoc.org.
- Look for a word and similar words or synonyms: The tilde no longer works for synonyms. Google automatically looks for synonyms now.
- Look for a specific document type: After the search term, add “filetype: “ followed by the document type, e.g., “Irish Research” filetype:pdf
- Look for this or that: Separate the search terms by “OR.” The “OR” must be capitalized, e.g, Azores OR Faial.
- Phone Listings: Precede the phone number with “phonebook:” , e.g., phonebook:555-555-1234
- Area Code Lookup: Just type the area code in the search box to find out the location.
- Range of numbers: To look for something within a certain range of numbers, including years, type two periods between the numbers, e.g., 1928..1940. You can also specify the number type, e.g., \$10..\$100.
- Definitions: Type “define:” followed by the word, e.g., define:genealogy.

Use the advanced Search at http://www.google.com/advanced_search. Advanced Search allows you to do similar searches as above, but includes additional functions for narrowing your results. There are also links to more information about searching at the bottom of the page.

Google has tips and tricks to help you with your searches. Check the information at http://www.google.com/intl/en_us/insidesearch/tipstricks/basics.html. For even more Tips and Tricks, go to http://www.google.com/intl/en_us/insidesearch/tipstricks/all.html.

Other Places to Search for Genealogy Related Topics on Google

Use the icon in the upper right corner of the browser window to locate some of the other search functions that are part of Google Search. Click the “More link” on the bottom of the drop-down to see even more.



Images.google.com (<http://images.google.com>)

- Search by using words. Some of the above tips won’t work for searching image.
- Search by uploading an image for comparison
- Search by providing the URL for an image.

Books.google.com (https://books.google.com/advanced_book_search)

Google has a large collection of digitized books, including many that are free.

- Searches can be refined by date ranges in addition to the terms. The listing will tell you what page in the book includes the search term.
- You can sort by relevance or by date.
- The books available include free books, print books, ebooks and books for sale. The results will say “Read” when the entire book is available on Google.

- Search results allow you to see where you can get the book, including sellers and libraries. The library search uses WorldCat to find the book in a library.
- Some results will show you pages of the text that include your search term.
- Some books will be directly available for viewing, usually books that are out of copyright protection.

Check the Specialized Search area for additional searches.

Translate.google.com (<http://translate.google.com>)

Google can translate multiple languages. You can either enter or copy and paste the text into the translator. You can also provide a URL to get a translation of a web page.

Explore the “More” button on Google for other interesting areas to search, as well as for applications from Google to use on your computer or other devices.

News.google.com

This link no longer looks at content older than 30 days. You can use Google web search to find old newspaper content. Filter the search by your search term and a date range. Go to

<https://support.google.com/news/answer/1638638?hl=en> to get more details from Google.

Maps.google.com (<http://maps.google.com>)

Google doesn't have much on historical maps, but you can use Maps to see the current locations of sites, such as churches, that might be of interest to you. Google may also have pictures of the particular location, including sites around the world.

Google Earth

Download Google Earth to see some historical imagery or download Google Earth Pro (now free) at

<https://www.google.com/earth/explore/products/desktop.html>.

Google Genealogy Searches

- Genealogy Searches for Google by Using Your Family Tree
<http://www.genealogy-search-help.com/>
- Cyndi's List
<http://www.cyndislist.com/google/google-for-genealogy/>

Google Alerts

Just enter your search terms and wait for notice of additions to the search results.

<https://www.google.com/alerts>

List of Wildcard Operators for Google

<https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/2466433?hl=en>

Google Search Help

<https://support.google.com/websearch>