



Tweaking your Search in the Big Three

Elgin Genealogical Society
November 5, 2024 Presented by Suz Bates



 **Playing Telephone**
What is spoken? What is heard? What is written down? What is transcribed? What is entered? What is searchable? What the computer program generates?


 **Tweaking #1 Wildcards and Filters**
Wildcard * = used when searching for 0-5 missing characters
Wildcard ? - used when searching for 1 missing character


Filters for search field

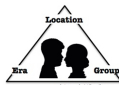
<input type="checkbox"/>	Match name exactly
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Spelling variations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Match initials
<input type="checkbox"/>	Starts with specific letters
About these settings ⓘ	

Filters for collections

All Collections	
Census & Voter Lists	10,000+
Family Trees	10,000+
Birth, Marriage & Death	10,000+
Photos	10,000+
Military	10,000+

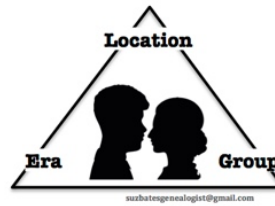
 **Tweaking #2 Working with Trees**
MyHeritage: Discoveries, Smart Matches, and Instant Discoveries
Ancestry: Hints, Ancestry Member Trees, Potential or Evaluate parents
FamilySearch is a one world open access tree unlike MyHeritage and Ancestry individual trees.

 **Tweaking #3 Testing the Waters**
Be sure what you're looking for is available.
Be sure what you have found is all there is to find.
Less may be more when typing in information





Tweaking #4 Coming from a different angle
The Genealogy Triad of Interconnections



Finding Aids for Collections by location

MyHeritage

<https://www.myheritage.com/records/Pennsylvania/all-records>

LDS and FamilySearch

<https://ldsgenealogy.com/PA/>

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Pennsylvania_Online_Genealogy_Records

Ancestry

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/places/usa/pennsylvania/>



Tweaking #5 Searching Directly thru a Database or Collection
Search Collections versus Browse Collections versus

Ancestry: from Profile >All Hints
Search all Collection >Filters (Be sure to scroll down looking left.)
Search Card Catalog >Save the html in a Profile Notes

MyHeritage: Search all Results >Refine by Record Type and Narrow Down by Category
Search Collection Catalog

FamilySearch: Search Records >Oval Buttons (Filters)
(Be sure to check out the blue Preference button especially if you want to export the results list or you are working with documents in a foreign language.)
Search Catalog: This searches FamilySearch.org, Salt Lake City Library and Family History Centers around the world.
Search Books: this searches for digital books available logged in at home and/or at a Family History Center or an associated library.
Find a Collections and Browse all Collections >Scroll down from Search Records
Do a Google search to find collections

