We could not find any results that matched all your search criteria

The database search on American Ancestors could not find any results that matched **all** the criteria you specified. It could be that there are no matching records, however, it could be that if you user fewer or less selective criteria you might find relevant records. In addition to the suggestions presented on the search results screen, here are some specific suggestions to try:

- **Removing Keywords** – Keywords are not used in many databases and are used for specific purposes in others (such as article titles in a genealogical journal database). If you are not certain of a specific use, eliminate this as a search term.
- **Remove Family Members from your search** – Many databases do not have family members (spouses, mother or father) indexed. If you do use them, it may be helpful only to specify a first name for a mother since the index may record the mother's maiden name or married name.
- **Uncheck "Exact Search" on Name (or move the slider to broad on the results page)** – By default the search engine will account for some fuzziness in spelling. Historically there is flexibility in the spelling of names and there can be transcription errors. The broad search can help to find these records.
- **Remove the location value or uncheck "Exact Location"** – Not every database has locations indexed, and occasionally there are errors part of a location name. Location is best used as a search term to narrow the results after you can see what records are returned.
- **Switch to Category search or Database search for more flexible matching** – Both of these alternative searches use a best fit approach. So, the results that match the most of your criteria are presented first. A given Category or Database search homepage also contains only the search fields that are indexed for that particular database or set of databases.
- If these suggestions do not result in the information for which you are looking, you may want to consult with one of our genealogists. We have many options ranging from Ask a Genealogist, a free service for members asking quick reference questions, to hiring a researcher to investigate a brick wall. Explore our services.

Special notes for searching Journal databases

American Ancestors has a unique collection of online databases built from genealogical such as *The New England Historic Genealogical Register* or *The American Genealogist*. You might want to construct a separate search for the category or a specific journal when using them. Specific suggestions include:

- **Start searching with just a first and last name**
- **Remove Years when searching Journal Databases** – When records are indexed for a journal the year indexed is the publication year of the volume, not the year a genealogical event in that volume.

Video Tutorial

If you are looking for a recorded webinar with a variety of tips and techniques for getting the most out of the databases on AmericanAncestors.org, there is a link called "Watch a video Tutorial on Search that can help you.