

Our topic this month was the video "Seek and Ye Shall Find: Become an Ancestry Search Expert". The presenter was Anne Gillespie Mitchell from Ancestry.com. You can view the video here: <https://www.ancestry.com/academy/course/ancestry-search>

You may have to be logged into your Ancestry account to view the video. If you don't have one, you can create a free account here: <https://www.ancestry.com/account/create?> You won't be able to search records, but you can view certain collections that they make available for free and you can respond to messages sent to you by a subscribed member.

Notes:

Anne described doing searches the way most experts do, starting with searching specific collections, including censuses; birth, marriage and death records; immigration and military; family and local histories; even public trees. She also showed why doing global searches can find information you never thought existed.

There is too much content in the video to detail here, but it's one of the best videos we've ever shown and well worth a look. If you're pressed for time, you can skip the first and last two sections of the video.

Anne talked about using the Wiki to find out if records of the type you're looking for even exist. As far as I can tell the Wiki she mentioned no longer exists. But you can go to the bottom of the main search page and find the state you're interested in, click on the state name or the state on the map and get to information about that state, including collections that exist and the dates they cover.

We had an interesting discussion about DNA tests after the talk. Ancestry.com is generally considered the best company to test with if you're looking for DNA cousins because it has the largest population of people who have tested there. Jay Shock pointed out that if you do test at Ancestry, you can upload your DNA results to My Heritage for free. And in his experience, while Ancestry has mostly U.S. people who have tested there, My Heritage has more European ones, which might connect you with cousins from there and give you additional information on your roots in Europe.