

## **Online Queries ~ An Important Part of Genealogy Research**

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**What have you missed by not using online queries? Have you missed the distant relative who has an old family photo? How about the person who knows the counties for the states which are challenging you?**

- 1. When posting Queries use the “Rule of thumb” ~ Names, Dates and Locations**
- 2. Learn the little tricks. Judith/Judy is read as all one word by some sites. You want to include spaces, Judith / Judy.**
- 3. Be careful when using brackets [ ] or parentheses ( ). Include spaces as shown in #2. If you run words and symbols right together, computers will read it as one word.**
- 4. Some sites read “exactly” what you include in your query. They won’t recognize abbreviations that stand for full name of state, so when posting a query you must include both name of state and abbreviation for state in the same query.**
- 5. Pin point dates as close as you can ~ 1720–1750. Do not use “in the 1700s.” That covers 100 years.**
- 6. Do not get all “wordy” with history of your family. Make your queries uncluttered and to the point. Type up the query; let it sit for a day or two. Now read it as if you were not familiar with the family.**
- 7. Subject box ~ You want to grab the eye of other researchers.**
- 8. When doing query searches use “keyword searches.” Use less common names, surnames or given names. You can mix names and locations, too.**
- 9. Again remember a computer system reads exactly what you enter. So you need to double up on searches. You’ve entered a couple of names and a state. On the first search, you spell out the name of the state. Then repeat that same search, but abbreviate the state. No short cuts in your search. Do not include spelled out and abbreviated versions in your search, because the queries you are searching will have to include both.**

**10. Post your queries EVERYWHERE. Sites for surname, state, county in that state (every county in that state where they may have been born, married, lived or died)**

**Some of my favorite sites:**

**GenForum ~ <http://genforum.genealogy.com/>**

**Names, states, counties plus other topics such as military, religion etc.**

**US GenWeb ~ <http://usgenweb.org/>**

**This brings you to the U.S. level, from there select a state, look at what is offered, then select a county.**

**US Gen Web Archives ~ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~usgenweb/>**

**For some states and counties information is about the same, but for some they have different information, so check the Archives, too.**

**World GenWeb ~ <http://worldgenweb.org/>**

**Similar to US GenWeb. On some sites you can select language you prefer etc.**

**Rootsweb ~ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>**

**This site gives you a variety of choices from which to select -- messages boards for names, locations, topics etc.**

**Rootsweb's WorldConnect ~ <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi>**

**Good for searching and it is FREE. Be careful there are errors on this site, just as there are on Ancestry.com. Contact submitters and get their sources and share. If no response you can tack on a "post-em" with additional information or corrections.**

**Find a Grave ~ <http://www.findagrave.com/>**

**You don't post queries here, but people are beginning to post information, obituaries, personal photos etc for some of the graves listed.**