



# Episode 10: Use Name Variations to Find a Record

5 minute challenge—**Revisit one of your ancestors!**

## Steps:

1. Research **NAME CHANGES** that have occurred within your family line. Begin by asking living relatives what they know.
2. Determine your ancestor's **SURROUNDING LOCATIONS**. This will broaden search possibilities.
3. Look for **CLUES**, such as personal markings, penmanship, etc., that will help identify the ancestor you are looking for in a record.



## Helpful hints:

Ancestors often changed names to adapt to cultures or languages when immigrating to a new location.

Think outside the box! Research information that may have been altered.

Use online resources! By reaching out to others using online forums and wikis, you can find people who are researching the same names and who may have more information about your ancestor.

## Vocabulary

### **Name variation:**

Name changes or alterations due to relocation, illiteracy, or cultural adaptation.

### **Immigration:**

Moving from one location to another.

### **Record keeper:**

Individual who recorded names for those who were unable to read or write. Often spelled names the way he or she thought they were spelled.

