



Episode 9: Using Indexes to Find a Record

5 minute challenge—**Search an Index to Find an Ancestor!**

Steps:

1. Gather **SPECIFIC INFORMATION** about names, dates, relationships, and locations.
2. Determine **WHICH RECORD** you want to find (birth record, death record, marriage certificate, etc.).
3. Choose **WHICH GROUP** of records you will search in.
4. Search an **ONLINE INDEX** using the information you have gathered.

You can also visit a Family History Center or the Family History Library to search for information in the indexes provided there.



Helpful hints:

Look for specific names, dates or travel, marriage, death, birth, or other events. Look for specific relationships as well.

Be flexible. Extend your time frame at least 10 years. Also search surrounding locations.

Not all records are indexed; more are added every day! Anyone can volunteer to help index records at: <https://www.familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing>

Vocabulary

Brick wall:

An obstacle or challenge during research that hinders progress.

Index:

An alphabetical listing of names and topics in a record. Includes the page number of each item. Quick way to determine if a record contains information about the ancestor you are searching for. Found online, or in other forms including paper and book.

Batch:

A group of records from the same source.

A photograph of a handwritten record index table with multiple columns and rows of text.