Buffalo & Erie County Public **LIBRARY**
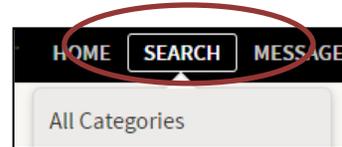
Advanced Search options in Ancestry LE

1.a. Click the **Search** menu and select All Categories.

1.b. For **Advanced** search options click "**Show more options**" near the Search button.

2. Once you input your search criteria, you can choose to set search limiters for names, dates, locations, and other search terms.

3. If you do not set limiters, Ancestry's **default** settings find any record where the First and/or Last name is:

- Exactly what you typed
- A phonetic match of the name.
- A name which has a similar meaning or spelling.
- An initial that matches the name.
- Other results may be records that do not match the name you typed but strongly match other criteria.

To **restrict** a name search to only exact matches, check the **Exact** box under the input name.

4. To restrict a **Location** click on "**Exact to**" under **Location**. There you will be able to restrict to the specific location that you typed into the box and to the county, adjacent counties, state, adjacent state, and country.

5. To restrict to a year or year range, check the **Exact +/-** under the **Year** (or **Birth Year**) box and choose your option such as +/- 1, 2, 5, or 10 year range.

6. You can also restrict a search to just **Historical Records** or other sources at the bottom of the search form.

Advanced Search Options – Restrict Name

1. First search as seen to the right without putting any advanced restrictions on the search.

☐ Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

john

Use default settings ▼

Last Name

smeth

Use default settings ▼

	Year	**+/-**	**Location**	
Any Event ▣	1850	0 ▣	New York, New York, New York,	🗑
	☐ Exact		Use default settings ▼	

✚ Add life events *(birth, marriage, death, and more)*

Family Member   **First Name**   **Last Name**

Choose... ▣   🗑

✚ Add family members *(mother, father, spouse, siblings, children)*

Keyword

[   ]   ☐ Exact

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▼

Gender   **Race/Nationality**

Male ▣   [   ]   ☐ Exact

2. **Results:** First few have the last name Smeth, then they are Smith.

New York, Genealogical Records, 1675-1920
IMMIGRATION & TRAVEL

NAME: **John Smeth**
VITAL: 1776 - Albany, New York, United States
RESIDENCE: 1776 - Albany, New York, United States
PUBLICATION: 1904 - Albany, New York

1850 United States Federal Census
CENSUS & VOTER LISTS

View Image

NAME: **John A Smeth**
BIRTH: abt 1798 - Germany
RESIDENCE: 1850 - Baltimore Ward 3, Baltimore, Maryland

1860 United States Federal Census
CENSUS & VOTER LISTS

View Image

NAME: **John Smeth**
BIRTH: abt 1822 - Ireland
RESIDENCE: 1860 - Poughkeepsie Ward 1, Dutchess, New York

U.S. Federal Census - 1880 Schedules of Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes
CENSUS & VOTER LISTS

View Image

NAME: **John F Smeth**
RESIDENCE: Jun 1880 - New York, New York, New York, USA

1920 United States Federal Census
CENSUS & VOTER LISTS

View Image

NAME: **John B Smith**
SPOUSE: **Julia R Smith**
BIRTH: abt 1850 - New York
RESIDENCE: 1920 - Selby, Walworth, South Dakota

3. Let's say that we only want names spelled **Smeth**. To the left of the search results, there are multiple ways to edit the search:

  a. Option 1: In the **Search Filters**, slide the bar next to the last name Smeth so that it is all the way to the right, at **Exact** search. Then click the **Update** button.
  b. Option 2: Click **Edit Search**, which is below the **Search Filters**.
  c. Option 3: **Click the "R" button** (keep it lower case) on your keyboard. [think r for revise]

4. Click **Exact and…** (only) under the **Last Name** field.

5. Click the **Search** button.

6. Your results will only show entries with the last name Smeth.

7. Use the Search Filters to change your search restrictions.

8. Change the last name search to **Broad** by moving the bar next to smeth all the way to the left.

9. Change the location search to **Exact** by moving the bar next to New York all the way to the right.

10. Click the **Update** button and the results will limit to New York City.

Wildcard Searching in Ancestry LE

1. The first wildcard search option is the question mark (**?**). You can put the question mark anywhere in a search term and it will replace **one letter** in the word. For example, in the search below, the results would show last names such as:

Sm**i**the/ Sm**y**the/Sm**e**the   Sm**i**thy/Smith**a**/Smith**s**

 as well as others, and first names such as: **C**ath**a**rine/**C**ath**e**rine/**K**ath**a**rine/**K**ath**e**rine.
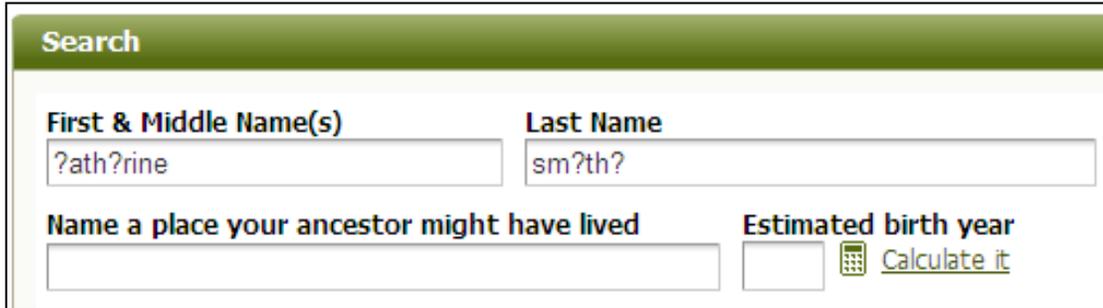
Search

First & Middle Name(s)	Last Name
?ath?rine	sm?th?

Name a place your ancestor might have lived	Estimated birth year
	▦ Calculate it

2. The second wildcard character is the asterisk (*). The asterisk will take the place of multiple characters. In the search below, the results would show first names such as:

John, John**nie**, John**ny**, John**ie**, John**y**, John**son**.

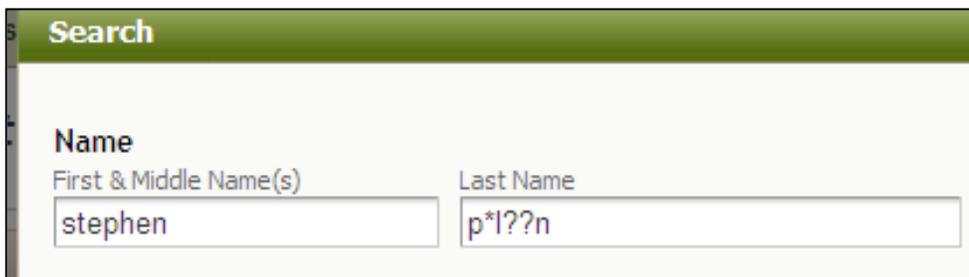You can place the asterisk anywhere (beginning/middle/end of name).
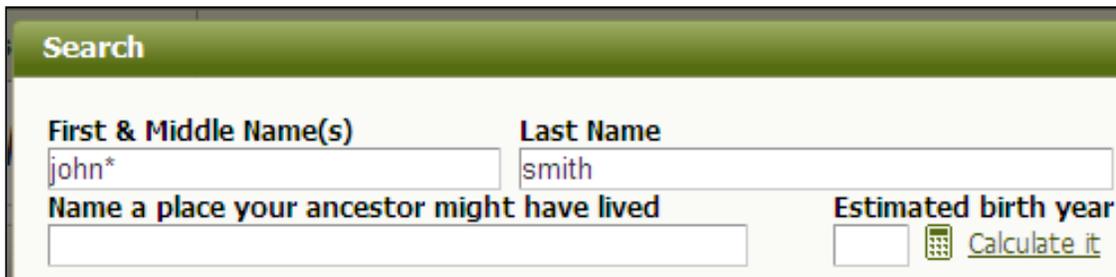
Search

First & Middle Name(s)	Last Name
john*	smith

Name a place your ancestor might have lived	Estimated birth year
	▦ Calculate it

3. Both wildcard characters can be used at the same time. The search below will return results such as:

P**o**lcy**n**, P**o**lci**n**, P**o**lce**n**, P**au**lso**n**, P**aw**lso**n**, P**i**lso**n**, P**o**lze**n**, P**ou**lso**n**, P**owe**lso**n**, P**o**lso**n**.

You can place either symbol anywhere in the name (beginning/middle/end).

Search

Name

First & Middle Name(s)	Last Name
stephen	p*l??n