This is a brief description of how to search on this website, which is much different from other websites. However, going through this tutorial will enable you to search faster and more intelligently.

At the top of the website you see 3 tabs: All, Subject, and Title.

For the most part, you will search on ALL when you begin a genealogy search.

Now let's enter the word genealogy under All and see what happens.
As soon as we click on genealogy in the search window, a list of resources opens in the center, and 4 menus open on the left side, providing you with many options and choices.

At the top of the center list of titles, it shows you are on page 1 of 4,621 pages, which contain a total of 115,533 resources.

On the left side, the first menu under "Refine Your Search" you will see ways in which you can narrow your search results.

The next menu is Languages. You can specify the languages you want for the resources.

Under that is another menu called Format. You can choose the kind of resources you want to look at: books, databases, articles, and so on.

The last menu is Year. Since many of the books published in recent years are about records written in previous years, this menu is usually disregarded in genealogy searches.

Always begin by choosing a country. Do not make the mistake of immediately selecting a state, province, city or town.

We will begin with Canada - so we click on Canada as highlighted.
Having selected Canada, we see that the results in the center list are much smaller, a little more than 24,000 records.

In the first menu under Refine Your Search we see the province of Ontario - let's select Ontario by clicking on it.
With Ontario now selected, the search results in the center list now drop to 156 records, much easier to investigate.

If you don’t know exactly where in Ontario your ancestors lived, then in the lower menu just select “databases” under “Formats” and this gets you into census and other records to search for the exact location. This is also helpful in case relatives of your ancestor lived nearby, which is quite often the case.

Let’s click on databases as highlighted.
Now we see a number of databases listed in the center of the page, but let's choose census records under "Refine Your Search" since census records cover the entire province all at once.

So we will click on the census records as highlighted.
Now we see the census records. They include every man, woman and child recorded in the province in these early census years.

Incidentally, in its history Ontario has had several other names: such as Upper Canada, and Canada West.

You could click on any one of these census years shown, and in an external website that opens up, you can enter a name and follow the prompts to search for an ancestor.

Then once you find that ancestor, you can check out many other types of records.

Let's click on the x opposite databases and the x opposite census as highlighted to get back to just Ontario.
Now we are back to Ontario results. Again, notice we have 3,889 records that span every part of the province.

This time, under Refine Your Search, we will click on "Show More" to open up a huge list of all the possibilities we can explore in connection with Ontario.
Here, in alphabetical order, are some of the places and types of records available.

At the bottom, where it says "Next" you could go page by page through the resources alphabetically.

Or, under "Sort" in the top right corner, you could reverse the sorting from "Z to A" instead of "A to Z".

Or, by selecting "Frequency", we would get the results by the number of records available.

You could also type in a word in the little Search box at the top of this window.

Let's click on "Frequency".
Here we have a closer look at traditional types of resources...soldiers, births, marriages, deaths, voters lists, tax records, teachers, deeds, and some resources under Ontario’s older names, Canada West and Upper Canada.

Click on any of these and more records show up in that category - let’s choose marriages.
Now we see a wide range of marriage records. Just click on any one of these when searching and an external link will open up in a new tab or window where you can examine the records. You can search at your speed and leisure.

At the moment this search was done, there were 53 resources available. More genealogy resources are added every week.

To summarize, remember always to enter, first of all, the word genealogy in the search window, then select the country, and then select the province or state.

Even if you know exactly where your ancestors lived, they may have moved from one area to another, or have relatives in another place nearby. Always search from largest to smallest geographical areas.

Remember: If you see any errors please tell us by clicking on feedback and suggestions. That helps us to help others.

By following the basics in this tutorial, you may search FREE until December 31, 2016. Starting in January 2017 we will have a low-price subscription available for our introductory year. Or you can continue to search free if your library, college or organization has a subscription.