Explore the AMAZING HISTORY of YOU

HeritageQuest® Online

18th Century or 20th Century. African American or Native American. Farm or Factory. East Coast or West Coast.

WHERE DOES YOUR AMERICAN PAST BEGIN?
To find missing ancestors in the census—Try searching using just middle or nicknames for the given names. You can also try searching without a given name and then filtering your results by location, gender and age. Occasionally, census takers only recorded initials in place of the given name. Using only a first initial will bring up these records.

To view state maps—Click on the MAPS button near the top of the home page to access the Map Guide to U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920, which shows county outline maps at ten-year intervals. The old county boundaries are superimposed over the modern lines. These maps will help you find your ancestors in the correct county when doing record searches.

To search books better—Use wildcards to cover all possible alternative forms of names. Put * or ? in the middle or end of names where you expect variations. Example—typing Wil* Sm?th will return results for William, Will, Willard, Smith, Smyth, etc.

To expand your search—Don’t forget to check other databases in HeritageQuestOnline.

- Freedman’s Bank contains records from African American depositors after the Civil War
- Revolutionary War Pension Applications Collection provides records from family Bibles, personal letters, battle accounts, and more
- U.S. Serial Set has selected memorials, petitions and private relief actions of the U.S. Congress

To get more tips—Click the RESEARCH AIDS button near the top of the home page.