

Disappearing Ancestors

Where are they?

What happened to them?

Why can't I find them?

April 2022

Disappearing Ancestors

- Often, they haven't totally disappeared just "hiding" in records
- Spelling variations e.g. in names, places
 - less standard spelling in earlier years
 - illiteracy
- Transcription errors
 - in original record
 - when transcribed to website

Missing from Census?

- Spelling variations
- Transcription errors
 - by enumerator
 - by transcriber
- With friends or family
- Working away, lodger
- Emigrated
- Woman remarried
- Moved areas

- Death
- Prison
- Workhouse
- Army
- "Adopted"
- · Used different name
- Didn't want to be found
- · Census pages missing

Census - things to try

- Understand & use search options, FAQs etc
- Reverse names, initials, "ditto"
- Sometimes less is more!!
- Try other websites (different search app, different transcribers)
- FMP address search
- Trawl through village/parish pages
- · Search for other family members
- Track address/neighbours from other census
- Ages not always accurate

Search tips (from Ancestry Help)

Change how broad or narrow your search is. If your results don't seem relevant enough (or you're not getting enough results), try moving the sliders in the top-left corner of your search results. For help, see <u>Refining Your Search to Improve Results</u>.

Narrow your search by location or date. From your list of search results, look for the Filter by menu in the panel on the left side of the page. In the Filter by menu, under **Record** Location or Record Date, click a location or date to filter your results.

Try searching with both more and less information. Add and remove different facts in the search form (since different types of records have different combinations of data).

Search for the right records for the right time of life. If you're looking for someone's parents, try narrowing your search to a decade or so after the person's birth. Don't include information about that person's spouse or children, but do include information about their siblings. Search for female ancestors using only their maiden names early in life and only their married names after they married, if they married.

Get search results that include spelling mistakes and different spellings. Sometimes names are spelled incorrectly on censuses, and sometimes handwriting can be difficult to read. Try searching with wild cards.

Read the collection description at the bottom of record collections and record summary pages; it usually includes information specific to the collection.

Searching with Wild Cards (extract from Ancestry Help)

Wild cards are special symbols used in place of unknown letters in a word. They can be used in searches when you don't know an exact spelling.

Wild card symbols

Ancestry® uses the asterisk (*) and the question mark (?) as wild cards.

An **asterisk** (*) represents zero to five characters. If you wanted to search for different spellings of the name *Matthew* (like *Mathew* and *Matthiu*), you could do a wild card search that would find each different ending: Mat^* .

A question mark (?) represents one character. If you didn't know whether a name

were spelled *Nielson* or *Nielsen*, you could do a search for the name using a wild card where the unknown letter goes: *Niels?n*.

Wild card rules

1.All searches containing wild cards must contain at least three non-wild card letters. For example, *ill would work, but *// would not.

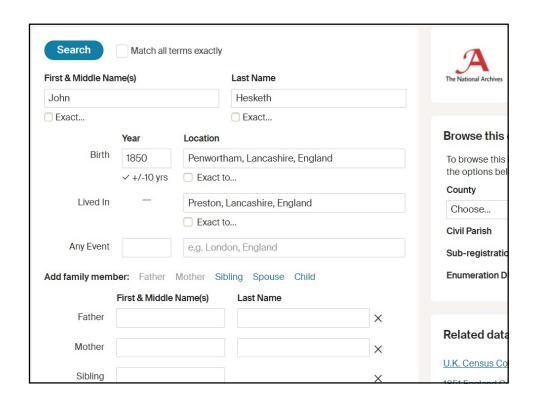
2. The first and last character in a search can't both be wild cards. Searching *ohnson and Johnso* would work, but *ohnso* would not.

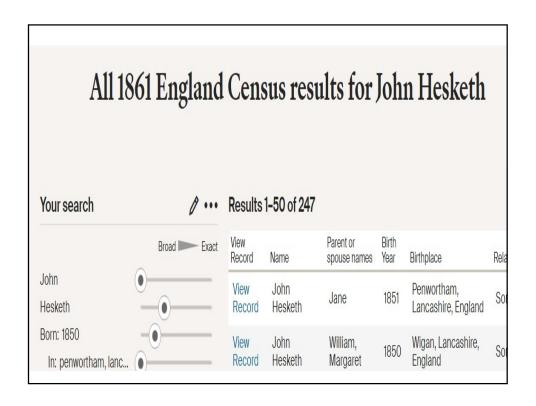
3. Wild cards don't work with Soundex matches.

Ways to use wild cards

- •To replace a single unknown letter:
- •To find names that begin with the same letters. Fran* will produce results for both Frank and Francine.
- •To find first letter(s), as in *aylor and *ompson
- •To find alternate spellings of the same name. Searching for Lac* will produce results for Lacy, Lacey, Laci, and Lacie.

			1861 Engla	ınd Census	3
Search First & Middle Nam		erms exactly	Last Name		The National Archives
Birth	Year	Location			Browse this
Lived In	_		don, England don, England		To browse this the options be
Any Event		e.g. Lond	don, England		County Choose
Add family member	er: Father		bling Spouse Child		Civil Parish
Father	II St & WIIGUR	e ivalile(s)	Last Ivallie	×	Sub-registration
Mother				×	Enumeration D
Sibling				×	





Missing Census Pages

- Find My Past
- Census, Land & Surveys | findmypast.co.uk
 - Follow above link
 - Scroll down, select census year from LHS
 - Scroll down page to find details of known issues or missing pages
- Ancestry find year's Census Collection page, scroll to Included Data Collections, click on census required (eg England). Scroll down to Known Problems section.
- National Archives see list on next slide

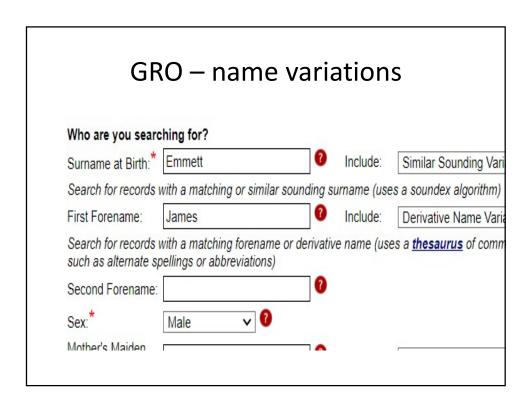
1841 (39 'HO 107' records of which 5 are 1851?)
http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=missing&_cot=0&_cr1=HO%20107&_dss=range&_ro=any&_hb=tna 1851 (in 'HO 107') 5 known to be "Missing" ... covery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r? st=adv& ep=missing& col=0& cr1=HO%20107& dss=range& sd=1851& ed=1851& ro=any& hb=tna 1861 Census under RG 9 - 854 results, for parts of, or "Missing"? ttp://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r? st=adv& ep=Missing& cr1=RG%209& dss=range& ro=any 1861 Census under RG 9 "Wanting" [missing?] 2 records. http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=wanting&_cr1=RG%209&_dss=range&_ro=any tp://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r? st=adv& ep=missing& col=0& cr1=RG%2010& dss=range& ro=any& hb=tna 1881 Census (in 'RG 11') 20 records "Missing" for Places and Vessels covery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r? st=adv&_ep=missing&_col=0&_cr1=RG%2011&_dss=range&_ro=any&_hb=tna http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r? st=adv& ep=missing& col=0& cr1=RG%2012& dss=range& ro=any& hb=tna tp://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=missing&_col=0&_cr1=RG%2013&_dss=range&_ro=any&_hb=tna 901 Census (in 'RG 13') 3 records "Wanting" [missing?] tp://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r? st=adv& ep=wanting& col=0& cr1=RG%2013& dss=range& ro=any& hb=tna 1911 Census and 1911 Census Summaries (in 'RG 14' and 'RG 78' "Missing") 27 Records ttp://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=Missing&_col=0&_cr1=RG%2014&_cr2=RG%2078&_dss=range&_ro=any&_hb=tna

Missing from BMDs

- Creative Searching
- Birth might not be registered (eg before 1875)
- Registered in different place?
 - Check area of Registration Districts at time
- Check GRO & local registers can be different
- Check different websites
 - GRO
 - County BMDs
 - FreeBMD
 - Ancestry, FMP
 - Family Search

FreeBMD			
	enter the details of the search on on the years for which we have o	_	•
Туре	□ All □ Births □ Deaths □ Marriages □ Marriages	Districts	All Districts Aberayron (to Jun1936) Aberconwy (from Sep1975) Abergavenny (to 1958) Aberystwyth (to Jun1936) Abingdon
Surname First name(s) Spouse/Mother surname Spouse first name(s) Death age/DoB			Acle (1939-Mar1974) Alcester (to Sep1985) Alderbury (to Jun1895) Aldershot (Dec1932-Mar1974) Aldridge & Brownhills (Jun1966-Aled (Dec1935-Mar1974) Alnwick (to 1936) Alresford (to Sep1932)
Date range Volume/Page	Mar v to Dec v	Counties	All Counties
Options	☐ Mono ☐ Exact match on first names ☐ Phonetic search surnames		Anglesey (to Mar1974) Avon (from Jun1974) Bedfordshire Berkshire Breconshire (to Mar1974)

Which index would Events registered in	l you like to search? England or Wales:			
Birth	O Death			
When was the birth Year:* ♂	n registered?	ear(c)	0	
	earch criteria, mandatory fields			a *
	results will be returned so prov			
Who are you searc	ching for?			
Surname at Birth:*	Emmett	•	Include:	Exact Matches Or
Search for records v	with a matching surname			
First Forename:	James	0	Include:	Exact Matches Or
Search for records v	with a matching first forename			
Second Forename:		0		
Sex:*	Male ✓ 🕜			
Mother's Maiden Surname:		0	Include:	Exact Matches Or
Search for records v	with a matching Mother's Maid	en Sur	name	
Where was the birt	th registered?			
District of Rirth	operation and Allen Committee and	2		



LancashireBMD - FAQ/Help

- Q. I've found a record here which is not in the GRO records, why?
- A. We work from the original records. Every three months the records held at local offices were transcribed and sent to the GRO where they were then re-indexed. At each stage of this transcribing, copying and re-indexing, errors could occur. Hence the local records are always going to be more accurate and more complete.
- Q. What areas are covered / not covered?
- A. The coverage page for births, marriages & deaths list the years indexed for each area and the areas still to be transcribed.

LL	BMD Deat	.113 366	IICII
Date ranges:	1837 🛦	Pagion	All regions
Date ranges:	1838 1839 1840 1841 1842 •	Region:	Blackburn Blackpool Bolton Burnley Bury
Order:	Alphabetically ~	Subdistrict:	Select a single Regio
Surname:		Forename: (Optional)	
Age at death or Year of birth: (Optional)	±1 v		Note: Not all entries where no age at dea may not be the one
Match:	Fxact Soundex	Output to	No ⊚ Yes ○

	LBMD - Bi	rths
Date ranges:	1837 A 1838 1 1839 1840 1841 1842 *	Region:
Order:	Alphabetically	Subdistrict:
Surname:		Forename: (Optional)
		ou choose not to ignore blank entries, then entries ie on the certificate may or may not be the one y
Mother's Maiden Name:(Optional)	Hatton	Ignore Blank MMN:
Match	Evact @ Soundey ()	Output to file:

	Lancashire Birth indexes for the years: 1930				
Surname	Forename(s)	Mother's Maiden Name	Year	Sub-District	
BAYLIS	June	HATTON	1930	Blackpool North	Black
BILSBOROUGH	Helen	HATTON	1930	Wigan (West)	Wigai
BIRCHALL	Kenneth	HATTON	1930	Lowton	Wigai
CLIFT	Joan	HATTON	1930	Atherton	Wigai
FLETCHER	Arnold	HATTON	1930	Great Bolton and Lever	Bolto
GILL	Jack	HATTON	1930	Atherton	Wigai
HACKETT	Norman	HATTON	1930	Leigh	Wigai
HATTON	Doris M	HATTON	1930	Didsbury	Manc
HOWARD	Henry	HATTON	1930	Adlington	Prest
	ii -		4000	alu	

Missing from Parish Registers

- · Creative Searching
- Which parish/church? check GENUKI, LDS etc.
- Changed parish or religion?
- Not everyone baptised, some later in life
- Baptised under mother's maiden name
- Not all PRs survived
 - lost, damaged, missing pages
- Many PRs not (yet) transcribed to websites
- Check Online Parish Clerks, Ancestry, FMP, LDS
- Check where PRs held GENUKI, FamilySearch

Lancashire Online Parish Clerks					
		Ancestor Search in the County of Lancashire			
First Name	Surname	Father First			
Event	Location	Mother First			
All Events ✓	Whole County ✓				
Year	Range	Spouse First			
	Start Year 🗸				
	Results per Page	Other First*			
Brief ○ Results ● Full	50 Results ✓				
		* e.g. Witness, Godparent, Other Rela			