Searching

TNG has a very powerful search capability. The simple search will just search all of our databases for any names containing the strings you enter. However, that just scratches the surface.

The Advanced Search has many powerful tools built in. You can search in just one database or all of AFAOA's databases at the same time. You can search by first or last name, birth, death, burial, or christening date or place, or spouse's last name. You can search on multiple fields at the same time to help narrow down a search. The real power comes from the different search types allowed in each field. Among them are:

contains: searches the designated field for the given string even if that string is in the middle of the word. As wildcard characters (*, ?) don't work, use this search instead.

equals: use this when you want an exact (case insensitive) match.

starts with: enter the first part of the string. This is the equivalent of Aus*.

ends with: enter the last part of the string. This is the equivalent of *tin.

soundex: search surnames using the NARA soundex code.

metaphone: this will find similar names. "Austin" will also find "Austen".

exists: use this to find all people for whom a particular field has something in it.

does not exist: use this to find all people for whom a particular field is blank. This is particularly useful for things like burial places that often aren't filled in.

Note that the Search Site button is not particularly useful. It initiates a Google search, but Google can't really index our pages to create good search information.

Bookmarks

Bookmarks can be very helpful for pages you want to reference often. Simply navigate to the appropriate page and click the "Bookmark" link. Please note that bookmarks are saved using cookies, so they are only available on the computer and browser you used when saving them. If you delete your cookies, you will lose any saved bookmarks.