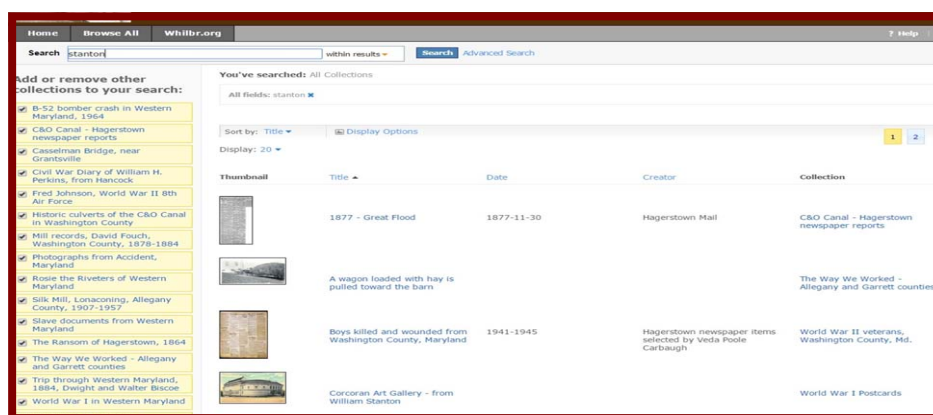


Searching in WHILBR

A patron asks if you have any information about her great-great-grandfather. Ever helpful, you show them how to search Ancestry.com and you look in the vertical file or family history files your library maintains. If the relative lived in the Hagerstown area, you can check the *newspaper index* (if they lived prior to 1865), the *obituary locator*, or the *marriage records*.

You can also search WHILBR, that encyclopedia of fascinating historic and genealogical facts about Western Maryland. There are two versions of WHILBR, and for this article, we will deal with the more recent of these, digital.whilbr.org.

There is a simple *search box* on the opening screen. One word there will find all references to that name in the 17 collections on digital.whilbr.org. For example, a search for "Stanton" will produce the following assortment:



You will need to look at the *collection column*. Was the relative likely to have been involved with the C&O Canal, or World War I or World War II?

There is also an advanced search feature where you can select *what collections* you want to have searched, and *what fields* and *dates* should be included.

By using WHILBR for local history and genealogical research, you can cut down on search time and yield more relevant results.

You can reduce the number of hits, by adding more information. So if you are only interested in "William Stanton", then put those two words in quotes in the search box.

Remember, though, that he may be listed in official documents as "W. Stanton" or "Stanton, W." and a search for "William Stanton" would miss these two variants.

A screenshot of the WHILBR - Western Maryland's Historical Library advanced search interface. The header shows the library name and a logo. Below the header, there are navigation links: Home, Browse All, and Whilbr.org. The search area includes a search box with the text 'within results' and buttons for 'Search' and 'Close Advanced Search'. Below the search box, there are fields for 'Find results with:' and 'Search by date'. The 'Find results with:' section has two rows of input fields: 'All of the words' followed by 'stanton' and 'All of the words' followed by 'hummel'. There are also dropdown menus for 'in' (All fields) and 'or' (and). The 'Search by date' section has 'from' and 'to' fields with dates '01/01/1917' and '01/01/1918' respectively. There are 'Search' and 'Clear All' buttons at the bottom. On the right side, there is a section for 'Searching collections:' with a list of collections: 'World War I in Western M' and 'World War I Postcards'. There is also a link to 'Add or remove collections'.