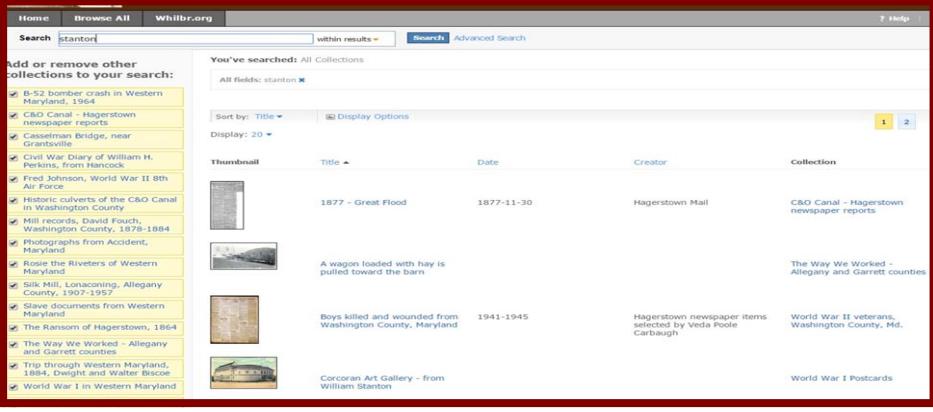


Searching in WHILBR

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:



The screenshot shows the search results for the query "stanton". The interface includes a sidebar for "Add or remove other collections to your search" and a main search results area. The results are sorted by title and display 20 items. Each result includes a thumbnail, title, date, creator, and collection. The collections listed are: B-57 bomber crash in Western Maryland, 1964; C&O Canal - Hagerstown newspaper reports; Casselman Bridge, near Grantsville; Civil War Diary of William H. Peacock, from Hancock; Fred Johnson, World War II 8th Air Force; Historic culverts of the C&O Canal; Mill Records, David Fouch, Washington County, 1878-1884; Photographs From Accident, Maryland; Race the Rivers of Western Maryland; Silk Mill, Lonaconing, Allegany County, 1907-1957; Slave documents from Western Maryland; The Ransom of Hagerstown, 1864; The Way We Worked - Allegany and Garrett counties; Trip through Western Maryland, 1938; and Walter Biscoe; and World War I in Western Maryland. The results show items like the 1877 Great Flood, a wagon loaded with hay, boys killed and wounded, and Corcoran Art Gallery items.

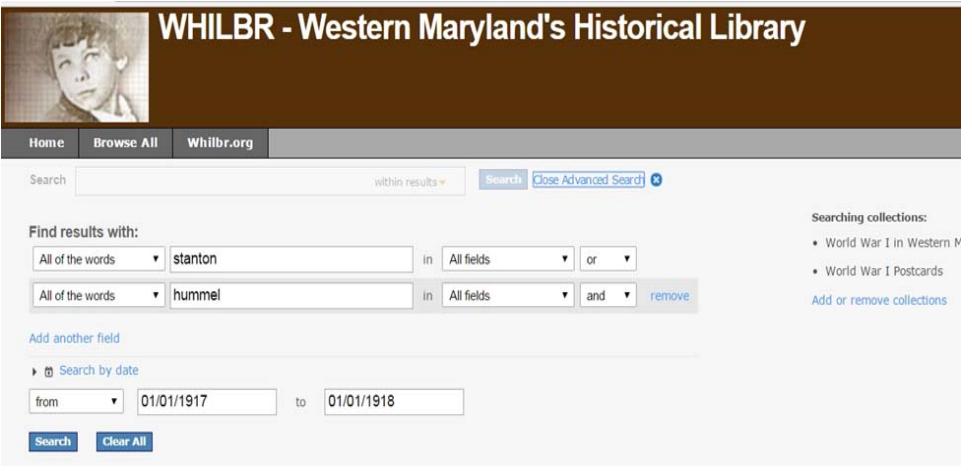
You will need to look at the *collection column*. Was the relative likely to have been involved with the C&O Canal, or World War I or World War II?

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.



The screenshot shows the advanced search interface. It includes a search bar, a sidebar for "Searching collections" (World War I in Western Maryland, World War I Postcards), and a main search form. The search form allows for specifying search terms, fields, and dates. It includes dropdowns for "Find results with:" (All of the words), search terms (stanton, hummel), search fields (All fields), and search operators (in, or, and, and). It also includes a "Search by date" section with date range fields (from: 01/01/1917 to: 01/01/1918) and buttons for "Search" and "Clear All".