1. To learn how to access *HeritageQuest Online* (HQ), see the separate instructions.

2. Once in the database, click on **Search U.S. Serial Set**.

3. Input your ancestor’s name in any order.

4. HQ lets you input place names, keywords, and a document date range if desired. It is recommended to start by filling in the **Person Name** field only, unless the name is very common.

5. Click the **Search** button.

6. The database will retrieve a list of documents in order of relevancy.

7. Click on the document title that you are interested in.

8. A detailed document record will open.

9. To go directly to the first page including your search term(s), click the hits located next to a section under the **Contents** heading.

10. To browse the full document, click a section under the **Contents** heading.

**Tip:** Click ‘Read more about US Serial Set’ on the sidebar to learn more about the records and how they may assist your research.
11. The page image will appear.

12. When you are ready, you can advance to the next hit, page, or document.

13. You can also return to your results list by clicking the link at the top of the page.

14. To learn how to print, please see the separate printing instructions.

FAQs and Tips for Searching the U.S. Serial Set

1. **What is included in the U.S. Serial Set collection in HeritageQuest?** Private Relief Actions, Memorials, and Petitions from the Serial Set and the American State Papers are included.

2. **For the most accurate searching, read about search commands in HQ's help screens:**
   
   [click here](http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/help/serialset_search.html)

3. **I input a name in the 'Person Names' field, but I can't find it on the page.** When you enter a first and last name in the **Person Names** field, HQ searches for those terms within four words of each other, not in an exact order or right next to each other. Also, if you entered a search term into the **Place Names** or **Keywords** field, the name may not be on the page. When terms are entered in multiple fields, hits are returned for the terms in any of the fields, not necessarily all of the fields. The document will contain all of your search terms, but the pages retrieved as hits may not include all of your search terms.

For More Information About the Serial Set

**The U.S. Serial Set – Library of Congress, American Memory**

[click here](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwss.html)

**Using the Congressional Serial Set for Genealogical Research** - By Jeffery Hartley


**Those Elusive Early Americans: Public Lands and Claims in the American State Papers, 1789–1837** - By Chris Naylor

[click here](http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2005/summer/state-papers.html)

**Untapped Resources: Private Claims and Private Legislation in the Records of the U.S. Congress** - By Charles E. Schamel