

Brick Walls – Sources to use in order to find missing genealogy information.

Birth date or location:

Vital records, Church Records, Newspaper Notices, Family Sources, Military Records, Census, Cemetery Records, Immigration/Emigration, Land, Will/Probate

Death Date or Location:

Death Certificates, Church Records, Newspaper Notices, Cemetery & funeral Home Records, Census Mortality Schedules, Military, SS Death Index, Will/Probate

Marriage Place or Date:

Marriage Certificates, Church Records, Newspapers, Family Sources such as invitations, Census, Cemetery Records, Pension Records, Land, Will/Probate

Maiden Name:

Marriage Record, Church Records, Bible Records, Military Pensions, Cemetery Records, Will/Probate Witnesses

Immigration/Emigration Date:

Ships Passenger Lists, Naturalization & Citizenship Records, Newspapers, Census records from 1900 on.

Country /Town/Parish of Origin: Ship Passenger Lists, Declaration of Intent for Naturalization, Military records, Census Records (individual birthplace from 1850 on, birth place of father and mother from 1880 on) State Census Records, Obituaries, Church Records.

Names of Parents: Census Records, Vital Records, Newspapers Notices (wedding, engagement, obituary), Church Records, Social Security Application, Adoption Records.

Breaking Through Your Genealogical Brick Wall

1. What do you know? Document details!
2. Are you sure? Challenge assumptions and question family folk lore.
3. Create and Analyze a Timeline for your brickwall person or family.
4. Learn everything about the locality in question; geography, history, wars, disasters, records available.
5. Still no luck? Try collateral lines; siblings, cousins etc.
6. Not where they should be? Get creative with surname spellings. Search first names.
7. Did they put down roots? Follow the land.
8. Ask for help from others. There are experts available to help you.
9. Still can't find them? Regroup and start over!

Genealogy is just another type of puzzle. If the pieces don't fit one way, then try another. It is true that all of the answers may never be found, but I am sure there is something out there you

have yet to discover!

Keep Looking!