



Paying attention to details may be the greatest tool when it comes to breaking into stalled spaces.

Dates-Addresses-Neighbors-Witnesses

Newspaper Obits

Translating Headstones

Yiddish names on passenger records

Details on the passenger manifests

Checking outgoing with incoming lists-occupations-cousin relationships

The picky details may hold the clues.

Phase 1 - Begin Again

Tools your need for this stage

1. A Filing System (Makes notes to yourself of how you have organized your project)
2. Discrepancy Log
3. Timeline
4. Record Source List
5. Genealogy Check List

Before You Begin!



Exercise #1: Sort, Reorganize and Reformat

Sorting, Filing, re-filing, or reorganizing what you have collected may highlight facts you neglected.

- ➡ Sort
- ➡ Organize
- ➡ Check your filing system for changes you may need to make

- ➡ Make a note of possible files you need to add (Surname, Media, Charts etc)

Analyze Your Data



marked "To Do."

Exercise #2: Review

- ➡ Read your record details and look for record discrepancies
- ➡ Create a Discrepancy Log for verification)
- ➡ Create a Timeline
- ➡ Create a Reminder Log "Been There - Done That!"
- ➡ Double-check what you have and have not.
- ➡ Missing something? Add a column on your chart

Stop, Look and Verify!



Exercise #3: Re-Check the Records

- ➡ Go back to the original source.
- ➡ Recheck your work.
- ➡ Verify the data.
- ➡ Using a genealogical records checklist, check to see what other records are available -
- ➡ Create a checklist of all sources to check for a missing event
- ➡ Work through this list checking off each one

At a Glance - Summary Charts



A chart can log your research progress and your dead ends. Simple charts can be made with a word processor. More complex charts may be made using Excel or spread sheet software.

- ➡ **Create a Data Board**
- ➡ **The essentials may include: An outline descendent tree, A One line Census Data Reports by census year, a**

timeline, a Data Source Checklist, Individual or surname charts. Include enough information to be able to see at a glance where you are in your research. We do not want too much information that clouds the search process. Anecdotal information, and family stories are very important and often aid the researcher in knowing where to look. These should be saved verbatim if possible to refer back to. Do not include them on the Data Board but refer to them in the Record Sources as "family stories." The key is can you quickly see everything by scanning the lines...not having to stop to digest the variety of information.

Key sections of the Data Board are

- **Introduction** - A one or two paragraph, concise statement that gives the who, when, where of the SURNAME you are searching and secondarily includes what you want to

know and how comes. Sometimes this may include what records you are stuck on or what you have searched depending on your audience. When you post to a discussion group or send letters to JGFF participants or write letters to relatives, you will be starting off with your introduction modified to fit the goal of your query/ request.

- **Research Goal** - Broad overall goal that fits your current project
- **Research Objectives** - 3 goal oriented, concise, measurable units that can be worked on keyed to the four weeks of a JewishGen Class
- **Outline Descendent Tree** - full instructions are given in the Posting Requirements
- **The Census** - Full instructions are given in the Posting Requirements
- **Immigration and Naturalization and Military** information may be added to fill out the detail. But if this is included in a timeline, it should be saved elsewhere and noted in your source list.
- **Record Sources** - What else have you searched (military, naturalizations, passenger manifests, vital records and cemetery/burial).

Supplemental Tutorials will be uploaded on our Web Wiz Forum (census, ODT, timeline, Research Log, construction of charts,)

Phase 2 - Checking it Twice

Organizing the Inconclusive

[Discrepancy Charts - Organizing the Inconclusive](#)

Michael John Neill explains how to use discrepancy charts to summarize the conflicts between different record sources and to indicate the source for each conflicting piece of data.

Are you sure you have it right?

- ➡ Check Name Variations
- ➡ Be very flexible with dates. Always search for several years either side of a supposed date. Surnames, ages and dates are not always reported accurately. Make a note of the reporting source. Is it primary or secondary?
- ➡ Create a chart showing all recorded facts for the same event listing the source. Try to find at least three records to verify any facts that you already know and judge the quality of your data.

Record Work-Arounds

When a one-of-a-kind record goes missing, there may be some other records available with the same information. The alternatives may be easy to find or may take a lot of creative brainstorming to decide the kind of record it would be and where to find it.

[United States Record Selection Table](#)

This family search Wiki gives the researcher a chart form and a way to fill it in that may lead to answers. This table can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for post-1800 research in the United States.

The Goal	Types of Records Needed	Additional Record Types	List Catalog Search by place
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In column 1 enter the goal you are working on in this search

In column 2 enter the types of records most likely to have the information you need

In column 3 search for additional record types that may be useful

Use [Google](#), [Family History Search Wikis](#), [Cyndislist](#), [The Source Online](#), [Redbook](#), [JewishGen](#),

1. If You Need 2. Look First In 3. Then Search

The [family search Wiki](#) analyzes specific records that may become alternatives to the missing record. This article breaks these details down and places them in a chart which you can save to your computer.

- ➡ When searching for records for your research place be sure to look for the record type you need in the Place Search of the FamilySearch Catalog.
- ➡ Look at the Collections catalog on the Search Page

FamilySearch Catalog

Search the catalog of genealogical materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications that can be loaned to local Family History Centers.

[Learn more about the catalog and how to use it](#)

Search by:

Places | [Surnames](#) | [Titles](#) | [Author](#) | [Subject](#)

Places

Find a Collection

Researching within a specific collection

Collection Title

[Browse all published collections](#)

Contacts Cut Genealogy Corners

Let others look over your research

- ➡ Send your goal statement out over the Internet.
- ➡ Use forum discussion groups and social networking.
- ➡ Send up a trial balloon by posting your tree to Rootsweb, Ancestry and FTJP.
- ➡ Be prepared to make corrections when you have more data. List only known, sourced data.

Are there others researching your family, your surname?

"Fresh eyes can often see beyond brick walls, so try bouncing your theories off other researchers. Post a query to a Web site or mailing list which focuses on the locality in which the family lived, check with members of the local historical or genealogical society, or just talk through it with someone else who loves family history research. Be sure to include what you already know, as well as what you'd like to know and which tactics you've already tried."

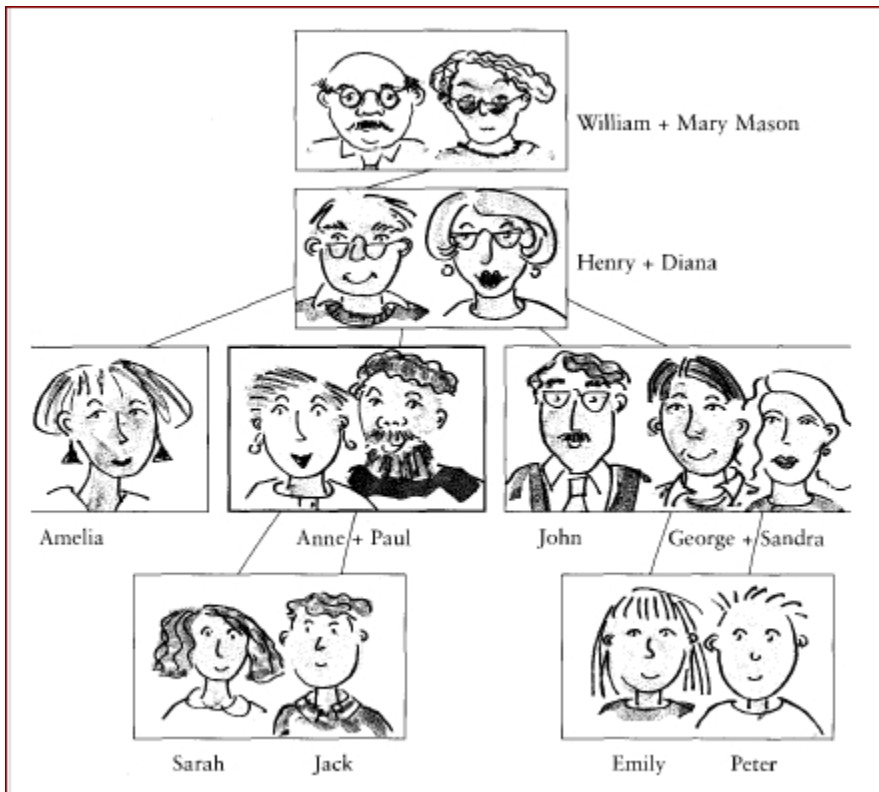
Pasted from <http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/a/brick_walls.htm>

Broaden Your Search - Cluster genealogy

When you're stuck extend your search to family members and neighbors. When you can't find a birth record locate one for a sibling. **Expand your collateral tree**

Collateral Branches

[Collateral Branches belong to distant or female lines that do not share a surname but are a branch in the family tree](#)



Paul is Anne's **husband** and Sarah and Jack's **father**.
 Anne is Paul's **wife** and Sarah and Jack's **mother**.
 Anne and Paul are Sarah and Jack's **parents**.
 Sarah is Anne and Paul's **daughter**. Jack is their **son**.
 Sarah is Jack's **sister**. Jack is Sarah's **brother**.
 Henry is Sarah and Jack's **grandfather**. Diana is their **grandmother**.
 Henry and Diana are Sarah and Jack's **grandparents**.
 Sarah is Henry and Diana's **granddaughter**. Jack is their **grandson**.
 John and George are Sarah and Jack's **uncles**.
 Amelia and Sandra are Sarah and Jack's **aunts**.
 Sarah is Amelia, John, George and Sandra's **niece**. Jack is their **nephew**.
 Emily and Peter are Sarah and Jack's **cousins**.