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Introduction

Every search finally comes to the edge of "no longer easy" whether we are new to family history research or years-long established veterans.

- ➡ There comes an end to online searches.
- ➡ There comes an end to recorded information.
- ➡ There comes a time when travelling to libraries and archives and family history resources just yield "no results".

Frustrated and at a Loss

Are you at a Dead end or just experiencing a Brick Wall

Are you stumped by a small detail or is this a major avenue that would allow you to deepen your research possibilities.

If you feel you have exhausted all approaches to new solutions, what next?

Defining the Problem

Start to End Goal

- ➡ Every problem holds a possible solution
- ➡ both problems and solutions are determined by our choices
- ➡ we might end up finding impassable information road blocks and immovable facts (negative information)
- ➡ When is a brick wall or a road block a dead end? That is what all researchers must decide.

Information blocks



Is it our skills that bring us to information blanks, up against the genealogical brick wall? Nothing but frustrating dead ends? Brick Wall, Dead End, Nothing doing?

Could someone else's eyes yield better results? If we took a class or hired a researcher would there be solutions? How do we know if it is a brick wall or really a dead end?

The only way to determine if a problem is solvable or if we need to turn the research aside may be to start over?

From Brick Wall to Open End Solutions

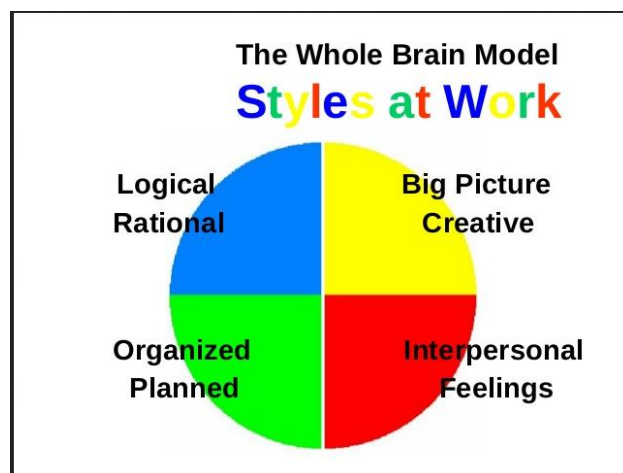
To determine if this is truly a dead end we must come at the brick wall problem from different methodologies. Each methodology has a unique perspective.

Logical: goal and objective

Organized: checklists, files and folders, charts and maps.

Creative: innovative and original;

Feelings: immersion in the data often leads to empathetic solutions.



Choose a Strategy

- ➡ Slowly start from the beginning
- ➡ Start from the end and determine if you searched all there was to search?
- ➡ Make your lists: Where are the records and What are the records.
- ➡ Pinpoint the missing data

Discover the Weak Spots**Methodology****Writing it out**

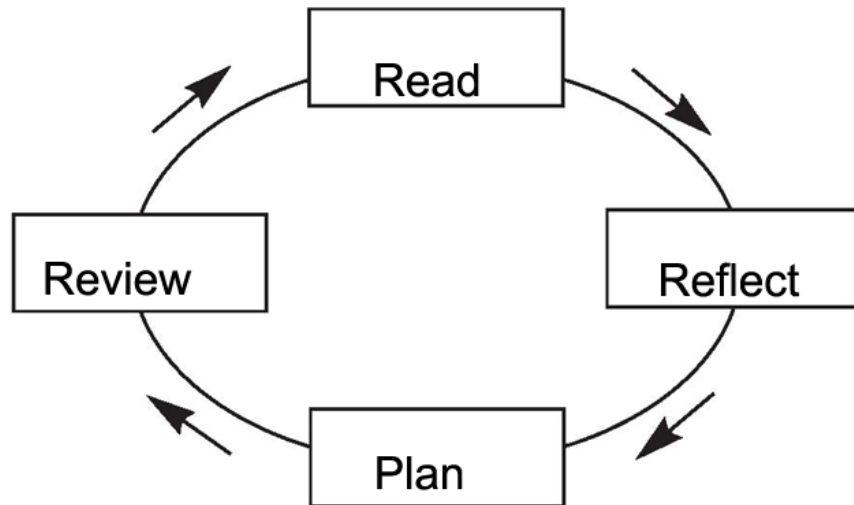
- ➡ Take notes
- ➡ Write your search story
- ➡ Define your search Parameters
- ➡ Create a person by person timeline to go with your search story
- ➡ Cull sources to create a resource list

Logging it in

- ➡ Learn how to keep records of what you searched, when and the outcomes
- ➡ Learn your way around the Internet sources, guides and search engines
- ➡ Detail your research with charts, tables, filing systems and image data. Keep an electronic notebook

Evaluate Data

- ➡ Format your **Data at a Glance in a one page Data Board**
A Data Board can become a concise presentation system where your family story facts, goal and objectives, your outline descendent tree, abbreviated census data for the years in the United States and immigration data can be contained on one page.
- ➡ Discrepancy Charts
Discrepancies can be the result of secondary sources compared to primary source information. Charting the information from a variety of sources often leads to clarification or highlights the places of obscurity.
- ➡ Determine whether you have the right person and the right place
Names and the names of places are often misleading. Sometimes numerous places have the same name. Often people, even in the same town or same family, have the same name. Sorting this out may remove obstacles. or create new dilemmas.
- ➡ Merging Data
Beware of other people's incorrect data on the internet. Do not mix published family trees with yours. Downloading information from the popular subscription programs like ancestry, my heritage, Legacy or geni often leads to duplication of facts and wrong vital statistics.
- ➡ Be consistent
Work on one family at a time. Work on one individual in your search family at a time. Sometimes it may seem important to stop and change the focus. Leave yourself a note for where you stopped. Did you stop because you found a road block? Did you run into a known problem? Make a note. Did you run into a dead end? Make a note of what you tried and the result. It is frustrating to come across the same problem and try all the same things just because to forgot to keep a record of what did not work.



The Blocked Search

Great care must be taken in the *interpretation* of *genealogical* data

Anyone can tell a story

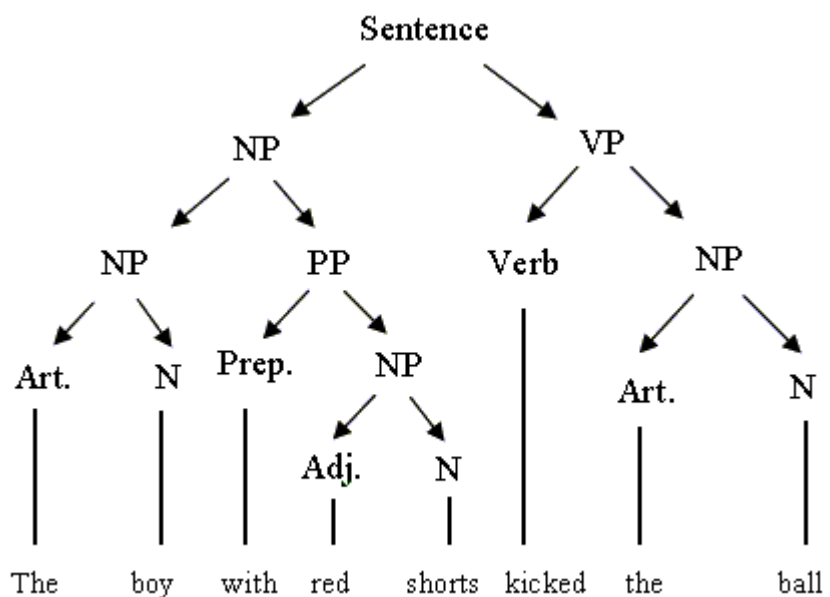
Sentence structure, syntax and spelling are only part of the process

It is interpretation that controls the outcome

A complete record/study/analysis is nowhere if there is no proof

1. ~~Geneology~~ **Genealogy**
2. ~~Cemetary~~ **Cemetery**
3. ~~Ancester~~ **Ancestor**
4. ~~Linage~~ **Lineage**
5. ~~Descendent~~ **Descendant**

In genealogy some mistakes are ours



Some mistakes come from **no evidence, negative evidence, wrong turns and wrong directions.** Some mistakes are what we do not know

Road Blocks

Along the way your sources may be leading *you* in the

wrong direction. Which Rosie Kaplan married to Isaac lived in Brooklyn? How many Sam Cohens lived in NY in 1910? Heading in the wrong direction may get you to the wrong place.

Taking a detour is not the same as taking the wrong road

Negative evidence is not the same as a Negative search

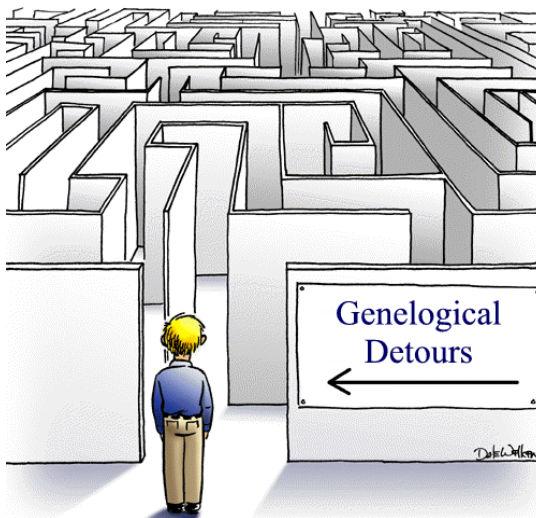
Lebowitz	Herb	Daughter	H. W. 16 S		New York
—	—	Heath	M. W. 5 D 22		New York
—	—	Thibe	F. W. 35 M 22	8 2	New York
—	—	Daughter	F. W. 35 S		New York
—	—	Son	M. W. 10 S		New York
—	—	Daughter	F. W. 7 S		New York
Goldstein	Son	Father	M. W. 50 M		New York
—	Mike	Birthdate	M. W. 22 S		New York

"When it comes to family trees things are rarely straightforward. Families often disappear between one census and the next; records are lost or

destroyed through mishandling, fire, war and flood may be standing in your path.

Sometimes the facts you do find just don't make sense. " [Brick Wall Strategies for Dead-End Family Trees](#) By [Kimberly Powell](#)

"Brick walls are an inevitable part of a genealogist's research life. In the simplest terms, brickwalls are often defined as those genealogical research problems that seem too difficult to solve. But not all brickwalls are created equal, and there are a number of [myths](#) surrounding the exact definition. Many times, what seems like an insurmountable brickwall may in reality be a mere stumbling block" [Tips for Removing Stubborn Genealogy Research Blockers](#) by [Lisa Alzo](#) | Apr 19, 2012



"At some point, every family historian encounters a barrier in their genealogy research. In genealogy, these barriers are known as brick walls and they can often appear impossible to work around.

When you have exhausted all the obvious possibilities, consider the less obvious. This article is all about the less obvious. It is a compilation of some of the best genealogy brick wall solutions that we have accumulated over the years.

We hope that some of these genealogy brickwall solutions will give you that "Aha!" moment that will enable you to dig deeper into your family's past. Good luck and happy hunting!" [50 Best Genealogy Brick Wall Solutions\(Part I\)](#)