

3+ Tips for Breaking Brick Walls at:

<http://www.kuzmich4.com/Facebook/Brick%20Walls.pdf>

All of us have hit brick walls when encountering original research. Strategies are extremely important especially when hitting original research road blocks. Much like playing chess, my worst chess experience was with my uncle, Anatoly Kuzmich, in Ukraine. He check-mated my King embarrassingly very quickly no matter how many games we played. In Russia and Ukraine, chess is a very serious game or should I say a sport that they take very seriously.

Back to genealogy. When your research seems to have slowed or stopped on one of your family lines, here are [three tips from Archives.com](https://www.archives.com/experts/breland-claudia/family-history-case-study.html) at <https://www.archives.com/experts/breland-claudia/family-history-case-study.html> that can help get you going:

- 1) Explore information for collateral relatives (uncles, aunts, siblings, etc.);
- 2) Search online sources again and again for newly posted records; and
- 3) Take advantage of library and archive links, such as in **The Family History Guide**.

For more tips on breaking through the brick walls in your research, see *Project 4: Discover* in **The Family History Guide**: [Goal 7](https://www.thefhguide.com/project-4-discover07.html#g) at <https://www.thefhguide.com/project-4-discover07.html#g>. (See all tips at <https://thefhguide.com/tip-of-the-day.html>).

Closing Comments

My family history successes never came easily for me. Brain-storming with living extended family members is an excellent start by fellowshipping with them. By researching my extended families with uncles, aunts and their families for possible locations of civil and church records proved to be the shortcut for me to jump to the previous generations. Newspaper obituaries can also be informative. Always better to research known records whenever brick walls occur. Don't get discouraged. Exercise your options by researching adjacent information and the Lord will bless you in overcoming these intermittent road blocks. We all need to have more confidence when difficulties occur. Stay positive and you can and will develop your own inroads for success when you least expect them. Above all, praying and fasting can be a powerful tool if you utilize it in a positive manner. Then follow up your prayers with creative, assertive efforts. Earning success is a trait we all need to embrace for the "free lunch theory" doesn't always occur without individual efforts and in my case, with much networking especially I was the youngest person in my extended families. Had I not started networking in the 1970's, nearly of the extended families were deceased in in 1980's.

Networking is an incredibly important option because others can examine your brick roads, and unexpectedly creative tips and tricks can occur. One tool I created was a newsletter for every surname in my genealogy that I organized annually and shared with relatives summarizing my research difficulties. By outlining your difficulties with research assignments, inspiration and motivation can be shared back to you. But you have to take to initiate your research needs and share it with extended family members for their input. Then over the years, these extended family members were more willing to assist me. I always included a clean pedigree chart and a family group sheet for open-ended architecture so they could create their own ones from scratch. Whenever they participated in completing them, progress was almost inevitable with new tips for me to explore. Patience and persistence along with these newsletters were essential elements in overcoming my brick

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