

Solving Through Research Problems: Overcoming Brick Walls

Your attitude about tough family history research problems has a big impact on your chances of success. Whether you think you can, or whether you think you cannot—you are right! Develop a relentless “track-‘em-down” attitude pursuing and analyzing all sources. Never give up on the problem, and never give up searching for new ideas and ways of researching the problem. Hunt down the answers no matter what it takes.

COMMON CAUSES OF RESEARCH PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTIONS

Causes of Problems	Solutions
1. Unproductive attitude	Develop a relentless "track 'em down" attitude. ^[1]
2. Poor research logs	Partially fill out logs BEFORE looking at each source. This includes each search's goal (person and event you seek to document). ^[2]
3. Inadequate research documentation	Document and organize AS YOU GO. ^[3]
4. Stagnant thinking on the problem	Correlate what you have found. Use new forms to pull out new patterns and force your brain to try something different. ^[4]
5. Failure to put an ancestor in community context. ^[5]	Trap the answer to the question in a web of associates and neighbors on both sides of the county boundary line. ^[6]
6. Arbitrary research strategies	Thoughtfully plan how, who, what, when, and where you will do the research to solve the problem. Be flexible if a new find takes you in a new direction. ^[7]
7. Researcher knowledge deficit	Keep asking why the records show what they show (or do not show) and what that implies. Continue your genealogical education the rest of your life.

Need more inspiration? Help is available through an outstanding article on **FamilySearch.org**. Click [here](#) for this timely article.

Still need more inspiration or motivation? **The Family History Guide** has multiple articles worth reading and studying.

- [Solve problems and use effective research methods](#)
- [Research Knowledgebase: General and United States](#)
- [Solve problems and use effective research methods](#)
- [The Family History Guide has a vault that is loaded with articles and videos](#)

Closing Comments

When everything fails, there's strength in networking with others. While your ward temple & family history consultant is just but one person, start there because from one person, there might other referrals forthcoming. Much like seeking employment when one is suddenly unemployed. Personal referrals can be a critical factor in getting your resume in the hands of the hiring manager instead of going through HR.

When the Church's local family history centers become available to the general public, similar networking should be your first avenue in solving on-going though family history research problems because every family history center has many experts with different areas of expertise and experience in family history research.

In my 50+ years, I have stumbled almost endlessly and yet I keep networking with others to overcome my limitations. On October 11th, I will be giving a fireside for the 16 Stake Denver-Area Single Adult Singles ages 31 and up. Here's the title of my presentation which should be a wakeup call to any doubters surviving their personal challenges in gathering their family history stories and memories. This fireside represents 50+ years of hanging in there and continuing to make progress day after day, month after month and yes, year after year and decade after decade.

The oddity is if I didn't start 50 years ago, today it is literally impossible to travel to Eastern Europe because of the coronavirus pandemic and particularly to the Ukraine – Russia War 1914 through today. And this fireside below would not even be remotely possible to present now if I had waited until I retired in 2009 because it took me 28 years to find my missing Ukrainian relatives from 1970 to 1998 who were totally unknown and missing from when my grandfather first immigrated in 1898. That's exactly 100 years of no connections with Ukrainian ancestors and probably forever evaporating without ever connecting again? For today, it is unsafe and illegal to travel to that part of Ukraine and my niece would still be living there instead of in the Denver area without her American husband and her family intact as that was there only established in the Denver area when she attended Red Rocks Community and lived with Roslyn and I for one school year.

Hope this information benefits you whenever original research hits a brick wall and you become discouraged. The success of my 50+ years of dealing with near impossible family history challenges is this, "don't lose faith because the Lord can bless each and every one of us in unique ways. This October 11, 2020 fireside is such a testimonial answer because it offers a step-by-step approach of how I progressed in life through these 50+ years. It permanently brought both one of my ancestors and also my 2001 Ukrainian translator to America, thus their family opportunities improved immensely."

A GENEALOGY JOURNEY from Zero to Hero

John A. Kuzmich, Jr.

Denver Regional All Singles Fireside Stake

October 11, 2020





