

**[Handling Conflicts in Research Information: When Records Contradict Each Other at <http://www.kuzmich4.com/Facebook/Research%20Conflicts2.pdf>](http://www.kuzmich4.com/Facebook/Research%20Conflicts2.pdf)**

Occasionally you may run into records that don't agree with each other, in terms of the important information that's recorded on them. What should you do in that case? [This article from Legacy Tree at <https://www.legacytree.com/blog/2-guidelines-for-dealing-with-conflicting-information-in-sources>](https://www.legacytree.com/blog/2-guidelines-for-dealing-with-conflicting-information-in-sources) has two solid tips to help you make the best choices with conflicting information, by zeroing in on the sources you are using. To learn more about handling conflicting information in your research, see [Goal 7 at <https://www.thefhguide.com/project-4-discover07.html#c>](https://www.thefhguide.com/project-4-discover07.html#c) in Project 4: Discover. (See all tips at <https://www.thefhguide.com/tip-of-the-day.htm>).

How do you handle conflicting information? [Tips for Managing Conflict](#)

1. Accept conflict. Remember that conflict is natural and happens in every ongoing relationship. ...
2. Be a calming agent. ...
3. Listen actively. ...
4. Analyze the conflict. ...
5. Model neutral language. ...
6. Separate the person from the problem. ...
7. Work together. ...
8. Agree to disagree.

**What should we do if we have two historical sources that give conflicting accounts?**

If you find two records that both say something different about your ancestor, **go in search of more records**. In the example above, you've got a headstone and a WWI draft card. Can you find a birth record? A marriage record?

**What does it mean when you find sources with conflicting information?**

That's called a source discrepancy, **a disagreement between two sources about the same thing**. Primacy sources (sources written by people who were there at the time) can disagree if the two authors had different perspectives on the event, if one of them was lying, or for all kinds of other reasons.

**What could be the possible solution to the discrepancies and contradictions of information?**

Solution: **Always explain relationships that are not what they appear**. If there has been a controversy, or if the lineage is in doubt, formally list and analyze all the possibilities, and explain how you arrived at your conclusion. Remember to explain conflicting evidence as thoroughly as possible.



**Closing Comments When Research Conflicts Can't be Resolved Quickly**

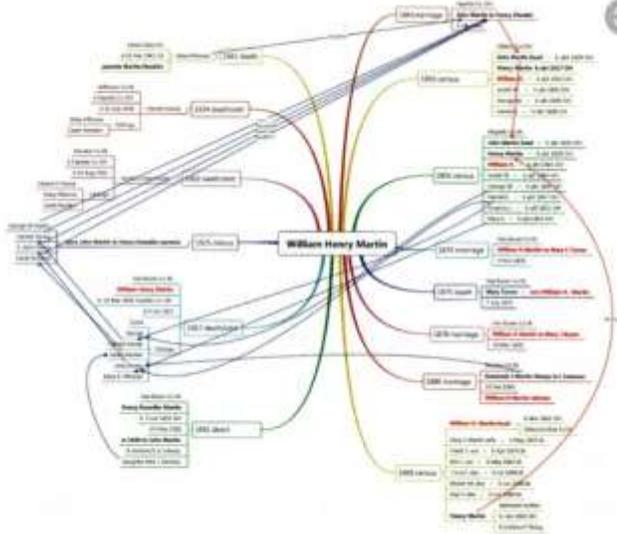
[8 Steps to Resolving Conflicting Evidence - Trace.com](https://www.trace.com)

<https://www.trace.com> > Home > [genealogy research](#)

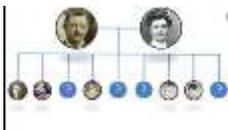
Recognize That a **Conflict** Exists. As you progress your **family history** research, you are likely to meet many different types of **conflicting information**. · Decide ...

Mistakes should be met with caution as there are many ways to resolve research problems by reviewing your primary sources and the available secondary sources as well. Dedication and patience can be the most important ingredients when dealing research conflicts. The bottom line is that you are seeking the best answers to your given circumstances. Have a research brick wall or don't know where to begin? Below are a listing previous Facebook group postings dealing with how to efficiently handle brick wall challenges. Hopefully your brick wall challenges will all disappear soon!

- **Breaking through Brick Walls: \*New Horizons are Possible\*** at <https://www.kuzmich4.com/Facebook/Breaking%20through%20Brick%20Walls.pdf>: or see October 20, 2021 posting
- **3+ Tips for Breaking Brick Walls** at: <http://www.kuzmich4.com/Facebook/Brick%20Walls.pdf> (click on attached images for a full view): or see April 21, 2021 posting



Places to find a marriage date	
Marriage license or record	1900 and 1910 U.S. census (gives # of years married)
Marriage certificate	Naturalization papers
Wedding or anniversary announcement in newspaper	Biographical sketch
Obituary	Pension application



- THE DEMAND FOR PROOF STANDARD**
- 01 A reasonably exhaustive search
  - 02 It completely and truthfully relates all sources for each item
  - 03 Analyzed the related information for quality as evidence
  - 04 Resolution of any conflicts of evidence
  - 05 Satisfy yourself, ultimately, with the conclusion



**Build Your Analytical Skills**  
A good researcher develops their ability to view records with a critical eye and piece together information that might conflict or seem unrelated.

MISTAKE

