

## BRICKWALL BUSTING: SOURCES & STRATEGIES

---



Patti Gillespie, B.A., M.S.

Family Lines & Stories

[www.familylinesandstories.com](http://www.familylinesandstories.com)

[FamLStories@gmail.com](mailto:FamLStories@gmail.com)

“When you are hitting a wall, focus on one brick” Tyler May.

### Tasks that can help break through the brick wall:

1. Talk to every member of your family.
2. Identify the WHEN not just the who of the brick wall.
3. Identify WHERE not just the when of the brick wall.
4. Search for family trees on Ancestry.com, on Familysearch.org, and on My Heritage.
5. Look for documents, photos, and contact information to submitter.
6. Make a research plan.
7. Begin a working timeline.
8. Begin a digital family tree.
9. Look for original documents—digital, microfilmed, and in repository
10. Go local!!!
11. Continue learning

Patti Gillespie, BA, MS  
*Family Lines & Stories*  
[www.familylinesandstories.com](http://www.familylinesandstories.com)

## *Brickwall Busting Strategies*

Writing all the types of documents listed in this presentation may help you break through your brickwall.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_
19. \_\_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_\_

## Sources:

--. "13 Reasons You Can't Find the Genealogy Information You're Looking For," *Family History Daily* (<https://familyhistorydaily.com>), no date.

--. "20 Things to Do When You Are Stumped," *Find My Past* ([www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)) no date.

--. "50 Best Genealogy Brick Wall Solutions (Part I)," *Genealogy In Time Magazine* (<http://www.genealogyintime.com>) no date.

--. "Solving Tough Research Problems—Overcoming Brick Walls," *FamilySearch Wiki* ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)) 22 February 2018.

Cowan, Christa. "Quick Tips for Breaking Through Your Genealogy Bricks Walls," *Ancestry* ([www.blogs.ancestry.com](http://www.blogs.ancestry.com)) 28 July 2016.

Davis, Graeme. *Solving Genealogy Problems: How to Break Down 'Brick Walls' and Build Your Family Tree*. London: How to Books, Ltd, 2011.

Fryxell, David A. "Are You Really at A Genealogy Brick Wall?", *Family Tree Magazine* (19 October 2015) no date.

Ingle, Cyndi. "Hit a Brick Wall—articles," *Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet* ([www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)) no date.

Crow, Amy Johnson. "How a Professional Genealogist Approaches Brick Wall Problems," Amy Johnson Crow ([www.amyjohnsoncrow.com](http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com)) March 30, 2017.