

20 Tools I Used to Break Down a Brick Wall I Never Knew I Had

- a case study

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Genealogical Proof Standard	<p>Genealogical Proof Standard, Board for Certification of Genealogists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “The Genealogical Proof Standard” http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html • See: “The Evidence Analysis Process Map” https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-17-evidence-analysis-process-map
Google	Ohio Adoption Laws, Surnames and Locations, Libraries, Genealogical Societies, etc, County Histories, etc. Check addresses and hours.
Ancestry.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancestry.com Census • Ancestry DNA • Ancestry.com – Family Trees • Ancestry.com – Ohio, Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998 • Ancestry.com – New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1957
Smart Phone Camera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The camera in the smart phone takes high resolution photos, even without flash. Helpful in libraries, court houses and other locations. • The camera has built in GPS – which helps document exact locations. Snap a photo of a tombstone. You can use the photo’s GPS coordinates to track back to the exact location in the cemetery on a subsequent visit.
Familysearch.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record Search https://familysearch.org/search • FamilySearch Family Tree https://familysearch.org/tree/find/name • FamilySearch Catalog https://familysearch.org/catalog/search
Familysearch.org Wiki	https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page . More than 85,000 helpful articles. Be sure to look at pages for states and counties in which you are doing research. For all states and many localities there is a button such as “Ohio Online Records” which gives links to more than 50 online collections (free and paid) of Ohio records. Also check wiki for information such as courthouse fires, changes in county boundaries, and much more.
FamilySearch.org Un-indexed Records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Worth a Thousand Words: How to Find and Use Image-Only Collections on FamilySearch” - https://familysearch.org/blog/en/worth-thousand-words-find-imageonly-collections-familysearch/ • A YouTube video demonstration of how I found Peter Geib’s 1838 naturalization record https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUsH_Yz73v8
Family History Library	https://familysearch.org/locations/saltlakecity-library While a large number of resources of the library are available for loan to a local Family History Center, the immediate access to microfilms and availability of consultants was exceedingly helpful.
FamilyTree DNA	https://www.familytreedna.com/ The place for Y-DNA tests. Also “Family Finder” autosomal. You can transfer test data from Ancestry and 23 and Me. Good chromosome browser and other tools for analysis.

Libraries: County Histories	While county histories are frequently not authoritative sources, they can provide important clues about family members, migration patterns, church memberships and more. Written in the late 19 th and early 20 th centuries, many are in the public domain and are available online.
Libraries: Historic Maps	Many historic maps show land ownership, providing clues to neighbors and other family members. Good source of clues for land research.
Libraries: Cemetery Indexes	Many local genealogical societies have transcribed and documented cemetery headstones, often with details on location and a map of the cemetery. Since some of these indexes were completed more than 50 years ago, they may contain information on headstones that are no longer visible or readable
Libraries: Historical Assn Records	Many local historical associations have completed transcription projects that are housed in local libraries. For example, the New Bremen (OH) Historic Association transcribed and translated local German church records from the mid 1800's. These were typed and are stored in a card file in the New Bremen library.
Libraries: Obituaries	Obituaries may be available either in clippings files or on microfilms from the local newspapers. Often there is an index of obituaries in the library.
Facebook	Many genealogy societies, surname groups and other groups have Facebook pages. Many are "closed" which means you must make a request to join. Most gladly welcome new members. Share research surnames and interests.
Court House – Probate	Probate records will often contain the names and addresses of children, including married daughters' names. Check the local county's website to determine which office houses the records you are seeking. Check also Family Search wiki.
Court House VR (BMD)	Ohio historic birth, marriage and death records are housed in the Clerk of Probate Court's office. Many are online through digitized films at FamilySearch.
Court House Land Records	Land records help tell the story of a family. They may also contain listings of other family members, such as the sale of land upon death of the owner.
Find A Grave	https://www.findagrave.com/ Good source of clues for families. Also gives GPS coordinates of the cemetery. Occasionally has additional information such as obituaries. Not an authoritative source.
Evernote	https://evernote.com/ A great place to organize digital data. Can save web clippings, notes, photos, etc. in folders by surname. Searchable. Accessible on desktop, tablet or smart phone. Can even forward emails to Evernote account.
My Blog	Bob's Genealogy Quest - http://bobsgenealogyquest.com/ I use this as a place to share stories of what I find in my research, along with other items of interest to family. I also use it as "cousin bait" to connect with other distant family members.
Local Genealogical and Historical Soc.	Many genealogical societies, even in small towns, may have their own offices and collections outside of a library. Some archive old county records and other items.
Google Maps	Create your own Google maps and mark locations on your surname timeline. See https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3024454?hl=en
Castle Garden	http://castlegarden.org/index.php - database of information on 11 million immigrants from 1820 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened.
Historic Map Works	http://www.historicmapworks.com/ Has free and premium versions. Can overlay historic map with current Google map.