

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

- a case study

Bob Inhoff, Halifax Genealogy Society, November 14, 2019

Genealogical Proof Standard	<p>Genealogical Proof Standard, Board for Certification of Genealogists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “The Genealogical Proof Standard” in <i>Genealogy Standards – 50th Anniversary Edition</i> – Chapter 1. Also, a video on Ancestry.com: An Introduction to the Genealogical Proof Standard • See: “The Evidence Analysis Process Map” – see appendix to <i>Genealogy Standards – 50th Anniversary Edition</i> • Evidence Explained Facebook Group – 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	<p>https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page. More than 88,000 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.</p>
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	<p>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.</p>
FamilyTree DNA	<p>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.</p>

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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.
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.
MyHeritage DNA	MyHeritage is a relatively new entry in the DNA testing companies. But they are coming on strong. If you have tested with another company (such as AncestryDNA) you can transfer your results to MyHeritage for free. I have found at least two very significant DNA matches which were only on this website. https://www.myheritage.com For a review: https://thegenealogyguide.com/myheritage-dna-testing-review

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<p>Historic Map Works</p>	<p>http://www.historicmapworks.com/ Has free and premium versions. Can overlay historic map with current Google map.</p>
<p>DNA Websites</p>	<p>Blaine Bettinger’s The Genetic Genealogist website, especially the Shared cM project. The charts are very helpful in determining the possible relationship with a DNA match.</p> <p>The DNA Painter’s Shared cM Project page offers a visualization tool. Enter the length of a match – and it will display a range of possible relationships with probabilities associated with each.</p> <p>International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISOGG Wiki • ISOGG Home Page – articles such as learn more, beginners guide, etc. • Cousin Statistics – charts showing how likely a given level of relationship will have a match. For example, 3rd cousins at AncestryDNA will match 98% of the time.
<p>OneNote</p>	<p>OneNote is a digital notebook. With OneNote, you can type notes or record audio at your laptop, sketch or write ideas on your tablet, add a picture from your phone, clip a page from the web, forward an email to your OneNote notebook, find notes instantly, freely move notes around the page, organize those pages into sections, keep your sections in one or more notebooks, switch devices and pick up right where you left off, share your notebooks with others so you can all view and contribute at the same time. Good video overview (1:23)</p> <p>In November 2017 I described how I use OneNote for my genealogical research for the IRGS Tech Minute. You can view a copy of the slides or download a one-page summary sheet with helpful links.</p>

If you would like to access a copy of this handout with active links to the websites listed above, go to the link in the footnote below to download this updated handout from Bob’s blog.