

Your Brick Wall is not as Tall as You Think
RT2759 – Rorey Cathcart

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Learn the common, self-imposed obstacles family historians often create that limit their success. A Senior Researcher with season three of "Genealogy Roadshow on PBS" shares lessons learned from the high-speed world of genealogy on TV. Discover misperceptions, misinterpretations and missed opportunities in online collections that keep many researchers from achieving their goals.

Learn to Be Skeptical
Recognize the Unreliable Informant
When You Hear Hooves, Think Horses Not Zebras
Dig Deeper: Original Records and Challenging Record Groups

You Can Research Online on a Budget

Your local library, Family History Center or Archives have library editions of many popular subscription services. FamilySearch.org is always free. Ancestry.com regularly runs free weekend or special collection events. Fold3.com has a variety of collections that are free forever such as the War of 1812 Pensions.

You Can Find Intermediate and Advanced Record Groups Online **Wills and Probate**

Ancestry.com

<http://www.ancestry.com/will-probate-records>

FamilySearch.org

Unindexed collections

Example: South Carolina

South Carolina Probate Records, Bound Volumes, 1671-1977

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1919417>

South Carolina Probate Records, Files and Loose Papers, 1732-1964

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<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1911928>

State and Local Digital Archive Collections

South Carolina Will Transcripts

South Carolina Department of History and Archives

<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/onlinearchives/Thumbnails.aspx?recordId=306904>

Land Records

FamilySearch.org

Unindexed Collections

Example: New York

New York Land Records, 1630-1975

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2078654>

Newspaper Collections

Library of Congress – Chronicling America

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

State level Examples:

Portal to Texas History: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TDNP/>

Colorado Historic Newspapers: <https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>

New York Historic Newspapers: <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org>

You Can Research Offline on a Budget

DIY Distance Research

FamilySearch.org through their system of Family History Centers and Affiliate Libraries makes microfilms available for both short and long term rentals.

There Is Help

Facebook Groups like Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness as well as State and Local Genealogy Networks are filled with people willing to help answer your questions and exchange research look ups. Genealogical societies answer queries directly or included them in their newsletters. Archives and historical societies have research assistance options as well.

Recognize When It Is Time to Call in The Professionals

There are some genealogical problems that really do require the help of a professional genealogist. Professionals bring years of experience in a particular location or specialty. They can access record groups not available on microfilm through FamilySearch.org. They understand local laws, record groups and customs that can break a difficult case. And just as importantly, they bring an analytical ability and fresh eyes to your most challenging genealogical problems.