

# *Zoom Lens Genealogy*

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## I. **Take a closer look at your genealogical research for a fresh perspective.**

- A. Photography and genealogy have common actions.
- B. Review previous research to remember your journey.
- C. Ask others to assist with ideas for breaking down brick walls.
- D. Access and review alternative types of records for cross-reference.

## II. **Purposes of this Presentation**

- A. Review your progress from a different perspective.
- B. Discover facts that you may have missed or overlooked.
- C. Chart a path for continued or additional research.
- D. Move in a new direction to overcome brick walls.

## III. **Review Your Progress from a Different Perspective**

*Frame* your research findings and problems.

- Examine all genealogical evidence related to one obstacle in a new light.
- Verify that all obvious records have been located and saved.
- Consider what types of records would have been created for the ancestor.
- One framework that is helpful - listing events by record on a **timeline**.
- Brainstorm a list of unique record sets that should exist. Ex. tax records.

## IV. **Discover Facts You May Have Missed or Overlooked**

*Zoom in* to *focus* on one research problem.

- Gather all of the records you have for one ancestor.
- Consider brainstorming a list of known facts vs. unknown facts.
- Decide what other records should be available; re-create searches until found.

## V. **Chart a Path for Continued Research and Future Genealogical Goals**

*Compose* your goals.

- Write a plan.
- List both records used and types of records to find and analyze.
- Focus your time by crafting **research questions**.
- Log your results, including negative findings (to avoid redundant research).

## VI. Move in a New Direction to Try to Overcome Brick Walls

**Filter** out extraneous branches, and **shed light** on one twig.

Compare and contrast information in records.

Examine details, especially commonly overlooked notations.

Learn about record collections that existed during an ancestor's life.

Search periodically for information that you have not been able to find.



### Summary

Genealogical research takes place over time. As the years pass, researchers collect records and link them to an ancestor or ancestral couple. New record collections are digitized or added for access. One method that helps in overcoming any brick wall is to review what information you already have found. Look beyond the facts that stand out; examine the details of the record, just like a photographer will do when zooming in for a close-up picture. The closer examination will reveal data that can aid in connecting the dots for sound conclusions. With genealogical research, the Zoom Lens Advantage is that you manipulate the information you have found to examine it from different angles or perspectives, looking closely to review all details. This will lead to recognizing tidbits of information within a record or document or even a family photo that can support efforts to uncover the rest of the story, additional data, and evaluate what additional types of records should be available about the ancestor's life. Progress encourages us to continue researching.

### Resources for Identifying Variety of Records

*Cyndi's List* website, "Hit a Brick Wall?"

<https://www.cyndislist.com/brickwall/>

*Family History Fanatics* website, "Tips for Researching Genealogy Brick Walls"

<https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/genealogy-brick-wall-tips>

*FamilySearch Wiki* website, "Choose a Record Type"

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Choose\\_a\\_Record\\_Type](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Choose_a_Record_Type)

National Archives (USA) website, "Resources for Genealogists"

<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy>

Book: *The Family Tree Toolkit* by Kenyatta Berry

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Family-Tree-Toolkit/Kenyatta-D-Berry/9781631582196>

Book: *The Family Tree Problem Solver: Proven Records for Scaling the Inevitable Brick Wall*

by Marsha Hoffman Rising <https://www.amazon.com/Marsha-Hoffman-Rising/e/>

Book: *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* by Blaine T. Bettinger

<https://www.amazon.com/Family-Testing-Genetic-Genealogy-Second/>

Book: *Your DNA Guide* by Diahan Southard

<https://www.yourdnaguide.com/your-dna-guide-the-book>

