

## **DO YOU HAVE AN ARTIFICIAL BRICK WALL?**

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<http://www.reclaimingkin.com>



Twelve ways to prevent artificial brick walls:

1. **Redouble your efforts to find missing people in the census.**

Use multiple search strategies to find ancestors in the census.

2. **Visit multiple repositories in person.**

At a minimum, visit state archives, the local genealogical society & the courthouse.

3. **Always examine the original source.**

Don't just rely on an indexed record or a date provided by a book or a website.

4. **Research a wide variety of sources.**

Such as land, court, church, and probate records, maps, and newspapers.

5. **Search the “cluster” of people associated with your ancestors.**

6. **Research *all* siblings in each generation.**

Every sibling left different records.

7. **Remember that human behavior hasn't changed.**

People had children before and outside of marriages & loved across racial lines.

8. **Move beyond searching for new records. Analyze and correlate what you already have.**

Learn to evaluate and correlate evidence; learn how to resolve conflicts.

9. **Find living descendants.**

Use death certificates and the Social Security Death Index to find obituaries.

10. **Consider your ancestor may have had multiple marriages. Verify each parent separately.**

*Never* assume the wife is the mother of all of the children in a household.

11. **Expand your research to less common records.**

Manuscript collections in various repositories can yield valuable sources.

12. **Read genealogy how-to books and articles to hone your skills.**

Learn and practice the genealogy standards; read peer-reviewed journals.