



## METHODOLOGY

**Same Name, Wrong Man — And How To Fix It!** — It is very easy to get confused by the same-named person in multiple records. Are they different people? Or are they all referring to the same person? Making assumptions about the identity of a person can lead to the wrong person and researching the incorrect families — even for years! This lively presentation outlines steps to help you carefully analyze each record to distinguish different identities, and presents a case study of 2 same-named men.

**Dig Up Those Ancestor Clues and Stories on Findagrave.com** — Many know about and use Findagrave for their family history research, but not many go as deep as they can to utilize its many features. In this presentation, you will learn to dig deep into Findagrave to help unearth essential information that can reveal family history research clues, stories, and even new family members. (All levels)

**Power Your Research With a Research Plan** — Those researching online for their family stories tend to get distracted with many browser tabs open, jumping from website to website. This presentation will help you get focused using an often overlooked but powerful tool that will power your research — the research plan. Learn how to build a research plan step-by-step to rev-up your research! (All levels)

**Did You Really Look *Everywhere* Online?** — With the increased popularity of genealogy through television shows like *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *Genealogy Roadshow*, many new people sign up to Ancestry.com, create a family tree, and begin their family history search. Then many quickly come up against research brick walls (or have the wrong family) if they try to only use Ancestry.com to help build their family tree and uncover family stories. Further, they don't know where to search next after using Ancestry.com. This presentation outlines exactly where family history enthusiasts can look next, both online and offline, and offers tips and strategies for each in order to help tear down those brick walls. (All levels)

**Searching vs. Researching: The Difference Can Profoundly Affect Your Family History** — With the droves of people coming online to start researching their family's history, certain basics to the overall process have been overlooked. What most do online can really be described as searching rather than researching. Learn exactly what each technique is,



how they work together, and why both are so extremely important for your research success. (All levels)

**Read All About It! Did Your Ancestors Make These Online Papers?** — Sure, we know newspapers can uncover family secrets, reveal research clues, and give us personal glimpses of our ancestors' lives. But where do we find these newspapers online and how do we use the sites once we find them? This presentation goes over all the places to look and key strategies for each site. (All levels)

**Uncover the Family Stories Hidden in Your Family's Ephemera & Heirlooms** — Those letters, photos, postcards, toys, pocket watches, and the like are sitting there just waiting for you to learn and tell their stories. Learn how to make these items tell you more about your ancestors' lives with this presentation. (Beginner to Intermediate)

**Tear Down That Brick Wall By Evaluating the Source, of Course!** — How do you know what you know? And how credible is it? In today's online world and with online trees, it's easier than ever to stare at your tree and your research brick wall and not know how on earth you will ever scale it, much less tear it down. This presentation will have you evaluating your sources step-by-step and will have you tearing down that wall brick-by-brick. (Intermediate)

**Putting Your Ancestors Back Into Their Neighborhood: City Directories** — Just as we don't live in a bubble, our ancestors didn't either. Learn tips, tricks, and strategies of finding and using city directories to discover more about your ancestors & their community ... and to even help you tear down a research brick wall or two. (All levels)

**15 Ways You May Not Be Using Census Records Correctly** — Unless you're an absolute beginner to genealogy, you've heard of and have used census records to help you with your family history research. But are you using them correctly? Are you getting all the clues and leads out of them? Learn these 15 strategies to help you "wring out" as much information as possible from census records and to put you on the road to genealogy research success! (All levels)

**Where They Belong: Putting Your Female Ancestors Back On Your Family Tree** — Are your female ancestors hiding from you? This presentation will help you discover tips and tricks to find where they are "hiding" so you can place them back on your family tree – and back into history – where they belong. (All levels)



**Artists Need Not Apply: Learn How to ‘Draw a Sketch’ of Your Ancestors** — Don’t have a picture of your ancestors? No Problem. Not an artist? No problem. You don’t have to have inherited an old photograph or be an artist to learn what your ancestors may have looked like. Learn how to uncover clues that will give you an idea of what your ancestors looked like. (All levels)

**What Do You Call a Doughnut? Using Language to Uncover Where Your Ancestors Had Been** — The nuances of language can be enlightening in and of themselves, but they can also give you clues about where your ancestor came from and where they had been in order to help you discover more about your ancestor and their family. (All levels)

**Memento Mori: Finding Evidence of Life Through Death** — You can’t die unless you’ve lived. Seems obvious, but learning all you can about your ancestor’s death – the records that were created at the time of death and where they can be found – will help you uncover more about your ancestor’s life. (All levels)

**Working It Out: What Did Your Ancestor Do for a Living?** — Learning what your ancestor did for a living and learning more about their occupation can help you break down that 20-year research brick wall you’ve had. This presentation gives tips, tricks, and strategies to help you “work it out” and tear down that wall. (All levels)

**Get to the ‘Head of The Class’ in Your Family Tree** — From the first day of school until graduation, plenty of records were created that might just help you with learning more about your ancestors. Learn what to look for, where to look for them, and tips on how they can help you with your family history research in this presentation. (All levels)

**Places of Higher Learning: What University Libraries and Archives Can Tell You About Your Ancestors** — University libraries and archives are probably not the first places that come to mind when searching for information about your ancestors and their lives. However, they are full of ancestral treasures and research clues. In this presentation, learn how to effectively use these repositories to further your family history research. (All levels)

**Research Success is Built on a Line: the Research Timeline** — Every little point on your ancestor’s timeline is usually relative to something else. Putting everything in order to find clues can unlock your ancestor’s identity and past. In this presentation, learn effective strategies on how to build your ancestor’s timeline and how to analyze it to uncover more leads for your research. (All levels)



## TECHNOLOGY

### **23 Ways to Use Your Smartphone or Tablet for Finding & Sharing Your Family History Mysteries**

— You know that "thing" in your hand? That "phone"? It's really an extremely powerful genealogy and family history research tool. Stop using it for just looking at pictures of cats your family and friends have posted on Facebook and start using it for research. This fast-paced presentation will make you pull your smartphone or tablet out and try these innovative ways to find and share your family history mysteries during the presentation! (All levels)

### **The ABC's of DNA at Ancestry.com:**

— Considering taking a DNA test at Ancestry.com? Or have you already done it and you're at a loss on how to understand them or the website? Learn the power of the Ancestry.com DNA tools and how to leverage them to break through your research roadblocks! This presentation gives you step-by-step instructions to elevate you to becoming an Ancestry.com DNA power-user. (Beginner)

### **It's Not Just for Numbers: Focus Your Genealogy Research with Excel**

— This powerful tool can get your genealogy data sorted in a way that allows you to analyze it and find new leads to trace your ancestors. Learn tips, tricks, and strategies for analyzing data in Excel or any spreadsheet software. (Intermediate)

### **Put Your Family History Online Easily with Weebly**

— Getting your family history online doesn't have to be hard and you don't have to know how to "code" in order to do it. This presentation will introduce you to the Weebly platform and show you how easy it is to share your family history online. (Beginner to Intermediate)

### **10 Tech Tools To Help You Collaborate with Family for Your Research**

— Have you been finding and connecting with cousins around the nation, or even the world? Using email to collaborate on your shared ancestors can become cumbersome. In this presentation, you will learn about 10 tech tools that will have you collaborating with your out-of-town family members — including DNA test results (genetic genealogy) — for your research in no time. (All levels)

### **Jumpstart Your Genealogy Research with These 21 Websites**

— Seems like every day a new tool or resource pops up online that promises to help you with your family history mystery-solving. In this fast-paced presentation, we will go over 21 websites in an overview



format that will jumpstart your genealogy research. You'll hardly be able to wait until you get home to try one of these out! (All levels)

## REGIONAL

**Exploring Your Galveston Roots** — With over 133,000 immigrants coming through the port, Galveston was considered “The Ellis Island of the West.” Learn repositories and strategies in this presentation to explore more about your ancestors who came through Galveston and about those who may have stayed. (All levels)

**Research Strategies to Help You Rustle Up Your Texas Ancestors** — With 254 counties and 268,597 square miles, Texas is a big state. In this presentation learn strategies and tips on how to zero-in-on your Lone Star State ancestors and how to learn more about them – both online and offline. (All levels)

**German-Texans: Land Beckoned** — In her early days, Texas encouraged Germans to come and settle Texas. And they came. It wasn't an easy journey to get to the coast of Texas and it wasn't an easy journey to get to their Texas destination. In this presentation, learn how to uncover your German-Texan heritage with specific research strategies to break through your German-Texan research brick walls.

**Going to Clayton Library? Here's How You Get Prepared Before You Go** — This is not the usual “Make sure you bring sharpened pencils, quarters, and a sweater to the library” presentation. This presentation covers how to systematically go through online resources to make your trip to Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research the most productive it can be for your research success. This presentation is adapted to your particular area for going to Clayton, and it also can apply to any genealogical library in other areas.

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