

Breaking Down Brick Walls with Collaboration

© Valorie Zimmerman, 2022 - valorie.zimmerman@gmail.com

What is a "brick wall"? When repeated searches find no more records

- Sometimes lack of records
 - Sometimes searching for the wrong record, event or person
1. **What do you know? Make a timeline**
 2. **What do you need to know? And where to look?**

Collaborators are connected

- Connected to your "brick wall"
- Connected to their FAN Club - Friends, Associate, Neighbor
- Connected to the locality or special interest

Special interest examples:

- firefighters, police
- union brothers
- members of the same military unit or squadron
- railroad experts
- archivists, librarians (information specialists)
- civil rights organizations
- church or volunteer group members
- Masons/IOOF/Woodmen/fraternal groups

Where to find collaborators: Ancestry.com

- DNA cousins
- Other People's Trees
- Member Connect
- Comments on profiles

Where to find collaborators: FamilySearch Family Tree

- Those who have provided facts and linked sources (how to find, how to message)
- As you merge profiles, notice who created them
- Search > Genealogies

Where to find collaborators: Wikitree: built for collaboration

- Projects - a member may join
- Categories - for each profile
- G2G: Genealogist to genealogist
- Cousins (not only DNA) - public & private messages