

# Genealogy Boot Camp

## *Session #2: Family Ties: Using Extended Family to Circumnavigate a Brick Wall*

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### **Researching an ancestor's family can help:**

1. Determine parents
2. Learn the maiden name of a wife/mother
3. Discover immigrant origins

### **Locating Potential Family Members in Records—*what to note***

1. Cemetery Records
  - a. Individuals buried around your ancestor
  - b. Information on burial cards
2. Census Records-what to note
  - a. All people living in a household
  - b. Birthplaces
  - c. Other households with the surname living in the same town/county
  - d. Professions
3. Church Records
  - a. Religious Affiliation
  - b. Admission to Church
  - c. Witnesses of baptisms/marriages
4. City Directories
  - a. How common is the surname?
  - b. Proximity

- c. Profession
5. Local Histories/Genealogies
- a. List of early/prominent settlers?
    - i. When they came to the area
  - b. Origins
  - c. Vital Record information
6. Land Records
- a. Frequent land transactions with individuals
  - b. Frequent use of same witnesses
  - c. Large amount of land sold for little money
  - d. The phrase “in consideration of love and affection”
    - i. Denotes a close familial relationship
7. Naturalization Records
- a. Birthplace
    - i. Sometimes specific, sometimes not
  - b. Birthdate
  - c. Witnesses
8. Newspaper Articles/Obituaries
- a. Obituaries can provide information on next of kin
  - b. Society section
    - i. Individuals visiting family members
    - ii. Participants in a wedding ceremony
9. Probate Records
- a. Wills
  - b. Division of Estate may list heirs, though no relationship may be listed
  - c. All records in a probate file are important

10. Town Records
  - a. Pinpoint when an individual/family arrived in an area
  - b. Movement of a family

## **Case Study: Immigrant Origins**

### **Step 1: Start with the Known**

Focus on records within the United States first

### **Step 2: Locating Potential Family Members**

1. Locate extended family in census records (i.e. siblings, nieces, nephews, in-laws)
2. Locate religious ceremonies pertaining to vital records
  - a. If a couple is married in a church, pull the original marriage record for witnesses
3. Search Vital Record databases for individuals with same parents' names

### **Step 3: Take Siblings Forward**

1. Vital Records that may list that list a specific birthplace
2. Naturalization Records
  - a. Hopefully will list a specific place or region in native country

### **Step 4: Back to Ireland**

1. Determine what kind of records exist/where to locate them
  - a. Databases
  - b. Microfilm
  - c. Local Repositories
2. If records are searchable, try searching with parents' names
3. Verify origin/family by searching for siblings

**Tip:** *Don't get too attached to ages. For many immigrants, ages can fluctuate based on the record, so look for a range.*

## Bibliography

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