

Kim Richardson · Brick Wall Buster Cards

Available Presentations*

*approximately 1 hour including question/answer time and can be longer or shorter as needed.

How-to Research in a Courthouse

For beginning genealogists, an intimidating aspect of genealogy research is: How do I research in a courthouse? This presentation will discuss the types of records you're likely to find in a courthouse and how to utilize them. Also included are tips about scouting the courthouse before you go, meeting courthouse staff, using the records, and retrieving copies of the records.

A New Strategy for Brick Walls

Ever feel like you are engulfed by a pile of research? Do you ever think, "If I could just get organized, I could solve this mystery?" If so, this presentation is for you! This session explains why complex genealogy problems feel overwhelming and how to overcome it through a new way of organizing. You will see a technique that helps you:

- see more links and relationships
- view all your research at one glance
- automatically organize your research (yes, really!)
- simplify everything
- see gaps, errors, and conflicts
- automatically create a narrative outline (and eliminate writers' block!)
- plan and brainstorm your way to success

How Do I Know that My Sources are "Good" and My Research is Accurate?

What makes a source a "good" source? How do you know it's reliable? How do you evaluate your research to know that it is solid? Are you using good research plans? Or do you just feel lost? Overwhelmed? Let's discuss finding information, using it as good evidence, and how to document as you go. This presentation was created from the standpoint of "I wish I knew that before I started researching!" and will have you on a good path in your genealogical journey.

Organizing Your Genealogy Records

Customizable length: one hour presentation up to three hours for a workshop/seminar.

Organizing your files and records does not have to be overwhelming! In this presentation about sorting through all of those files, folders, photos, documents and data that are lying around in boxes and piles, we show you how to do it in a step by step, practical way. By incorporating simple changes in how you file your research, you can re-organize your files without a major overhaul.

Relatively Cheap Genealogy: Research and Education for the Frugal at Heart

Frugality and practicality are habits and lifestyle choices that can translate easily into genealogy research and education. This presentation explores methods of garnering all you can out of lesser expensive genealogy resources. Plus, learn how to know it's time to invest financially into your research and how to make sure you're getting the highest quality service for your budget.

Genealogical Wills

You've done research for years.... but what will happen to it in the future? How can you ensure that your hard work is available in the future? How do you store your files? What about your online and electronic family trees and documents? This short session shows you exactly how to provide a future for your work. Tips for communicating your wishes are provided.

Turn Your Brick Wall into a Yellow Brick Road

A brick wall is not the end of the line for research. Let's explore ways to find more research avenues to solve your problem, and let's analyze what you already have to make sure you've followed every lead. This presentation will discuss the most common oversights in research and how to avoid being stuck behind a brick wall, giving you a yellow brick road to follow instead.

Using Collateral Relative and Cluster Research to Solve Genealogy Problems

When you exhaust all known records for an ancestor, it is time to look elsewhere. It seems counter-intuitive, but researching other people can lead to answers about your ancestor.

Mind Mapping for Genealogy Research

Are you stuck? Need new ideas about how to research a particular genealogy problem? Mind Mapping is a great tool to utilize in finding new avenues of research. This presentation will teach you how to think of all the possibilities and ideas for solving your problem. Plus, it's fun!

Collateral Relative & Cluster Research plus Mind Mapping

These two topics (described just above) pair well together and can be combined into one presentation that is still within the one-hour timeframe.

InDEED, Your Ancestor's Land Records Are Useful in Genealogy Research

How useful are deeds in answering questions about a person's life? Can you see an ancestor's land on a modern map? Could that help discover a long-forgotten burial site or home place? In this case study, you will hear the ups and downs of research as we explore the surprises in one man's land purchases. Discover little-known details of his life's story which were revealed when land records combined with area history and context.

Tagging, Organizing, and Saving Heirlooms and Photographs

What do you do with all this STUFF? Overwhelmed by all the pictures? How will future generations even know what to do with the family heirlooms? This presentation offers guidance and practical ideas about how to solve those problems. Organizing and scanning photos, preserving pictures and old documents, and marking heirlooms will be discussed and exemplified.

How to Handle Genealogy Secrets Ethically and Without Stress

Genealogists are truth-seekers and have an inherent responsibility to preserve family history using honest methods. Inevitably, genealogy researchers will find themselves at the crossroads of "what should I do?" General principles to employ as a compass for those tough situations are outlined in this essential presentation. Multiple scenarios are explored, including the special circumstance of uncovering family secrets.

Researching Female Ancestors

Because women often did not own property or create legal records, tracing them can be difficult. This presentation teaches creative research approaches using indirect clues, cluster research, and underused sources. Gain practical strategies to locate and identify the women whose stories are essential to a complete family history.

Beginner Colonial-era Research, through the Life of Anne Marbury Hutchinson

Information and examples for the beginner Colonial-era researcher are interwoven into this story of Anne Hutchinson, who emigrated to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1634 and was a champion of freedom far ahead of her time. Wrongly banished and excommunicated, she was a well-acknowledged leader among the founders of Rhode Island - the progressive, daring group who created the charter that served as the blueprint for our nation's Constitution. In her last days, she and most of her children moved to the Bronx and were murdered. Only her daughter Susanna survived; she was kidnapped and ransomed. This amazing account of the beginnings of this great nation is not to be missed and will provide information about colonial-era record-keeping and our nation's birth which will assist with researching those way-way-back ancestors.

Contact Information

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Speaker Bio

Kim Richardson enjoys serving the genealogy community by coaching and enabling others to do their own research successfully. She assists other genealogists to accomplish their goals and helps clients solve genealogy mysteries. Kim created the *Brick Wall Buster Cards* to show others her secret to solving tough genealogy problems. She regularly writes for various genealogy society magazines and wrote the "Mississippi Research Guide" for *Family Tree Magazine* and researches for *Finding Your Roots* and *Who Do You Think You Are?*