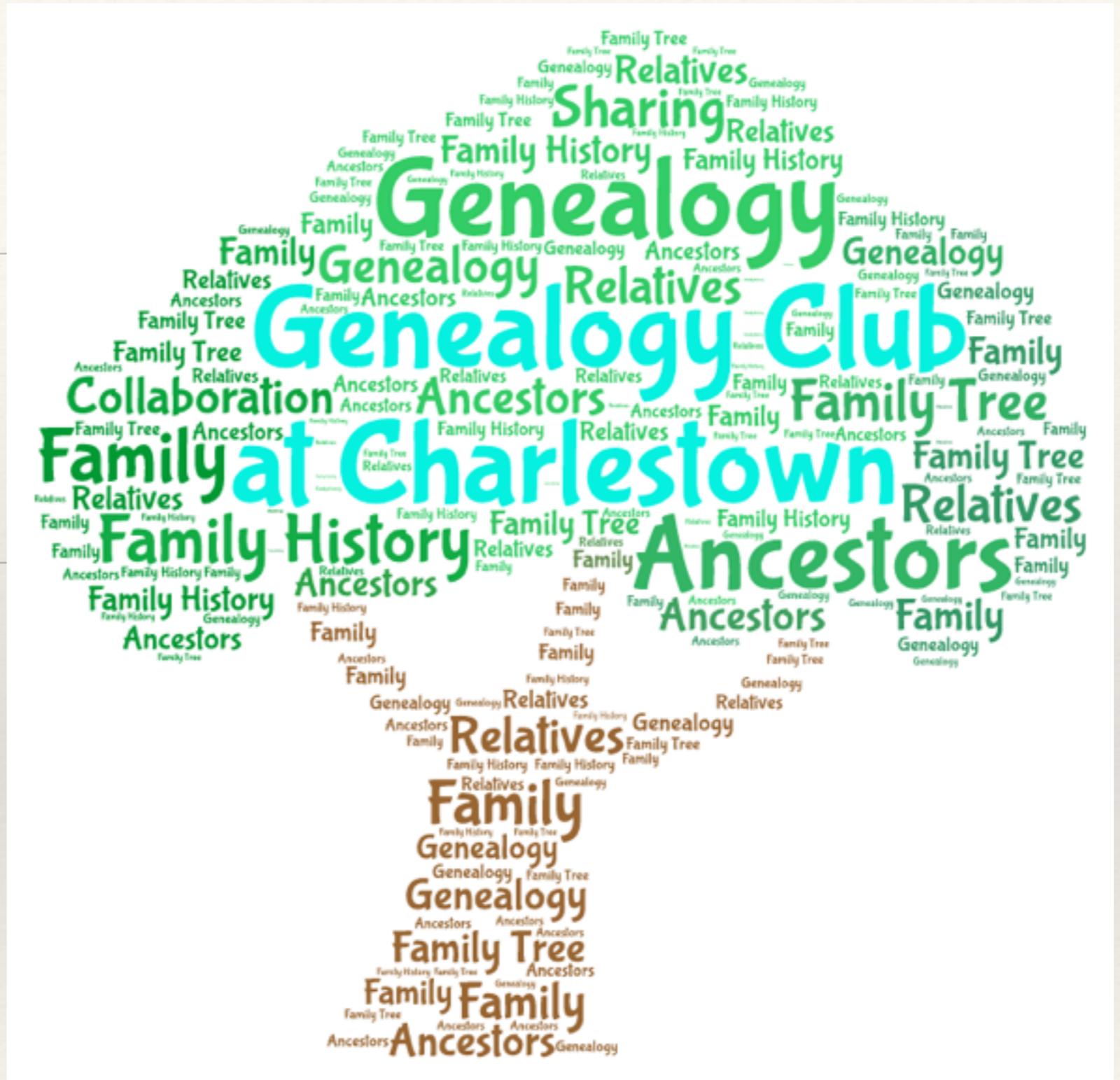


CHARLESTOWN GENEALOGY CLUB

Brickwalls
July 8, 2016



Brickwall Tips

- ❖ Review what you know
 - ❖ Pick the problem you really want to solve - be very specific
 - ❖ Build a timeline
- ❖ Develop a list of resources (already checked and new)
- ❖ Look outside the box
- ❖ Use FAN (Friends, Acquaintances, Neighbors research strategies)

Create a Timeline

- ❖ Review all the information you have about this ancestor in chronological order
- ❖ Life events you know, keeping mind
 - ❖ The Date
 - ❖ Age of Ancestor at the time
 - ❖ The Event
 - ❖ The Location - Residences of record
 - ❖ Historical events relevant to this ancestor
- ❖ It may help to create a Research Log with this information but at least do this step in your head

Resources, Old and New

- ❖ What resources have you already checked?
 - ❖ Do you have copies of them to look at with new eyes?
 - ❖ Double check your initial sources
- ❖ What other resources do you want to check?
 - ❖ Consider what else was going on in history at that time?
 - ❖ Any other historical tools to check?
 - ❖ Location specific tools?
- ❖ Think outside the box - what other alternative records might there be that would help you?

Use FAN Research Strategies

FAN club was described by Elizabeth Shown Mills

FAN = Friends, Acquaintances, Neighbors

- ❖ The lives of your ancestor's cluster (extended family, friends and neighbors) can provide clues to help your research for your ancestor. Ancestors didn't live in a vacuum. They interacted with lots of other people, family and beyond.
- ❖ Who witnessed documents signed by your ancestor
- ❖ Who were the people in their community?
- ❖ Who else in their community had the same occupation?
- ❖ Who was mentioned in their will? Was your ancestor mentioned in anyone else's will?
- ❖ Who appears on more than one census as their neighbors?
- ❖ If they moved, who else moved at the same time?