

## 7 Things I Wish I Knew When I Started My Genealogy

### #1 Importing from Trees Properly

One should not take it for granted that other member trees are accurate. You don't want to automatically import information from other trees just because there are 10 other members who have done the same thing. They must be right if many other members have imported it, right? Wrong! Please don't import from other trees without verifying each ancestor for accuracy using records.

It is easy to import people/ancestors from other trees (on Ancestry for example). In fact, I think it is too easy sometimes. Please don't use the "Select All Trees" button when importing from other trees without drilling into the sources first.

**Select trees with relevant information**

10 Ancestry Member Trees   Select all trees **George Washington Simmons from**

**Family Tree**

Owner:

**George Washington Simmons**  
BIRTH July 1850 Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia, USA  
**DIFFERENT**  
DEATH 24 Jul 1928 Lake City, Columbia, Florida, USA  
sources (20) records (18) photos (32) stories (1)

**Family Info**

Father	John Simmons (1817-1887)
Mother	Mary Simmons (1815-1890)
Spouse	Anna Elizabeth Dunbar (1851-1919) Married 1876

**HENLEY - KNOX Family Tree 2015 U**  
Your Tree

**George Washington :**  
BIRTH Jul 1850 Virginia, USA  
DEATH 24 Jul 1928 Lake City, C  
sources (27) records (14)

**Family Info**

Father	John SIMMONS (1811-1887)
Mother	Mary (1816-)
Spouse	Unknown Unknown (-1890)
Spouse	Anna Elizabeth Dunbar (184 Married 1876

Sometimes... just sometimes, we use a strategy called a "Quick and Dirty Tree" where you do import information quickly when doing DNA descendency research... just to find other DNA cousins in a specific branch of the family. That's a whole strategy and conversation for another day.

However, I take that one step further (in the proper direction) and will verify each person with at least one record, before importing them. Then after finding the living descendants, I seek in my DNA strategy, I will go back and verify those connections properly doing "reasonably exhaustive research" (a step in the proof process).



## #2 Online Platforms

What I didn't have when I started were these online platforms. They have evolved over time since the first began with the earliest platform Ancestry in 1982. FamilySearch.org didn't come online until 1999.

Of the platforms I see used the most are Ancestry, FamilySearch, MyHeritage... and a fast-growing platform called WikiTree. The top three platforms (Ancestry, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage) offer some crossover in records (typically governmental records like census). The top two (Ancestry and FamilySearch) have some unique records that are only found on their platforms.

All these platforms offer free options, but for some, there is a paywall to access some records.

### *Online Platforms*

Company	Tree Building	Collaborative Tree or Individual Tree	Records	DNA	Free?
Ancestry	Yes	Individual	Yes	Yes	No
FamilySearch	Yes	Collaborative	Yes	No	Yes
MyHeritage	Yes	Individual	Yes	Yes	No
WikiTree	Yes	Collaborative	Sources Only	No	Yes

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Additionally, trees you build at Ancestry and MyHeritage are your own family tree, whereas at FamilySearch and WikiTree, they are a world collaborative tree on their platforms. All have unique opportunities and should be used to hunt for clues. You do not need to have a paid membership at all platforms, but you can search for clues if you have at least a free guest account.

## #3 Organization

Staying organized is key to your research success. It will make your genealogy life much easier and happier when you're on a mission to solve your next research question.

# Organizing



### Collecting

Records



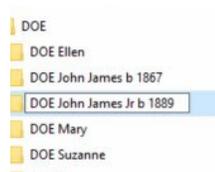
### Documenting

Analyzing



### Sourcing

Where Found



### Filing

Digitizing



### Retrieving

Research

2022

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When I started, I had real file folders with tons of papers, loose notes, notebooks, paper trees, family group sheets etc.

Slowly, over the years I have worked, one branch at a time, to put all of it into my computer, on Ancestry, and I sync it with Family Tree Maker as an additional back up.

As I research different lines, I pull the paper records, I check mark each detail/fact as add it to my trees and research notes, slowly getting it all digitized and organized. It takes time, but every journey starts with the first step.

Name	Date modified
HENLEY Glenn & Beverly	7/19/2021 9:29 AM
HENLEY Glenn A Family	7/25/2021 4:31 PM
HENLEY Glenn Allen	2/16/2019 10:16 PM
HENLEY Glenn Curry	4/9/2022 10:56 AM
HENLEY Henry and Loanna	5/26/2021 8:39 AM
HENLEY Henry and Nancy STEED	7/21/2019 4:26 PM
HENLEY Henry Gus & Nannie	10/2/2021 12:46 PM
HENLEY Isabella	12/27/2020 5:00 PM
HENLEY Jane	10/24/2021 9:30 PM
HENLEY Jesse	7/15/2022 4:27 PM
HENLEY Joe	10/6/2018 4:48 PM
HENLEY John & Keziah NIXON	5/10/2021 2:36 PM
HENLEY John & Margaret CLARK	1/17/2021 1:34 PM
HENLEY John (Jack) Harlan m Goldie ROBERTSON	1/17/2021 1:34 PM
HENLEY John 1726	9/25/2016 10:34 AM
HENLEY John m Isabel NEWBY	1/17/2021 1:45 PM
HENLEY John Various	1/17/2021 1:45 PM
HENLEY Judith Ann	12/9/2016 6:07 PM
HENLEY Kenneth	4/2/2017 11:07 AM
HENLEY LAND GRANTS	3/29/2021 9:16 AM
HENLEY Maggie Plummer	9/25/2016 10:34 AM
HENLEY Martha	9/25/2016 10:34 AM
HENLEY Mary	1/13/2017 8:20 PM
HENLEY Mary Margaret	9/25/2016 10:34 AM
HENLEY Mary Oliver - Died at 6 months	9/25/2016 10:34 AM
HENLEY Maurice	12/6/2020 6:16 PM
HENLEY Nancy and Bob Nowatzke	6/30/2019 3:40 PM
HENLEY Nixon	1/2/2021 8:10 PM
HENLEY Notes from Kathilend Saindon	9/25/2016 10:34 AM
HENLEY Patrick	9/10/2021 3:02 PM
HENLEY Photos from Dennis Dearman	2/10/2017 6:03 PM
HENLEY Rebecca	6/3/2022 3:18 PM
HENLEY Records at NC Archives	6/30/2019 3:29 PM
HENLEY Robert	3/26/2017 3:06 PM
HENLEY Samuel Allen Dr	9/25/2016 10:34 AM
HENLEY Stephen and Anna PEARSON	10/24/2021 8:27 PM
HENLEY Susan	9/25/2016 10:35 AM
HENLEY Thomas	1/24/2021 7:55 PM

## #4 Research Notes

Need I say more? I beat this drum a lot. If you want to solve problems in your tree, if you can't find the records you seek, if you are stuck, if you want to prove your lineage, you need to keep good research notes in proper and chronological order to help you see the details and think through the problems. It is key to breaking down brick walls. Keep them in chronological order.

Keeping Good  
Research Notes  
is the  
#1 Way to Resolve  
Genealogical Problems

Connie Knox

2022

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### RESEARCH NOTES FOR HERMAN MILLER MADSEN

b. 25 May 1880 Laramie WY - d. 20 Dec 1963, Los Angeles, CA<sup>1</sup>

1880 Federal Census<sup>2</sup> - Laramie City, Albany County, Wyoming, Christopher Madsen with life Laura and infant son. Christopher is a white, male 27 years old. He works in a machine shop. His birth place, as well as both parents, is listed as Denmark. Laura his wife is listed as white, female, 25 years old, keeping house. She is born in Denmark as well as both of her parents. Their infant son is 1 month old (Herman Miller Madsen was born in May 1880 confirming this date). Note, their first born was a daughter who died the same year she was born in 1879 and is not listed here. The infant son is listed as being born in May and in the Wyoming Territory. There does not appear to be any other family nearby.

21 Oct 1897 Weekly Boomerang no. 64 October 21, 1897, page 6 school article. Herman is part of a city school program.

29 Dec 1899 Herman Madsen, Nels Wolbol and Laura Wolbol attend a part until dawn. Laramie Republican no. 117 December 29, 1899, page 4 saved in digital file. Note that Herman Madsen and Laura Wolbol mentioned in this article are first cousins.

### "VALLEY NOTES

Centennial Society Enjoying the Holiday Season to the Utmost.  
Centennial, Wyoming, December 27, 1899 - (Special Correspondence) - It is some time since we were last heard from, but we wish to inform the public that we haven't passed out of existence for all that. The weather here is being very moderate, and until the last fall of snow there has been very little stock - feeding necessary. The thermometer shows that the frost is not been nearly so severe here as in Laramie. However, the slaying has been fine of late, which has been well observed here, as nearly everyone has provided himself with a slave. According to the late rumor a slaying party has been planned this week. There was quite a lively time here Thanksgiving, in the way of a fair and dance given by the ladies of the sewing society. A number of young folks came out from Laramie to attend the same: viz: Mrs. Anna Christensen, Emma Nigro, Laura Wolbol; Messrs: Herman Madsen and Nels Wolbol. The crowd that evening was unusually large and all seemed bent on a good time. At midnight all partook of delicious lunch and dancing continued till morning. The many

<sup>1</sup> Madsen Family Bible, 1850-1875, loose pages, "information[ic] from the Family Bible," abstract page typed from unknown Bible; family page only, handed down from Anna Madsen to Glenn Henley to Constance Henley Knox, privately held by Constance Henley Knox, Henley-Knox Family Archives, 4702 Crossroads Drive, Wierington, North Carolina, 28409.

<sup>2</sup> 1880 U.S. census, Laramie City, Albany County, Wyoming, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 20, p. 2B-C (transpose), dwelling 467, family 496, Christopher and Laura Madsen, National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication T8, roll 1454.

### RESEARCH NOTES FOR HERMAN MILLER MADSEN

beautiful things which were there for sale, showed the faithful work done by the society. A good some resulted, which will go to the furnishing of the hall."

1900 Federal Census<sup>3</sup> - Laramie Ward 2, Albany County, Wyoming, House 516 on 6th Street has Christ (head of household) Laura (wife), Herman (son), Nels WOLBUL (lodger) and Christ WOLBUL as a lodger. Christ Madsen is white. Male born Jul 1851. Is 48 years old and married for 22 years. He was born in Denmark as well as both of his parents. He immigrated in 1873. His residence is Laramie Wyoming.

Laura Madsen (Christ Madsen's wife) is a White, Female, born Jul 1854. Is married for 22 years married in 1878. Her birth place is Denmark as well as both of her parents. She immigrated in 1877. Residence is Laramie Wyoming.  
Their son Herman Madsen is a White, Male, born in May 1880 and is 20 years old in this 1900 census. His birth place is Wyoming.  
Noted with this family are two family "lodgers" Nels and Christ WOLBUL. They are twins born in May 1884 and are 16 years old.

24 July 1902 weekly Boomerang no. 36 July 24, 1902, page 1<sup>4</sup>

Madsen's buy out competing grocery store. Gem City Grocery Co grows. This article notes the stock in the company is \$25,000.

From the weekly boomerang, Laramie Wyoming, Thursday, July 24, 1902, volume 22, number 36, page 1, column 3.

### "GEM CITY GROCERY CO.

Takes the Stock in the Business of the Trabling Commercial Company. STOCKS TO BE CONSOLIDATED.

Will Conduct the Business at the Corner of 2nd Grand Avenue - New Company Has a Capital Stock of \$25,000. Divided into 250 Shares of \$100 Each.

From Tuesday's Daily.

The stock and business of the Trabling Commercial company was yesterday morning transferred to the Gem City Grocery Company and a ~~number~~ <sup>number</sup> of the business yesterday at the Trabling store at the corner of Second street and Grand Avenue. The Gem city company which was formed in the spring and has been doing business on the corner of Second and Custer Street will move their stock as soon as possible to the new store.

<sup>3</sup> 1900 U.S. census, Albany County, Wyoming, population schedule, Laramie city, enumeration district (ED) 11, sheet 12-A, p. 97 (transpose), dwelling 220, family 231, Christ Madsen, digital image, ancestry <https://www.ancestry.com>; accessed 25 July 2021; citing national archives and records administration microfilm publication T8A, roll 1746.

<sup>4</sup> "Gem City Grocery - Stocks To Be Consolidated," Weekly Boomerang (Laramie, Wyoming), 24 July 1902, p. 1, col. 3, image copy, Wyoming Newspapers, Wyoming State Library (<http://newspapers.wyo.gov>); accessed 25 July 2021.

### RESEARCH NOTES FOR HERMAN MILLER MADSEN

The Gem City grocery company is capitalized at \$25,000 divided into 250 shares of \$100 each. The company has 5 trustees, 4 of these being Frank Coolican, James Christensen, Christ Madsen and Herman Madsen. The officers elected are as follows:

President and Manager - Frank J. Coolican.

Vice president - James M. Christensen.

Secretary and treasurer - Christ Madsen.

Mr. Coolican, the president and manager is one of the thing young businessmen of Laramie and has been employed for some time by Trabling company knowing all the intricacies of the business. Mr. Christensen and Mr. Madsen have both been in Laramie here for some time and are most favorably known as substantial business men. Miss Helen Ryan who was with the trading company for some time as bookkeeper will be one of the bookkeepers of the new company, the head bookkeeper not having been chosen.

Mr. Trabling, president and manager of the Trabling company as soon as he closes up the business of the company will take up his carriage and wagon business. Mr. Payne who was a member of the company being secretary will remain with him. The grocery business does and old-timer in the withdrawn effort, [sic] Trabling from business. He has been here for years and formally had a store on Second street that was known as a model grocery store through the Rocky Mount region. This burned a ~~number~~ <sup>number</sup> of years ago and was never rebuilt.

The new company will do all in their power to please their old patrons and gain new ones and Mr. Trabling and taking charge of the other business solely will be successful in conducting."

8 Dec 1904 Herman is initiated as a member of the Albany Lodge (Grand Master Wyman of Cheyenne)

30 Jan 1905 Laramie Republican no. 146 January 30, 1905,

page 3 "Herman Madsen of Gem City grocery left Sunday afternoon for Ogden, where he will remain for a month, undergoing treatment for rheumatism. From there he will go to the coast for a visit with friends."



Make the effort to reach out to family for information. Reach out to the local county libraries in the areas you are researching. Contact the state archives in the areas you are researching with your research question.

When doing so, be specific with your question and keep it to one or two questions at a time. Don't pepper them with a ton of questions, they will be overwhelmed and set your research questions aside for other priorities. One simple question might start a longer conversation.

The question should be about Who, What, Where, and When. Make it easy for them to respond.



## Asking Others

Reaching Out...

- To Family More Quickly
- Contacting Members
  - Ancestry
  - FamilySearch
  - Etc.
- Libraries
- State Archives

Presentation Title

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## #6 Finding Records

So how do you go to figure out where to go for the records?

### FamilySearch Wiki

My first stop is the [FamilySearch Wiki](#). It is easy to navigate and often gets you the answers you need quickly. Pay attention to the side panels with hyperlinks to jump right to the subject for which you are looking.

The great part about the FamilySearch Wiki is that they will tell you where the records are even if it is not their platform. They will also tell you if there is a fee involved to access them (like at Ancestry, for example).

*Find the Records*

FamilySearch Wiki

What I Wish I Knew When I Started My Family Tree

### New Mexico, United States Genealogy

United States > New Mexico

Guide to **New Mexico genealogy**. Birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, family history, and military records.

**New Mexico Information** [ [edit](#) ] [ [edit source](#) ]

New Mexico is a state in the western portion of the United States. It is divided into 33 counties. New Mexico was the 47th State to join the Union on January 6, 1912. The State of New Mexico was created from the New Mexico Territory. The capital city is Santa Fe. [1]

In the past, New Mexico has been "Santa Fe de Nuevo México" as part of the Spanish Kingdom, "Nuevo México" when the area was a province of Mexico, as well as New Mexico Territory and the state of New Mexico when it became part of the United States of America.

Santa Fe de Nuevo México was established in the early seventeenth and had an estimated population of 2,500 by 1680.

In the United States, New Mexico has the second largest Native American population by percentage. These tribes include Navajo, Pueblo and Apache. [2]

**Getting Started** [ [edit](#) ] [ [edit source](#) ]

**Getting Started with New Mexico Research**

Links to articles on getting started with New Mexico research.

- Guided Research
- Step-by-Step New Mexico Research, 1880-Present
- How to Find Birth Records
- How to Find Marriage Records
- How to Find Death Records
- Research Strategies

**New Mexico Research Tools**

Links to articles and websites that assist in United States research.

- Boundary Changes Maps
- Archives and Libraries
- NiGenWeb
- Geographical Names Information System - U.S. gazetteer of places, cemeteries and post offices in New Mexico.

**New Mexico Online Genealogy Records** [Ask the FamilySearch Community](#)

**New Mexico Clickable Map** [ [edit](#) ] [ [edit source](#) ]

Genealogy records are kept on the county level in New Mexico. Click on a county below to go to the Wiki article listing more information.

**New Mexico Wiki Topics**

**Beginning Research**

- Guided Research
- Research Strategies
- Record Finder

**Record Types**

- Adoption
- Bible Records
- Biography
- Cemeteries
- Census
- Church Records
- Colonial Records
- Correctional Institutions
- Court Records
- Directories
- Emigration & Immigration
- Genealogies
- Land & Property
- Military Records
- Naturalization & Citizenship
- Newspapers
- Obituaries
- Online Genealogy Records
- Probate Records
- Taxation
- Vital Records
- Voter Records
- Water Records

**New Mexico Background**

- Biography
- Further Reading
- Gazetteers
- History
- Maps
- Migration
- Periodicals

**Cultural Groups**

- African Americans
- Indigenous People
- Cultural groups
- Swedish Americans

**Local Research Resources**

- Archives & Libraries
- Societies
- Local Family History Center

### Cindi's List

Worth mentioning is another free resource is [Cindi's List](#). You should bookmark both pages for future reference.

## #7 Hidden Clues

Okay... here is the big secret. You will often find the hidden clues to your family history in the details of the documents.

How to you find them? By transcribing, word for word, the documents you have gathered. Yes, that's right, type it up. I know, it sounds like a lot, but if you are stuck, this is part of the solution.

By learning to transcribe properly, then abstracting the information from your research notes, you will see the details you skimmed over before. You will suddenly start making connections to other ancestors and the relationships to the neighbors, witnesses, and community at large, in the documents that you never noticed before.

### *Hidden Clues*

Document Details

Transcribing Documents

Abstracts in Research Notes

Cover Sheet on Documents Found



Randolph County, North Carolina, will of John Henley, 1834, will book 6, p. 378, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT – TRANSCRIPTION OR ABSTRACT:

This copy is of the original will found at the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh. It was found while looking for other information and was transcribed later. Below is the transcription which includes many family members and land descriptions.

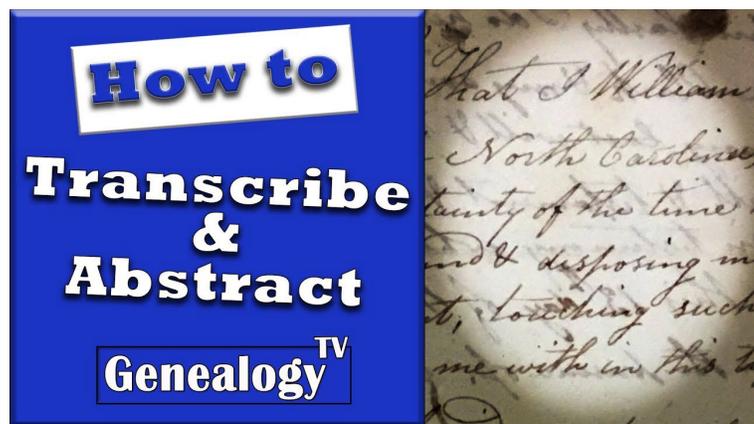
Will of John HENLEY 1834 (Transcribed)

"State of North Carolina) The remembrance of mortality calls

Randolph County: 1 for possession of land & culture

Again, if you are stuck in your research, take all the documents you have for the ancestor and immediate family for the area of your tree you are stuck on, and transcribe the documents (with source citations), then abstract the information into your research notes. Most likely it will give you new insight and new ideas of where to look next.

Here is a short video on [How to Transcribe and Abstract Documents.](#)



## Bonus Tip Search Strategies

This one I did learn early on (thanks to the genealogical society meetings I went to as a teenager), was...

### Work Backwards

Not only are you working backwards generation after generation, but you are working backwards in each ancestor's lifetime. Start with their death and work toward their birth.

The reason we do this is because the death records will often have more recent and complete information about the ancestors' life.

Keep in mind that death records may not be accurate, but they often include the spouse and children who will become key in verifying earlier records.... again, as you work backward.

## *Research Strategies*

### Family Correlation + F.A.N. Club Research

- Correlating Family
  - Spouses
  - Children
  - Parents
  - In-Laws
- F.A.N. Club Correlation
  - Friends
  - Associates
  - Neighbors

### Research + Record Finding Strategies

- Beyond the Hints
- Card Catalog to Find Records
- Getting Outside the Box
- Using DNA

## Go Beyond the Hints

Learn how to get beyond the leafy hints. Learn how to use the card catalog, get “outside the box” (the platform you are on) and research on other platforms for additional clues.

Use DNA to help with your research. This is a game-changer in helping you connect with other family members who may hold the keys that unlock the mystery box.

## Genealogy TV Academy

Learn the Skills Need to Take You Back Generation After Generation

The Genealogy TV Academy is here to help. Learn the skills needed to help you get unstuck, get organized, and help you to create an accurate family history that you can share with your family and future generations. [Go here to learn more about the Genealogy TV Academy.](#)



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