

# BRICK WALL BREAKTHROUGHS

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In June 2013, selected members of the Fox Valley Genealogical Society had three minutes to present their brick walls before a panel of “experienced researchers”. Later that year, I was assigned one of these brick wall challenges.

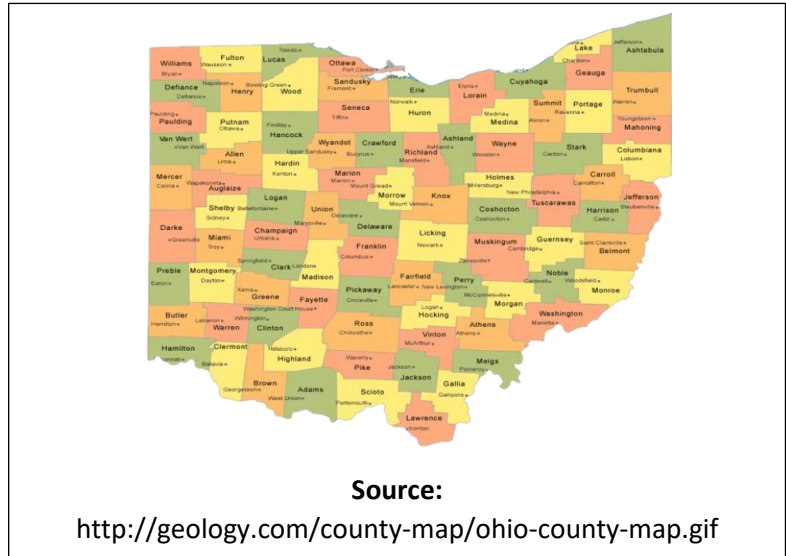
During the January 2014 follow-up, the directions clearly stated that “panelists will not be conducting research into brick walls, but only supplying ideas for further research.” I was never very good at following directions.

→ A partial timeline for Henry Bell.

Census	Name	Location	Additional Notes
1840	<b>Head of Family</b> - Bell, Henry	Gallia County, OH	Male under age 10 (1) <b>Male between 24 – 35 (1)</b> -- Female under 10 (1) Female between 10 – 23 (1) Female between 36 – 54 (1)
1850	<b>Head of Household</b> - Bell, Henry	Gallia County, OH	
1860	<b>Head of Household</b> - Bell, Henry W	Gallia County, OH	
1870	<b>Head of Household/Farmer</b> - Bell, Henry	Lorain County, OH	
1880	<b>Head of Household/Farmer</b> - Bell, H. W.	Lorain County, OH	
1891	<b>Death</b> Buried at Westwood Cemetery	Lorain County, OH	

## OBJECTIVES

- 1 Pre-1850 Tick Marks
- 2 Rethinking Name Searches
- 3 Cluster Research
- 4 Newspapers Research
- 5 Migration Patterns



## SUGGESTIONS FOR BREAKING BRICK WALLS

1. Start with what you know.
2. Document your findings (positive and negative).
3. Transcribe everything!
4. Evaluate your sources. Don't ignore conflicting information.
5. Cite all of your sources.
6. Do reverse name searches and look for spelling variations.
7. Create a timeline of events.
8. Study local and national history.
9. Check newspapers.
10. Thoroughly research the FAN club.
11. Reach out to the local genealogical or historical society where your ancestor lived.
12. Ask for help from a fellow family researcher. Another pair of eyes may add clarity.
13. Know that not everything is on the internet.

## SELECTED RESOURCES

### Books

Bell, James Madison. [Poetical Works of James Madison Bell](#). Lansing, Mich., Press of Wynkoop, Hallenbeck, Crawford co., 1902.

Delany, Martin Robison. *The American Negro: His History and Literature*. New York. Arno Press and the New York Times, 1969.

Ward, Samuel Ringgold. *Autobiography of a fugitive Negro: His Anti-Slavery Labours in the United States, Canada, & England*. New York. Arno Press, 1968.

## RELATED WEBINARS:

### **Abolitionist Lives, Abolitionists Wives Series**

- Louisiana's Legacy
- Mary Jane's Motivation
- Reconstructing Susan's Family