CROWDSOURCING YOUR GENEALOGY: RETHINKING BRICK WALLS

I. What is crowdsourcing?
   a. 'Crowd' + 'Outsourcing'
   b. "All of us are smarter than any one of us."
   c. Crowdsourcing is used for wisdom, funding, creativity, and voting
   d. Genealogists were doing crowdsourcing before it was cool

II. When to crowdsource
   a. Dead End
      i. There is no longer a *reasonable assumption* that records exist for the time, place, and culture of an ancestor.
   b. Brick Wall
      i. We have lost the ability to trace an ancestor, but there is a *reasonable assumption* that records exist for the time, place, and culture of that ancestor.
   c. Ways Around a Brick Wall
      i. Slam Your Head Against It
      ii. Increase Education & Experience
      iii. Leverage Technology
      iv. Hire a Professional
      v. Crowdsource

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III. Where to crowdsource
   a. Ancestry Message Boards
      i. Use the Advanced Search tab for better results
      ii. Check the date posted
      iii. Check the user profile to see if an active user
   b. RootsWeb
      i. Watch out for orphaned lists
      ii. Select the 'D' or Digest version to get less emails
      iii. Look for webpages associated with the mailing list

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c. FamilySearch Learning Center
    i. Free classes and lectures to increase knowledge
    ii. New content is added daily, so keep checking
d. FamilySearch Research Wiki
    i. Over 85,000 articles
    ii. Watch out for the rabbit hole
e. Google+
    i. Search for 'Genealogy' and 'Family History' communities
    ii. Hangouts and live discussions are possible
f. Genealogywise
    i. Groups – Look for size and last activity
    ii. Forums – Look for last activity and number of replies
g. Facebook
    i. Pinned posts v. Recent Activity
    ii. Search within a group
    iii. Katherine Willson's Genealogy on Facebook List
    iv. Liking v. Following
    v. More Pages You May Like

IV. Crowdsourcing etiquette
a. Playground rules apply
b. Right forum & right expectations
c. Search first, ask questions later
d. Follow the guidelines
e. Give as much information as possible
f. Be specific
g. Grammar counts
h. Think long term

V. Crowdsourcing offline
a. Genealogy classes & seminars
    i. www.conferencekeeper.org
b. Genealogical Society meetings
    i. www.fgs.org
    ii. www.mimgc.org

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