



FROM THE KNOWN
TO THE UNKNOWN

Sept 19

Ten Ways to Climb a Brick Wall

1. Step-by-step

This can best be done in reverse chronological order. For a modern person, start with their death. This can be found in the Social Security Death Index, a death certificate, a cemetery record, or an obituary for example. Then look for them in city or telephone directories until you get to 1940. At that point look for them in the census every 10 years. Then look for a birth certificate. Along the way look for marriage records, and the birth of children, if you know they had those events.

For older persons, you would still start with the death, then city directories, on to census records, then birth records. There still might be marriage and birth records, too.

2. Siblings and other family members

Look for family relationships other than parents. These could be found in census or legal records. The ancestry of the other relatives could have been documented.

3. Location, location, location

Where exactly were they? Look for land records, city directories, addresses and districts in censuses. If you only know the state, use online sources to find where people with that surname were located.

4. Where is that place now?

When someone was in a place is key to knowing what it was called then and determining where it is now. Sometimes a city name does not change, just the boundaries around it. Be wary of duplicate place names in the same state, especially ones that just apply to a locale or neighborhood and not a town. List all the different jurisdictions that a location was in throughout the years. Spend some time with a map.

5. Name spelling

If it is your surname, think of all the different ways people misspell it. For other names, sound them out. Do you know the country origin of the name? Perhaps it has been Anglicized or the spelling has been simplified. If your ancestor is a John Smith in an area with a lot of German immigrants, you may find him by looking for Johannes Schmidt. Consider that the name may have been changed completely even if the carrier was not an immigrant. In other words, the name someone had at birth may not be the name you are searching.

6. Migration patterns

Some of the patterns in America are from New England due west to New York. Many went from Virginia to North Carolina. Pennsylvania to Ohio then on to Indiana and Illinois was a common route. Of course, the California gold rush saw a lot of people skipping over the Midwest, and not stopping until they got to the Pacific. In all the usual patterns, it is unusual for someone to go backwards though not unheard of.

7. FAN Club

This stands for “Friends and Neighbors.” It is most commonly used in census records. You should try to figure out who the people are for 10 households on each side of your ancestor. It can also be used for a city directory. A variation on this is to list each person in a locale with the surname you are researching. Especially in a small area, this list actually does not tend to be very long.

8. Religion

It works much better to find people if you are not looking in the wrong church denomination for them. There were plenty of interfaith marriages – the Quakers especially noted when their members married out of the faith. Sometimes in remote areas people attended or joined the closest available church. And remember that Protestants were Catholics before the schisms.

9. How do you know what you do about the person?

What are your sources? Could there be a mistake? Could you be looking for the wrong person who just happens to have the same name? Is the person having children at age 10 or dying before he was born? Do at least some of the names of the other family members match up from record to record?

10. Preconceived notions and assumptions

Not just religious faith but political loyalties can change, perhaps for pragmatic reasons. For example, “**Galvanized Yankees** was a term from the [American Civil War](#) denoting former [Confederate](#) prisoners of war who swore allegiance to the [United States](#) and joined the [Union Army](#).” (Wikipedia.) Such a person could theoretically be listed in both Confederate and Union service records.

I thought all my direct ancestors had stayed in the Carolinas and Georgia once they got there. But I finally figured out that some of my ancestors went West with some of their other children, while my line stayed. I also had trouble finding one family in South Carolina in a particular census. It turned out they went to Alabama for a few years, including that census year, and later returned to South Carolina.

Working on a Brick Wall

I have an ancestor Lucy Gaylord/Gaylard who was born about 1806 and died June 22, 1882. Variations of her first name that I have found are Lavice, Lavinea, Levisa, and Vicie. Her middle name may have been Elizabeth. Her birth year also appears as 1807 and 1811. She married Edwin Barnes sometime between 1820 and 1825. She appears by name in the 1850, 1860, and 1880 census. She was buried on June 28, 1882 at Salem Southern Methodist Church in the Red Hill community of what is now Lee County, South Carolina.

Lucy, as I will call her, supposedly had 13 children. I have 27 DNA matches on Ancestry who are her descendants; together, we spring from 8 different children. So I have no doubt that she is indeed my ancestor.

I have searched her children's death certificates, South Carolina archives (wills and estates), censuses, burial records – all to no avail. I have recently written the Southern Methodist Church archives to see if they have any information on the Salem church. The first marked burial there is dated 1855 – I do not know when the church was founded.

Lee County, South Carolina, was created in 1902 from Darlington, Sumter, and Kershaw Counties. So right away there are three counties to search for her records. There were also three short-lived counties in the area, Clarendon, Claremont and Salem, which were formed from the Camden District. And until 1798 Darlington was part of the Cheraws District, while Sumter and Kershaw were part of the Camden District. (Even though she was not born yet, this is important when looking for land records to see where her family might have been living.)

I do happen to have learned where she was living for part of her life. A database about some of the local families mentioned that Edwin Barnes' grandson erected a marker at the site of the old home place. The location was given as the county line between Sumter and Kershaw Counties, near Highway 34.

I had located Edwin and Lucy in 1880 living near one of my Davis families. These Davises actually lived very near the Sumter/Kershaw line off South Carolina Highway 34. The road is Stokes Road, probably because Stokes have owned land there for generations. I had looked for the marker but not found it.

Thanks to Google maps, I located the marker in Kershaw County, within sight of the county line but a little further away than where I had searched. It is right around the corner from the Davis farm. It is actually on Highway 34.

The grandson who put the marker up was 65 years old when he did so. He was the only direct male descendant with the Barnes surname, which might have been why he wanted to do it.

So my search has been concentrated on two goals: identifying Lucy in a census record before her marriage to Edwin, and looking at the provenance of that plot of land.

I found who owns the land now. They are actually distant cousins to me, though through a different family. This particular area has had the same core group of families for about 200 years, so there are a lot of connected bloodlines. Anyway, it seems that their family has owned the land since between 1900 and 1910. In 1900, a granddaughter of Edwin and Lucy was living there. Her husband died in 1907, so I think that is when the land was sold out.

I believe I have traced the land back to 1820, based on who was living there in census records. But I am skipping ahead.

Lucy should appear in the 1820 census, and possibly in the 1810 census, depending on what her actual birthdate is. I should mention that none of my South Carolina family in that area appear in the 1870 census. The entire community section is missing. Either they were skipped or no one trusted the federal agent. I am still looking for her and Edwin in 1860.

By the fact that I have other families nearby, I was able to determine that the land was in the Sumter District in 1820. But there are no Gaylords/Gaylards in Sumter District for that year.

The next expedient was to go back and look for other Gaylords/Gaylards in Sumter District and the surrounding areas during Lucy's lifetime. There are of course many different spelling variations with Gaylard, Gaylord, Gaillard, being the most common.

The name Gaillard is very similar and there are a lot of them in the area. So this was the first research avenue I pursued, years ago. The Gaillards are French Huguenots, from Charleston. Many of them bought estates in what is called the High Hills of the Santee. This is a slightly elevated area, which again, is very close to the places we are discussing. The idea was that those locations would be slightly cooler and healthier in the summer.

However, the Gaillards are all very rich Episcopalians. Edwin Barnes was the sheriff of Sumter District. It was pointed out to me that while he was quite respectable, he was not in the same class as the truly rich. And I have no Episcopalians in my ancestry this late in history.

I did spend a lot of time with the Huguenots, who have pretty good records. I can report that there are no female Gaillards who have a forename beginning with the letter "L".

There are two Gaylord/Gaylard men in the Sumter area who are the approximate ages to have been Lucy's brothers. This is a hypothesis that I came up with early on, but had been unable to show any evidence for.

Most Gaylards/Gaylords in the South are from North Carolina. Other researchers have not been able to make a connection. I now spent some fruitless time on this idea.

I decided to work on the two men. Interestingly enough, neither of them show up by name in any record before 1840. They are found in Sumter District/County records.

William is the first one. He is the head of household in the census records. The other people appear to be his wife and children. He is buried at Bethel United Methodist Church, Oswego, Sumter County, South Carolina.

Note a new spelling variation: Gaylor.

1840 census	Wm Gaylard	Age 20-30	Born 1810-1820	
1850 census	Wm W. Gaylard		Born 1812	2 slaves
1860 census	William W. Gaylor		Born 1812	
1870 census	William W. Gaillard		Born 1806-1807	
1880 census	William W. Gaylord		Born 1810	
Tombstone	William W. Gaylard		Born Nov. 1799	Died Feb. 1883

The other one is Nathan. He is also head of household in the census records. He died in Suwannee, Florida. An unsourced Internet document has his name as Nathan Richard Gaylard.

1840 census	Nathan B. Gaylord	Age 20-30	Born 1810-1820	
1842 petition	Nathan B. Gaylord		Born by 1821	Had to be of age
1850 census	N. R. Gaylord		Born 1821	
Uncited item	Nathan Richard Gaylard		Born Oct. 1820	Died Feb. 1899

It seems that Nathan moved to Florida in the 1860s. This is very interesting, because in 1850 Edwin and Lucy are not living near the Davises. But in 1850 Nathan is living two houses away from the Davises.

In 1830 and 1840 Edwin Barnes is living near Stokes Road, though the Davises are not there yet.

The key to reconstructing a family is always to find them in a record together. In the 1830 census, Edwin, Lucy and their young children can be identified. There is an older woman and two older boys, also. The woman is 40-49 and the boys are 10-14. This corresponds to birth years of 1781-1790 and 1816-1820, respectively.

Edwin Barnes actually grew up not too far away but not on this road. I am still trying to determine which county his family was in, to see just how close they lived to his 1830 home. His grandmother lived about 11 miles away.

Now this is where it gets interesting. On the 1820 Sumter District census, near the Stokes families, there is a Barah Gailey. She is the head of the household, living with three young children. She is 26-44, the girl is 10-15, and the two boys are under 10. This works out to birth years of 1776-1794, 1805-1810, and 1810-1820.

It is very hard to read the first name. It definitely starts with a B and ends with -ah. But I finally found out there is a rare girl's name, Barah. It is said to derive from Bethabara, a Biblical place-name. So I think that is the name here.

I believe that the three children are Lucy, William, and Nathan, and that Barah is their mother.

My theory is that Edwin and Lucy got married in the early 1820's (their first child was born in 1825.) He would have turned 21 in 1823. I think that Edwin moved in with Lucy and her family, and that they lived there until the 1830s. By 1840 both William and Nathan had married. William moved a short distance away (he is buried 18 miles from the home site.) Edwin and Lucy moved off a bit, perhaps back to be closer to his family, and Nathan then lived there until the 1860s. At that point, Edwin and Lucy moved back. She died in 1882, and he died in 1887. It remained in the family, with his granddaughter living there at least in 1900. Then in 1910, it went to the family who has it now.

I have now extended my search to look at Gaileys, Galeys, Gales, and Gayles. I have not found any estate records yet. There are a lot of Gayle/Gales who got land grants in the general area in the late 1700s. There is a person in that family named Levinah, and I find that name very interesting. Also, many of the Gayle/Gales went to Louisiana, and Edwin had several uncles who left South Carolina for Louisiana in the 1820s.

Another clue is the reported birthplaces of Lucy's parents in the 1880 census. She says that her father was born in South Carolina but her mother was born in North Carolina. If this is true, then any connection to the North Carolina Gaylards is more distant.

I am thrilled to have made this connection and to have found another ancestor.

Additional internet resources

HeritageQuest

Log in to HeritageQuest from the 24 Hour Library

<https://nm-alamogordo.civicplus.com/488/24-Hour-Library> with your Alamogordo library card to view the following entries.

1820 Census; Sumter, SC

https://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=zsk18643&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&qh=gFm7OajDKovOBodK3KMe7Q%3D%3D&db=1820usfedcenancestry&gss=angs-d&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsln=gailey&gsln_x=0&msrpn__ftp=Sumter%20County,%20South%20Carolina,%20USA&msrpn=2831&MSAV=1&uidh=2xk&pcat=35&fh=0&h=985654&recoff=&ml_rpos=1

1830 Census; Sumter, SC

https://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=zsk18645&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&qh=pKswSdeBKjZDfIDb1A9cFA%3D%3D&db=1830usfedcenancestry&gss=angs-d&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsln=barnes&gsln_x=0&msrpn__ftp=Sumter%20County,%20South%20Carolina,%20USA&msrpn=2831&MSAV=1&uidh=2xk&pcat=35&fh=7&h=665111&recoff=&ml_rpos=8

1840 Census; Sumter, SC

https://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=zsk18647&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&qh=bkaM3rv/IC5JLo/4qQjCIA%3D%3D&db=1840usfedcenancestry&gss=angs-d&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsln=barnes&gsln_x=0&msrpn__ftp=Sumter%20County,%20South%20Carolina,%20USA&msrpn=2831&MSAV=1&uidh=2xk&pcat=35&fh=4&h=2973688&recoff=&ml_rpos=5

1850 Census; Kershaw, SC

https://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=zsk18649&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&qh=zm3F4mB8i/172yHzGirHJg%3D%3D&db=1850usfedcenancestry&gss=angs-d&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsln=barnes&gsln_x=0&msrpn__ftp=Kershaw%20County,%20South%20Carolina,%20USA&msrpn=1594&MSAV=1&uidh=2xk&pcat=35&fh=9&h=5796149&recoff=&ml_rpos=10

1860 Census; Division 4, Kershaw, SC

https://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=zsk18652&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&qh=tgcjq92C/Hc9XFxIf7/hHw%3D%3D&db=1860usfedcenancestry&gss=angs-d&new=1&rank=1&gsfn=levisa&gsfn_x=0&gsln=barnes&gsln_x=0&msrpn__ftp=Kershaw%20County,%20South%20Carolina,%20USA&msrpn=1594&MSAV=1&uidh=2xk&pcat=35&fh=0&h=31867183&recoff=&ml_rpos=1

1880 Census; Kershaw, SC

https://search.ancestryheritagequest.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=zsk18655&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&qh=RJvCBGF2mvM1JwKIYbR7ZA%3D%3D&db=1880usfedcen&gss=angs-d&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsfn=lavinea&gsfn_x=0&gsln=barnes&gsln_x=0&MSAV=1&uidh=2xk&pcat=35&fh=0&h=11561539&recoff=&ml_rpos=1

Find A Grave (No log in required)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/62181929/lavice-barnes>

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/555484/salem-southern-methodist-church-cemetery>



HOME PLACE
OF SHERIFF
EDWIN BARNES
1802-1887

A HOME WITH A FAMILY ALTAR
A CHRISTIAN CITIZEN

ERECTED BY HIS GRANDSON
EDWIN L. BARNES
1929