

**Michael Goldstein, Professional Genealogist  
Jewish Genealogy Search**

Mevo Pal Yam 50, Jerusalem, **97890**

Tel: +972 52 861 0489 +972 2 581 3902 (Israel)

Tel: (617)275 4246 (North America)

e-mail: [michael@jg-search.com](mailto:michael@jg-search.com) Skype: semper-ubi

**Brick Wall Yes or No?**

©Michael Goldstein

“A Brick Wall is a dead-end that you have reached in your genealogical research. It may be a small problem or a much larger one. You may have exhausted every avenue of research and are totally frustrated and at a loss.” (*Jeanne Lund, Belaugh Research Services*)

You cannot say you have hit a brickwall unless you...

Have a research plan

- Use a system to store the information you have acquired
- Keep results in a sourced genealogy program
- Maintain a log that records the what, when, success or failures of you searches.
- Have gone back and re-examined what you examined in light of newly emerged data

Have you?:

- Searched out and talked to any relative who may have information
- Examined your surname
- Registered on JewishGen & Become familiar with resources for your area of research
- Posted your surnames on JewishGen
- Searched out your ancestral towns
- Examined status of remaining documents for known ancestral towns
- Posted your town searches on JewishGen
- Sent a query to JewishGen discussion Groups
- Posted your privatized tree to JewishGen, Rootsweb and other reputable locations
- Researched relevant sites such as [isragen.org](http://isragen.org) or [sephardicgen.com](http://sephardicgen.com) or [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)
- Considered acquiring documents that have survived if relevant
- Acquired records and relied not just on indexes.
- Done DNA testing [www.ftdna.com](http://www.ftdna.com)
- Shared your problem with anyone who will still listen or talk to you