

What Do You Do When There Are No Records?

Tony Hanson

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Case Study: Finding a Family for Laura Larsdatter

Breaking Through YOUR Brick Wall

- Start with conventional genealogical research
 - Create your tree
 - Investigate collateral lines
- Utilize all known sources of information
 - Methodical search
 - Use a research log
- Know the geography and history of the area
- Utilize card catalogs
 - Widen criteria if no matches are found
 - Filter results to narrow scope
- Utilize the Family Search Family Tree
- Consider MyHeritage if researching European ancestors
- Tips for using DNA
 - Choose the right company
 - Ancestry.com is a good first choice
 - MyHeritage.com – Good for European research
 - FamilyTreeDNA.com – Also does Y-DNA and Mitochondrial testing
 - 23andMe.com – Genealogy is not their focus
 - LivingDNA – Slow to develop resources
 - Identify DNA Matches of interest
 - ThruLines & Theory of Family Relativity Recommendations
 - Surnames
 - Geography
 - Cross-reference matches
 - Testing company tools
 - Family Tree software tools
 - Verify everything!
 - Look for anomalies
 - Add DNA matches of interest to your tree
 - Start with the living person and work backwards
 - Identify gaps and ask others to test for you
 - Relatives, but especially siblings
 - Consider desirability of other types of tests
 - Mitochondrial
 - Y-DNA

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- Focus on shared DNA matches
 - Add them to your tree
- Reach out to Subject Matter Experts
 - Ancestry groups
 - FamilyTreeDNA groups
 - FamilySearch Research Wiki
 - Consider hiring a researcher
- Other Tools
 - GEDMatch.com
 - DNAPainter.com
- Keep looking!
 - New records are becoming available every day!

Resources

Ancestry.com - <https://www.ancestry.com/>

- Card Catalog - <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog>
- Message Boards - <https://www.ancestry.com/boards/>

Family Search - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>

- Catalog - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>
- Research Wiki - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page

MyHeritage.com - <https://www.myheritage.com/>

FamilyTreeDNA.com - <https://www.familytreedna.com/>

LivingDNA.com - <https://livingdna.com/>

DNAPainter.com - <https://dnainter.com/>

GEDMatch.com - <https://www.gedmatch.com/>

Laura Larsdatter webpage (provides more details about my research)

- <https://www.rayson.us/eahanson/genealogy/paternal/laura-larsdatters-parents/>