

## Genealogy Rocks!

### Collateral Relatives and Relative Kin Are Important In Your Research

Finding elusive ancestors usually calls for a bit of creativity. Searching “collateral relatives” (those ancestors related to you by blood, but not in your direct line) can be helpful in finding those ancestors. However, searching for what I call “relative kin” (people that might be family) can help lead you to those missing relatives and some very interesting stories.



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I have 2nd great grandparents that came over from England in 1848 with 5 children between the ages of 9 & 1. Shortly after arriving, this grandmother died and by 1857 the grandfather also died. I started searching for their relatives to see if I could find out what happened to the children. These are the “collateral relatives.”

I went back to England before I found this grandfather’s older sister as a Ladies Maid in 1851.

I kept track of the other servant names in this household. These could be the “relative kin.” I found an 1853 marriage record for who I thought could be the older sister. The husband’s name on the record was the name of the butler in the home, where the sister was a Ladies Maid. I found them as a married couple again in 1861 England. They were listed as the aunt and uncle of my 2nd Great Grandparents youngest daughter.

Aside from relatives, make sure you search for anyone “of note” that lived in the same area. For instance, my family first moved to Sleepy Hollow, New York. Yes, that Sleepy Hollow! They actually lived there the same time as Washington Irving and Ichabod Crane was the name of a real man that Irving met during the War of 1812.

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