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From the Selected Works of James Gross

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Remember to Bring your Flash Drive

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/jamesgross/67/
I recently read *The Telephone Gambit: Chasing Alexander Graham Bell’s Secret* in which Seth Shulman credibly refutes the generally held belief that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. The author pored over documents and diagrams submitted with patent applications from both Bell and the true inventor, Elisha Gray, analyzed the sequence of events, and theorized the motivations of the principal individuals involved, thus underscoring the importance of accurate research which can also be applied to our genealogy research.

For many years my mother’s family believed that my grandmother and her sister personally experienced the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. There was a catch, however; this fire occurred in March 1911, and those two women arrived in the U.S. in December 1911. I distinctly remember a conversation with Grandma on the fiftieth anniversary of her arrival when she told me that she and her sister had been in a fire in the garment district in New York City and searched for each other. However, I don’t recall Grandma actually uttering the words “Triangle Shirtwaist Fire” then. In fact I don’t think her command of English was such that she would’ve been able to successfully articulate that phrase.

After doing some research, I learned that there had been another fire in the garment district in April 1912, which fortunately was brought under control without loss of life except for one man. While it was exciting to think that
REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR FLASH DRIVE
by James Gross, MLIS

This short tech tip is featured to assist those researchers who devote time to visiting research facilities. Our time is valuable; there are always other things we could be doing. I have a very easy suggestion with regard to your flash drive: bring it!

As a reference volunteer, I occasionally see researchers who run into the archive to do some quick research. You would be amazed at the number of researchers who forget their flash drive. While I know some researchers prefer hard copies, it is still useful to bring a flash drive on all your research trips.

First, always make sure you bring the flash drive with you. Second, throw an extra one in your car, backpack, purse, or suitcase. Third, if you have time, copy your computer files or the computer folders to the flash drive. This will help you identify what files you already have and help you narrow down what files or topics you wish to work on.

Fourth, back up all of your flash drive files onto a separate drive or storage medium in case your flash drive stops working.

While these simple tips will not guarantee that you’ll locate that elusive record, they will at least help ensure that you have a media storage device with which to copy and save the records you do find.

Author James Gross has been working on his family tree since the early 1990s. A periodic contributor to various genealogy newsletters, James volunteers regularly at the Cherry Hill, NJ Family History Center where he helps other genealogists in their research. He also has a genealogy website: http://tinyurl.com/gross-steinberg. James can be reached at: navistar96@yahoo.com

HOW AN ARTICLE IN CHRONICLES HELPED ME BREAK THROUGH A BRICK WALL

By Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler

Many years ago (I do not remember exactly how long ago, but it was a very l-o-n-g time ago), I was searching for the cemetery and burial location of a stillborn baby which my maternal great-grandmother had delivered in 1896. Armed only with the names of my great-grandparents (Charles and Fannie Newfeld), and information older relatives had given me, I began my search.

I was able to verify the above information on a form entitled “Physician’s Certificate of a Death in the City of Philadelphia.” I also found this information on a Philadelphia City death certificate which I located on Family Search, https://familysearch.org. The physician’s certificate also indicated the date of burial, the cemetery name, and the county in which it was located but I was confused by some of that information: “Har[?] Halzey C.. Merion Sqr., Mont. Co. Pa.”

Since I was unfamiliar with this cemetery name, I reached for my copy of the Philadelphia Area Jewish Genealogical...