



VALE CONSULTING

Genealogical Research

<http://www.valeconsulting.com/>
valarobardier@gmail.com

Greetings to all my clients and genealogy friends!

I rarely put out a general message to clients and prospective clients and make no attempt at keeping my Facebook page up to date. I am very fortunate to stay busy through referrals and “contact me” queries that come in from my web site. But these are challenging times indeed, and now I do feel the need to reach out.

Firstly, I want to let everyone know that I am still busy and active. I am blessed with a very large library in my own office and access to outside archives through digital subscriptions. I do still have a healthy workload, but I am always ready to take on new projects. I have database management software that allows me to group my projects around geographic regions so that I can search for more than one project in various record sets.

Every project goes through a series of phases. The newer projects get organized first, and then follow a pattern of widening searches. As the low hanging fruit, and even the medium high hanging fruit gets picked, the project gets more difficult. Most of my clients are looking in the 1700’s and early 1800’s, so the pickings are already slim—but not nonexistent. Rather than burn through the budget, when the project gets into this very difficult area, I do not waste time going through every available unlikely-to-bear-fruit record set hoping for a hit. Instead I let it simmer on a back burner until I come across a thread while doing these group searches, something I can sink my teeth into and hopefully turn into better discovery. Renewed activity also happens when additional collections are released.

I have made this practice of saving the client money clear to all my clients from the beginning, and yet I still hear from some when I recontact them that they thought I was finished with their search, had given up. That cannot ever happen! And so it is that I must say to all—if you have not heard from me in a while, I am still here, and I am still working every day, as busily as I have ever been.

Secondly, I would like to hear from all my contacts in the genealogy community how all of you are doing with the pandemic, what are conditions like in your area, have you made any new discoveries on your own that would cheer us all to keep at it?

Thank you,

Valerie LaRobardier