

Re-examining your documents
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June 2020

It pays to re-visit those documents you have accumulated for your family members. Here's an example. During this quarantine, I've taken the time to do a deep dive into my father's McManus line. Sometime in the early 1970s, the McManus clan got tired of the cold winters of Cook County, IL and moved to Florida. It was from this sunny climate that my Aunt Juanita McManus sent my parents a letter in 1973. I had read that letter several times always amazed by the spunk and feistiness of my aunt.

Something different caught my eye during this re-read. Juanita said that she was mad at herself for missing John Hill's funeral. Up to this point, I had ignored that clue because I didn't know who John Hill was or how he fit into the family. But this time, there was an "aha" moment. This was John McManus Hill, her husband's nephew.

I checked my family tree. Sure enough John Hill died March 1973 in Florida. Since I'd treated myself to a subscription to newspapers.com, I checked that source and to my delight found his obituary.

Then I noticed that John's younger brother, David Hill, died in Aug 1989 in Florida. I found his obit along with his wife, Gertrude's obit. She passed in Sep 1992 in Florida.

My family tree became more complete because I re-read a letter that I thought I knew everything about.