Rubik's Cube® Genealogy: A New Twist on Your Old Data
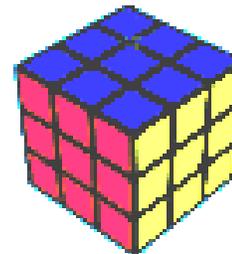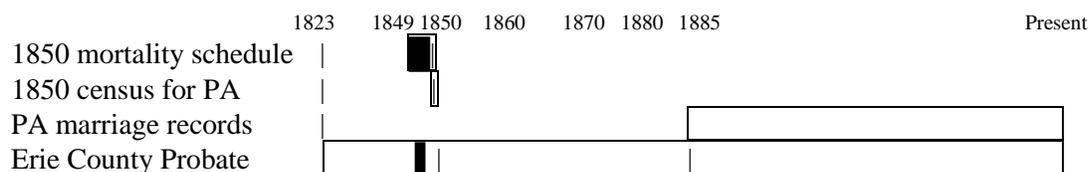
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The three dimensions in genealogy are Name, Time, and Place. You should be able to pinpoint records for each unique individual knowing these three "coordinates." As you twist the dimensions in different ways new or previously unseen patterns emerge in your family history.

Organize your data differently
- by grouping all records about a person or a family
  - source checklist
  - chart comparing common family characteristics
- by grouping records together
  - compare all census years, all deeds, military service, health history, etc.
  - compare related record groups together such as plot plan, tax lists, and census
- by looking at records geographically
  - genealogy of the counties
  - migration map
  - hardiness zones
  - meteorological data
- by looking at all records chronologically by person
  - identifies missing data
  - highlights illogical and contradictory data
  - shows who lived concurrently
  - can help sort out multiple individuals with the same name
- by looking at our ancestors on a historical timeline
  - can see what events shaped their lives
- by looking at all records by availability in a location
  - identifies extant information in a certain time period

Create timelines for the records used in a research locale in order to pinpoint exactly which ones should be consulted for an event. For example, for a man's death in Erie, PA in 1849, consult:

	1823	1849 1850	1860	1870 1880 1885	Present
1850 mortality schedule					
1850 census for PA					
PA marriage records					
Erie County Probate					

Apply to a lineage society
- The process of proving each step will make you revisit your data
- Shows you where assumptions may be and where you need more evidence

Write the family history, or at least start it
- Helps to see where the holes in our knowledge exist
- Makes it more interesting if we can think of our ancestors as witnesses of history

Write a case study for a journal
- Talk about how you researched a part of your genealogy and what led you there
- Publishing may turn up more information, or the cousin with the family Bible.

Submit an entry to a writing contest
- NGS, ISFHWE, ASG Scholar Award, Southern California Genealogical Society, OGS

Share an aspect of your research in a newsletter in the research locale
- Newsletter editors are always looking for articles on families or records of local interest

Write a query for publication in print or on the Internet
- Think about the specifics of what you know and what you desire to know
- Communicate as concisely as you can
- Share photos

Publish a website or blog
- Include photos and sources. Example: http://acreetree.net

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Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace.* 3rd ed. revised. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2017.

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Animated timeline and history of the United States: www.animatedatlas.com/movie.html

Free personalized timeline intermixed with history: www.OurTimelines.com

Genelines timeline software: www.progenygenealogy.com

Genogram sample using Eugene O'Neill family: www.genogram.org

Genogram to chart your family: www.genopro.com

Growth Zones: www.burpee.com

Hardiness Zones: interactive map at http://www.usna.usda.gov/Hardzone

Meteorological data: http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/climate-information

Charts and forms: http://www.cyndislist.com/charts/printable-charts-and-forms