

Genealogy 101: Getting Started

According to Webster's II, New Riverside Dictionary:

Meth-od-ol-o-gy – *n.* A system of methods and principles used in a specific branch of knowledge; manner of proceeding especially in scientific research; orderliness; system; technique.

To Begin

- Tools Needed
- Basic Forms
 - Family Group Sheet
 - Ancestral or Pedigree chart
 - Research Calendar

Gathering Your Information – What resources does your family have?

- Vital records
- Personal records
- Legal records
- School records
- Religious records
- Land records
- Health records
- Family bible
- Family Photo album
- Business records

Common Abbreviations and Terms

ancestor **descendant** **paternal** **maternal** **direct line** **collateral line**
sibling -- brother/sister **surname** -- last name **maiden name** -- woman's surname before marriage
family group sheet -- data on a family: a father, mother & their children
ancestor/pedigree chart **SASE** -- self-addressed stamped envelope

abt	about “abt 1785”		d.	died
aka	also known as		desc	descendants
b.	born		div	divorced
bur	buried		fgs	family group sheet
ca	circa “1785 ca”		fam	family
cem	cemetery		m.	married
ch	church		obit	obituary
chr	christened		par	parent
Co.	county		res	resided
ct/cths	court/courthouse			twp township
f	father		m	mother
bro	brother		h	husband
s	son or sister		w	wife
s/o	son of or sister/of		w/o	wife of
sis	sister		wd	widow
gson	grandson		dau	daughter
gdau	granddaughter		d/o	daughter of
m-i-l	mother-in-law		f-i-l	father-in-law
s-i-l	son-in-law		d-i-l	daughter-in-law
	gf =	grandfather		
	gm =	grandmother		
	ggf =	great-grandfather		
	gggf or 2gf =	great-great-grandfather		
	ggggf or 3gf =	great-great-great-grandfather		

Genealogy 101: Getting Started

Research outside the “home”

- Understanding the Locality (Town, County, State, Country)
- Meaning of words (*see online resources for online genealogical glossary*)
- Surnames
- Outside Sources to contact & utilize
 - Genealogical & Historical Associations
 - LDS Family History Centers
 - Public Archives (Local, State & National)
 - Public & Private Libraries

Your Keys to Success

- Organized Storage of your Materials (notes, copies, etc.)
 - Folders, Binders, Boxes
- Follow Standards in Genealogy
 - Standards for Sound Genealogical Research
 - Guidelines for Using Records, Repositories, and Libraries
 - Standards for Use of Technology In Genealogical Research
 - Standards for Sharing Information with Others
 - Guidelines for Publishing Web Pages on the Internet
 - Guidelines for Genealogical Self-Improvement and Growth
- Use Proper Documentation
 - Use a research log
 - Source Citations

Online Resources

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

<http://www.archives.gov>

National Genealogical Society (NGS) – Genealogical Standards

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/comstandards.cfm>

Genealogical Proof Standard

<http://www.bccertification.org/resources/standard.html>

LDS Family History Library

<http://www.familysearch.org>

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites (261,550+ links for family history)

<http://www.cyndislist.com/>

USGenWeb

<http://www.usgenweb.org>

Ancestry

<http://www.ancestry.com>

Genealogical Glossary

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~nsdigby/lists/glossary.htm>

Family Tree Magazine – Free online forms

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html>

Ancestry – Free online forms

<http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/ancchart.htm>

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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF GENEALOGICAL HOW-TO BOOKS

- The Handybook for Genealogists, 10th edition.** Draper, Utah: Everton Publishers, Inc. 2002.
A great resource for the 50 states and select countries world-wide.
- The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual.** Board for Certification of Genealogists, Washington DC, 2002.
- Baxter, Angus **Do's and Don'ts for Ancestor-Hunters.** Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, 1988.
Tips from 40 years experience as a genealogist, lecturer and writer. Very readable and fun.
- Chorzempa, Rosemary A. **My Family Tree Workbook: Genealogy for Beginners.** Dover Publications, Inc. New York. 1982.
Fill-in. Good for children or adults who are beginning genealogists. Gives good ideas on how-to-start, what to look for, and some excellent ideas on how to record and display what you find.
- Crandall, Dr. Ralph. **Shaking Your Family Tree.** Yankee Publishing Inc., Dublin NH. 1986.
Genealogical How-To. Home Sources, Libraries, Vital stats, Church Records, Cemetery, Probate, Land, Census, Military, Immigrants, writing, Lots of Pictures and examples. Each chapter ends with pointers and pitfalls.
- Croom, Emily Anne. **The Genealogist's Companion & Sourcebook.** Betterway Publications: Cincinnati, Ohio. April 1994.
- Croom, Emily Anne. **Unpuzzling Your Past: The Best-Selling Basic Guide to Genealogy.** Betterway Publications: Cincinnati, Ohio. 4th edition, January 2003.
- Daniel, Lois. **How To Write Your Own Life Story: A Step-by-Step Guide for the Non-Professional Writer.** Chicago Review Press, 820 N. Franklin, Chicago IL 60610. 1980.
Very enjoyable reading. Something every family historian should have and use!
- Eichholz, Alice. **Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources.** Revised Edition. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, Incorporated, 1992.
- Greenwood, Val D. **The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy** (3rd edition). Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1990.
- Helmbold, F. Wilbur. **Tracing Your Ancestry: A Step-by-Step Guide to Researching Your Family History.** Oxmoor House, Inc. 1980. Birmingham AL 35201.
Genealogical how-to. Excellent source for the actual appearance of records: census page, soundex cards, city directory, topographic and property maps and more. Even shows how to thread a microfilm reader. Fine source book for \$4.95. Indexed.
- Mills, Elizabeth Shown. **Evidence: Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian.** Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997.
A **must have** book for all family historians & genealogists!!
- Szucs, Loretto Dennis & Luebking, Sandra Hargreaves. **The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy.** (Revised Edition). Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, Incorporated, 1997.
The title says it all!!! A wonderful resource for all aspects of genealogy.

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AREA LIBRARIES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Family History Center - LDS Church

Princeton: 610 Alexander Road, Phone: 609-452-0802

Hours: M-T 10am-1pm; T 7pm-10pm; W 7pm-9pm; Th 10am-4:30pm; Sat 9am-12pm

East Brunswick: 303 Dunhams Corner Rd, Phone: 732-254-1480

Hours: T-Th 7pm-10pm; Th 10am-4pm; Sat 10am-2pm

National Archives - Northeast Region

http://www.archives.gov/facilities/ny/new_york_city.html

201 Varick Street (Corner of Varick & Houston Sts)

New York, NY 10014-4811

(212) 337-1300

Note: has census records for ALL STATES

National Archives - Mid-Atlantic Region

http://www.archives.gov/midatlantic/public_services/public_services.html

Post Office Bldg, 9th & Market

Philadelphia, PA 19107

(215) 606-0100

Parking: Pay lots and public transportation

The New Jersey Historical Society

<http://www.jerseyhistory.org/>

52 Park Place

Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 596-8500

Parking lot and street (meters)

Underground parking garage across street

N. J. State Archives

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/archives.html>

225 W. State Street, 2nd Floor

Trenton, NJ 08625

(609) 292-6260

Open: Monday - Friday 8:30 – 4:30pm

Parking lot and street

Closed on state holidays

New Jersey State Library

<http://www.njstatelib.org>

185 W. State Street

Trenton, NJ 08625

(609) 292-6220

Open: Monday - Friday 8:30 – 5:00pm

Rutgers, The State University of N. J.

<http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/libs/scua/scua.shtml>

Alexander Library, Special Collections

New Brunswick, NJ 08908

(732) 932-7006

Open: Monday – Friday – 9:00 -5:00 pm

Saturday – 1-5:00pm (*when school is in session*)

Parking on street; some parking meters.

Call for directions.

Family Group Record

Prepared By _____ Relationship to Preparer _____

Address _____ Date _____ Ancestral Chart # _____ Family Unit # _____

Husband		Occupation(s)			Religion		
Date —Day, Month, Year		City	County	State or Country			
Born							
Christened						Name of Church	
Married						Name of Church	
Died						Cause of Death	
Buried		Cem/Place				Date Will Written/Proved	
Father	Other Wives						
Mother							

Wife maiden name		Occupation(s)			Religion		
Date —Day, Month, Year		City	County	State or Country			
Born							
Christened						Name of Church	
Died						Cause of Death	
Buried		Cem/Place				Date Will Written/Proved	
Father	Other Husbands						
Mother							

*	Sex M/F	Children Given Names	Birth			Birthplace			Date of first marriage/Place		Date of Death/Cause			Computer I.D. #
			Day	Month	Year	City	County	St./Ctry.	Name of Spouse		City	County	State/Country	
		1												
		2												
		3												
		4												
		5												
		6												
		7												
		8												
		9												
		10												
		11												
		12												

Ancestral Chart

No. 1 on this chart is
the same person as No. _____

On Chart No. _____

<p>1</p> <p>BORN PLACE MARRIED PLACE DIED PLACE</p> <p>NAME OF SPOUSE _____</p>	<p>2</p> <p>BORN PLACE MARRIED PLACE DIED PLACE</p>	<p>4</p> <p>BORN PLACE MARRIED PLACE DIED PLACE</p>	<p>8</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>
	<p>3</p> <p>BORN PLACE DIED PLACE</p>	<p>5</p> <p>BORN PLACE DIED PLACE</p>	<p>9</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>
		<p>6</p> <p>BORN PLACE MARRIED PLACE DIED PLACE</p>	<p>10</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>
		<p>7</p> <p>BORN PLACE DIED PLACE</p>	<p>11</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>
			<p>12</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>
			<p>13</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>
			<p>14</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>
			<p>15</p> <p>CONT. ON CHART _____</p>

