

Basic Beginning Genealogy Suggestions

What do you know?

1. Begin with yourself and record what you know. Record the names (and birth, marriage, and death dates if known) of your siblings, parents, grandparents, etc. Do not skip generations. Information may be found by asking family members, exploring records such as obituaries, tombstones, family bibles, newspapers, diaries, letters, school records, photos, etc.
2. Visit with other family members. Perhaps a cousin or other family member is already doing some of your family history research and will share information.

Record your information.

Use family group sheets and family ancestry (pedigree) charts.
Record the source of all your information.
Spelling of surnames may vary over a period of years.
Consider using a genealogy software program.

Analyze and verify your information. Do your facts make sense?

Verify details by obtaining relevant documents, including birth, marriage, and death records.
Remember that family stories may not be entirely accurate but could contain a kernel of truth.
Keep an open mind in your research. Work with what you have.
Respect the privacy of living persons and sensitive information.

Use your public library, genealogy books and magazines, Family History Center, census records, etc.
Some, but by no means all, genealogy material is on the Internet ... but not all of it is accurate.

"If you're not having fun doing genealogy, you're not doing it right!"



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