

Watch out for these...

- Don't misspell the word GENEALOGY.
- Verify all PRINT resources, don't assume!
- Information on the INTERNET is **NOT** always reliable.
- Get the stories...names and dates are just the beginning.
- Question your family legends and "famous" relations.
- Check for *spelling variations* of your SURNAME.
- WRITE down *where* you found the information.
- Talk to your relatives ASAP, before their stories and information is lost or forgotten!

WHY trace your family history?

Satisfy questions about who you are and where you come from, to provide *your* children with knowledge of their family history.

Health Reasons—discovering genetic patterns could save your life and future generations.

A hobby that can be conducted from your own home.

Relatively inexpensive

To qualify for lineage or heritage society

Good reason to contact long-lost relatives

Can help family members with research project for school

Identify people in old family photographs.

Publish a family history for fun or profit.

Preserve your family's cultural and ethnic traditions for the future!

Join 42 million Americans involved in the same pursuit of family history!



Go to your public library for books on beginning genealogy!

Vocabulary

Genealogy—study of the past and present members of a family (history).

Ancestor/Pedigree chart—basic form to record genealogical information.

Ahnentafel - German word meaning "ancestor table" (males are even #'s females are odd #'s)

Descendant—one who descends as offspring

Family Group Sheet—form to collect information on a nuclear family; husband, wife & children

Lineal relationships—your parents, your grandparents, your children and grandchildren

Collateral relationships—Your brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles, etc.

Vital Record—birth, death, marriage and divorce records or certificates documenting the event

Census records—an official periodic enumeration (count) of a population that may include other specific demographic information.

Source citation—specify the origin of a document, published work, oral information, census,

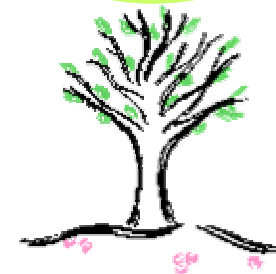
FHL—Family History Library (Mormons)

NARA—National Archives & Records Administration

Who are my Ancestors?

Genealogy 101

A Beginner's Guide to growing your family tree!



Algonquin Area Public Library
2600 Harnish Drive
Algonquin, IL 60102
847-458-6060
www.aapl.org

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Winter 2005

Steps of Genealogical Research

Your task, *should you choose to accept it*, is to identify individual ancestors and their family relationships! Begin with one individual or family.

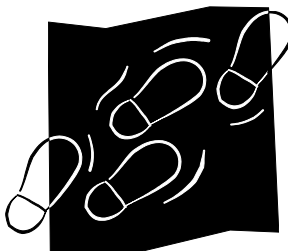
1. Learn background information about your family. Determining time periods and the locality of your ancestors will help you find their records.
2. Keep an open mind. Name changes and alternate spellings of surnames can open up new research areas!
3. Create a timeline of events for your ancestor to determine what questions you need to answer.
4. Primary and original source records are most likely to be accurate.
5. Look for previously published books (Library of Congress) and periodicals (PERSI) already written about your ancestor.
6. Locate and search for actual records in: courthouses, archives, FHL microfilm, online databases, and state and university libraries.

7. Record all information gathered and even information not found.

8. Analyze and evaluate everything!

9. Document everything!

10. Photocopy, scan or transcribe pertinent information.



**First Steps....
Start with yourself and
work backwards!**

5 Essential Rules of Genealogy

by William Dollarhide

- Treat brothers and sisters of your ancestors as equals.
- Never accept just one document or one source to prove something.
- Never trust a published family history or genealogical compilation.
- Never trust secondary sources.
- Prepare your genealogy so others can read it!

Family Sources of Information

Family Bible Records, school papers and certificates, year books, books & cookbooks with inscriptions

Informal artifacts; jewelry, heirlooms

Marriage certificates and

announcements, wedding invitations

Funeral and mass cards

Diaries, journals and letters

Newspaper clippings

Photographs, scrapbooks



Call a family member and find out more facts about your relatives!

Top 10 Web Sites for Beginners

www.familysearch.org

www.rootsweb.com

www.vitalrec.com

www.archives.gov

www.cyndislist.com

www.usgenweb.org

www.genealogy.com

www.ellisland.org

www.deathindexes.com

<http://genealogy.about.com>

Best Books for Beginners

1. The Complete Idiots Guide to Genealogy. Rose, Christine c.1997
2. How to do Everything with your Genealogy. Morgan, George c.2004
3. Unpuzzling your Past : best-selling basic guide to Genealogy. Croom, Emily Anne c2001
4. Genealogy Source Book. Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo c.1997
5. Everything Online Genealogy Book : use the web to discover long-lost relations, trace your family tree back to royalty and share your history with far-flung cousins. Richley, Pat c.2000

Paternal Ancestors are ancestors on your father's side.

Maternal Ancestors are ancestors from your mother's side.

Who are my Ancestors?

Your ancestors are people, usually earlier than your grandparents, from whom you are descended.