

Getting Started, First Steps

Building and Researching Your Family Tree, a Twelve Part Series

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What is Genealogy?

- Study of our ancestors
- Determination of family relationships
- Genealogy is the study and tracing of family pedigrees
- Fun!!!

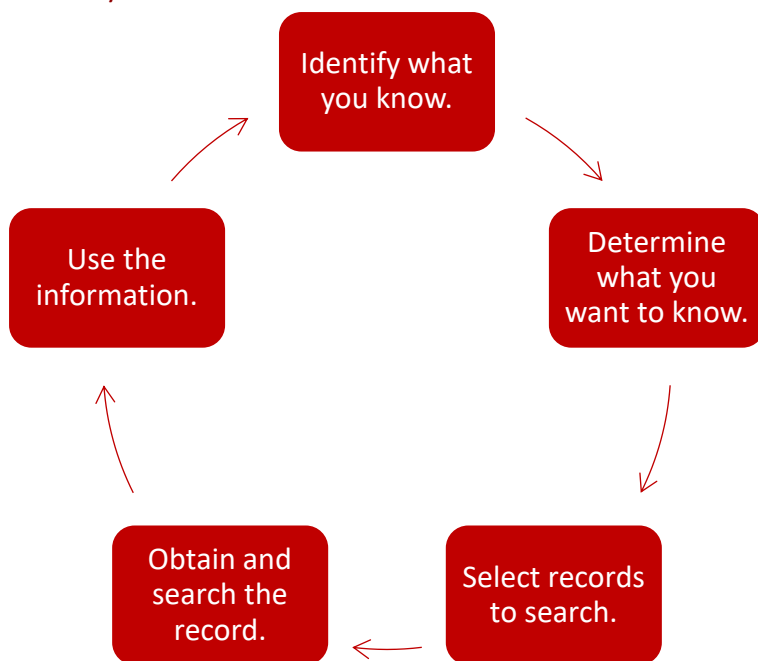
Ethics or Standards for Sharing Genealogy

- Only share information about living people if granted permission.
- Fact check information you find online or in other people's research.
- Site your sources. Know where you find information.
- Respect copyright. Do not plagiarize or use information without permission.

Methodology

- Record what you know. (Known → Unknown)
 - Start with yourself and immediate family.
 - Work backward one generation at a time; one family line at a time.
 - Research female ancestors using their MAIDEN name.
- Evaluate/Analyze. (What is missing? Questions?)
- Collect information sources.
 - Personal/Around the house
 - Other relatives
 - Published (Secondary Sources)
- What records are available?
- Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) from *BCG Genealogical Standard Manual*
 - A reasonably exhaustive search
 - Complete and accurate source citations
 - Analysis and correlation of the collected information
 - Resolution of any conflicting evidence
 - A Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion
- Evaluate/Analyze (What did I learn?)
- Conclusions! Is your conclusion credible?
- **DO NOT SKIP GENERATIONS**
- Document family knowledge.
 - As you find information, memories will be triggered. Write down this information as you remember it. Continue the conversation with family to see if they also have new memories.

Research Cycle



Information Gathering

- Relationship Chart
- From around the home
- Relatives – known or distant
- Oral history
- Reunion
 - Put together or attend a family reunion.
 - Contacts will be beneficial in your research
 - Discovery of unknown family documents, stories, clues
 - Other types of reunions (were your family members part of a group?):
 - Class Reunions
 - Military Reunions
 - Make copies of photos and ask for help identifying names and locations.
- Mail out letter / geographic area
- Advertisement
 - Genealogical Helper (find at the library)
 - Queries, ads
 - Now on MyHeritage (index is free)
 - Message Boards
 - View archived message boards
 - Often find with a Google search for an ancestor's name
 - Access Ancestry's archived message boards for free
 - Facebook Groups
 - Find a group that relates to your area of research
 - Wide range of subject areas (General, Regional, Ethnic, Surname, etc.)
 - Use the search feature to find past posts related to your research.
 - Post your own research questions.

Genealogy Links

Genealogy News

www.familyhistorydaily.com

www.blog.dearmyrtle.com

www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/

www.ancestryinsider.org/

www.blog.eogn.com/

Oral History

Oral History Association www.oralhistory.org

Baylor Institute for Oral History www.baylor.edu/oralhistory

TCU Oral History crbb.tcu.edu/

Slave narratives (WPA project) www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection/

The Center for American War Letters www.chapman.edu/research/institutes-and-centers/cawl/index.aspx

Family Reunions

Reunions Magazine www.reunionsmag.com/

Family Tree Magazine Guide www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/family-reunion-planning-checklist/

Online Family Histories

Hathi Trust www.hathitrust.org

Internet Archive www.archive.org

Family Search www.familysearch.org

Other

Finding Living Relatives www.familytreenow.com

Identifying Old Photos www.deadfred.com

Genealogical Helper Index www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10015/evertons-genealogical-helper

Ancestry's Message Board Archive www.ancestry.com/boards/