

Beginning Genealogy



Start by writing down what you already know.

1. Names
2. Dates
3. Places

Talk to your living relatives. Find out the following:

1. Full names
2. Full dates - day, month and year
3. Births
4. Deaths
5. Marriages
6. Places of residence
7. Religion
8. Social customs
9. Occupations
10. Education

Find all work completed on your families.

1. Decide if the previous work is valid.
2. Check for sources.

Record all information.

1. Keep notes on the same size paper (loose leaf notebooks are good).
2. Write down where you get your information.
3. Write down those sources that don't help so you don't waste time on them again.
4. Record information from your notes on family group forms.

Study all areas that your ancestors lived in.

1. Histories
2. Social customs

Record all the information about all people with the same name living in the same locality.

Check all spellings of names you are researching.

1. Spelling sometimes has changed.
2. Errors are often made in recording the names (by the clerk, census taker, etc.) and in transcribing the names (which are often handwritten and difficult to read).

Check these sources:

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|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. County histories | 6. Births, deaths & marriages |
| 2. Atlases & maps | 7. Bible & cemetery records |
| 3. City directories | 8. Wills & deeds |
| 4. Census records | 9. Church records |
| 5. Newspapers | 10. Military records |