

So You Want to Start Your Genealogical Research

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1. Write Your Own Story First

Assemble papers, photos, documents, and heirlooms; identify those in photos using pencil

2. Interview Elderly Relatives

Hints are at <http://www.cyndislist.com/oral.htm> or <http://genealogybybarry.com/genealogy-150-questions-ask-family-members-lives/> or <http://diy.storycorps.org/great-questions-list/>

3. Start with What You Know and Build on it

4. Organize from the Start

Pedigree charts and Family Group Sheets (provided) are good to use

Use a logical filing system (folders—real or on the computer—for individuals and/or families)

Share what you find, and keep an address book of correspondents

5. Keep Your Focus!

Learn as much as you can about one ancestor at a time (or one location at a time)

6. The Easy Way Out is Usually the Wrong Way Out – Never Assume!

7. Know Your Resources and How to Use Them

Original, derivative, compiled and unknown sources – Record Your Searches

8. Learn Where to Research and Where Records are Located

9. Consider Variations in Spelling

10. Join a Society

National for methods, state and local for obscure records and to connect with other researchers.

11. Document and Cite Your Sources

Guide: Elizabeth Shown Mills: *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*

Who (author of source), What (title or record title, type of record), when (publication date, access date), where (location, publisher, city, state, URL)

12. Be Nice!

13. Hiring a Genealogist

Best to do this for focused needs; Negotiate; There is NEVER a guarantee of results; Cost: \$30 per hour and up; Finding professionals: Association of Professional Genealogists (<https://www.apgen.org/>)

Beginning Genealogy - Online Resources

<http://www.genealogy.com/uni-begin.html> - Beginning genealogy short course (free!); other basic genealogical resources.

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/beginning-genealogy-started/> - Basics of genealogy.

<http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/start-research/> - links to information about record types in the National Archives; hosts of links to numerous other topics on different kinds of records.

<http://genealogy.about.com/library/lessons/blintro.htm> - introduction to genealogy short course, with lessons on basics, family and home sources, research basics, and vital records.

https://www.familytreetemplates.net/preview/Ancestor_Sheet - Family Group Sheet

https://www.familytreetemplates.net/preview/pedigree_chart - Pedigree Chart

(There are numerous printable ones online.)

<http://www.cyndislist.com/beginners/> - Numerous links for beginners on the premier collection of genealogical links.

<https://www.library.ucla.edu/destination/center-oral-history-research/resources/conducting-oral-histories-family-members> - UCLA Libraries pages on conducting oral histories with family members

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ct2bq6M7fNk> - Back to the Basics: Genealogy 101 video from Ancestry.

Beginning Genealogy - Books

Schultz, Janice. 2013. *Finding Your Roots: Easy-to-do Genealogy and Family History*. Huron Street Press.

Croom, Emily Anne. 2001, 2010. *Unpuzzling Your Past: The Best-Selling Basic Guide to Genealogy*. Fourth Edition (2010).

Parkinson, Jedd K. 2020. *Genealogy 101: Ten Lessons I Wish I Had Known When I Began Researching My Family History*. TechSmart Innovation.