

Getting Started in Genealogy: Resources November 6, 2022

Interview Tips

- Start by interviewing the eldest family members and any “family historian.”
- Besides asking about names and dates, ask open-ended questions. Ask for family stories.
- Ask to record. Summarize for your files.
- Ask if they have photos or documents to share.
- Use photos and memorabilia to spark memories.

Preservation Materials

Gaylord.com
Amazon.com

Starting Your Tree

FamilySearch.org:

- [Familysearch.org/search/tree/name](https://www.familysearch.org/search/tree/name)
- To build a tree on Family Search, go to [:https://www.familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/landscape/LVF4-SWX](https://www.familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/landscape/LVF4-SWX)
- To get started in Family Search, go to <https://www.familysearch.org/gettingstarted/>.
- Video tutorials: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/video-tutorials-how-to-use-familysearch>

Ancestry.com:

- Ancestry.com >Help>Support Center>Trees>Getting Started, Lesson 1: Starting Your Tree
- Ancestry.com on YouTube
- Individual accounts for American only records around \$25 per month; worldwide collection is around \$450 annually
- www.ancestry.com/cs/offers/subscribe
- All access family plan \$99 monthly; 6 months prepaid \$79.99/month; up to five family members can have accounts and share
- All access membership includes access to Fold3 (military records) and Newspapers.com, now \$59.99 monthly or \$49.99 monthly if you prepay for six months
- If you cancel your membership, your tree remains on the site; as a registered guest, you can add and remove people and photos; add, delete, and edit names, dates, and other facts; you have some limited access to free records; you can view your AncestryDNA results, respond and initiate messages; receive new hints but then only see limited details about them; access any records or images only if you downloaded them to your computer

Google: Cooke, Lisa Louise. *Ultimate Genealogist's Google Toolbox*. (I think that newest version is 2022.)

Family Tree Maker 2019 available at mackiev.com/ftm/; for both MAC and Windows; \$79.95 for download only; more if you want a DVD too

RootsMagic 8 available at rootsmagic.org for \$39.95 for both Mac and Windows. Offers a free trial.

Basic Methodology

Elder, Diana. *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide*. Highland, UT: Family Locket Books, 2018.

Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. Fourth edition. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2017.

Szucs, Loretto Dennis, and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, editors. *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*. Third Edition. Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2006.

Roots Tech, free virtual and in-person (fee) annual conference in Salt Lake City (March 2-4, 2023); free on-demand library of lectures at www.RootsTech.org

Legacy Family Tree, www.familytreewebinars.com, frequently hosts free webinars. Also, a paid subscription for unlimited access is \$49.95 per year.

For free forms, (ancestor charts, family group sheets): familytreemagazine.com

To become familiar with resources in a locality or specific topics

www.familytreemagazine.com/explore-by-state for some free state guides.

Check the websites or contact the state or local genealogy and/or historical societies.

Use the Family Search wiki: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page.

Some Useful Websites

Cyndislist.com

Stevemorse.org

Slavevoyages.org

Germanroots.com

Some Organizations to Join

JewishGen: www.Jewishgen.org

Germanic Genealogy Society: www.ggsmn.org

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society: www.aahgs.org

National Genealogical Society: www.ngsgenealogy.org

New England Historic Genealogical Society/American Ancestors: www.americanancestors.org

Virtual Genealogical Association: www.virtualgenealogy.org

Citations

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*. Third Edition. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2015.

BASIC TYPES OF RECORDS

Censuses and Slave Schedules: good to see family members and how family changed over the years. Most censuses do not state relationship to the head of household. Earlier ones give name of head of household and number of males and females in various age categories. Starting in 1850 the federal census provides names of all household members; only the 1880 federal census gives relationship to head of household. The 1890 federal census was largely lost. For federal censuses, check National Archives and Records Administration (NARA): Archives.gov; Ancestry, Family Search. Ancestry, FamilySearch, and state websites may have state censuses.

Civil Vital Records: Google for state where ancestor lived, requirement to record varies; could be at town, county, or state level; earlier divorces may require looking for lawsuit in local courthouse; Archives.com (\$) . Always check Ancestry and FamilySearch.

Church/Religious Organization Records: check first with religious organization, if it still exists; then search for records of denomination; Ancestry, FamilySearch; Cyndislist.com

Land Records, Deeds, Mortgages and Deeds of Trust, Release of Mortgage, Bureau of Land Management Records: courthouses, Ancestry, FamilySearch; research which court before going to visit the courthouse. Rose, Christine. *Courthouse Researcher for Family Historians: Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures*. San Jose, CA: CR Publications, 2004. For Federal public land records (first sale of lands in public land states), go to the website of the Bureau of Land Management: gloreCORDS.blm.gov.

Estate Records, Wills, Trusts, Inventories of Estates: courthouses, Ancestry, FamilySearch

Other Court Records, Guardianship, Civil and Criminal lawsuits, Lists of Jurors: courthouses; check online first at Ancestry, FamilySearch, local historical society, courthouse website

Military: enlistment, pensions, bounty land warrants; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA): archives.gov/veterans; state archives for state service; Ancestry.com; Fold3.com (included with some Ancestry.com subscriptions)

Gravestones and Cemetery Records: Findagrave.com and Billiongraves.com

Original Diaries, inventories, family bibles, journals written by ancestor or others: ArchiveGrid
<https://www.ocl.org/research/areas/research-collections/archivegrid.html>

Compiled genealogies and family histories: Library of Congress: loc.gov; FamilySearch; Ancestry; state and local historical societies

Local History Books: may mention your family; Google books, FamilySearch.org; Use Worldcat.org to find items in libraries near you.

Newspapers/Obituaries: Newspapers.com; Genealogybank.com; For Chronicling America, from the home page (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>) click the Maps & Visualizations link, then “Exploring Chronicling America Newspapers: All Digitized Titles (Map and Timeline)”. Then click to View the Interactive Map. Search newspapers by name or locale. Each dot represents a publication. Click to see which issues are available on the website.

Photos: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> (Search under “Photos, Prints, Drawings”);
Maurentaylor.com; Cyndislist.com

Immigration records: archives.gov; Ellis Island: libertyellisfoundation.org; Ancestry.com; National Archives and Records Administration (NARA): [archives.gov/research/genealogy](https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy); Stevemorse.org.

Social Security Death Index: FamilySearch; Genealogybank.com (through 2/28/14)

Tax Records: Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org

School and Yearbook Records: Ancestry.com

Maps: may have names of landowners or storekeepers; David Rumsey Map Collection: www.davidrumsey.com; Library of Congress: www.loc.gov/maps/

Getting Professional Help

Board for Certification of Genealogists; bcgcertification.org; provides certified genealogists with “CG” designation; website has directory of CGs.

Association of Professional Genealogists; apgen.org; provides certified genealogists with the “APG” designation; website has directory of APGs

Progeneagists.com (Ancestry.com affiliated)

Professionals or volunteers at repositories

DNA Testing Companies

Ancestry www.ancestry.com (atDNA, ethnicity, traits)

- Privacy statement: www.ancestry.com/c/legal/privacystatement

FamilyTreeDNA www.familytreedna.com

Besides autosomal, DNA matches, and ethnicity, has:

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test analyzes the small circular piece of DNA found in the mitochondria, and will tell you about your direct maternal line.

Y Chromosome (Y-DNA) test analyzes the Y chromosome that is found only in males and will tell you about your male line.

X chromosome (X=DNA) test analyzes the X chromosome, of which men have one copy from their mother and women two copies, one from father and one from mother. Some autosomal DNA tests also examine the X chromosome.

Stores DNA. You may be able to upgrade tests using same sample.

Sharing of tests between some companies, but not all, is possible, so you can get more matches in more databases.

- Privacy statement: www.familytreedna.com/legal/privacy-statement
- Provides more access to law enforcement than other sites. The privacy statement in paragraph 5E states:

FamilyTreeDNA may create limited access law enforcement accounts (“LE Accounts”) which are permitted to upload genetic information to the database to identify the remains of a deceased individual or to identify the perpetrator of a homicide or sexual assault. FamilyTreeDNA will track Law Enforcement Accounts via an in-house identification system that will allow users to opt out of Investigative Genetic Genealogy Matching.

Users will only be viewable to the law enforcement account if ALL of the following requirements are met:

- The user has opted into matching
- The user has not opted out of Investigative Genetic Genealogy Matching
- The user and the law enforcement account have the same matching levels selected
- The user is genetic relative (also referred to as a match or DNA relative) to the genetic file uploaded to the law enforcement account

23 and Me: www.23andme.com (atDNA, ethnicity, traits, family tree automatically built from DNA relationships, DNA relative finder, optional, share and compare results with family and friends, Neanderthal DNA, genetic connection to famous relatives, health upgrade)

- Privacy: www.23andme.com/legal/privacy (You may opt in to DNA relatives database.)
- Transparency report: www.23andme.com/transparency-report

MyHeritage www.myheritage.com (atDNA, ethnicity, DNA matches)

- Privacy: https://www.myheritage.com/privacy-policy?tr_id=m_95b929b924_0yktuvcjn7
- You can disable smart matches, but they are enabled by default.

Living DNA www.livingdna.com Ethnicity: offers subregional breakdowns for African, British, and European ancestry. genetic matching. Nutrition and fitness testing.

- Privacy: www.livingdna.com/privacy-centre
- Only shares with law enforcement if legally compelled.

African Ancestry www.africanancestry.com. Only tests Y-DNA or mtDNA. These tests may provide origin information based on haplogroup. Does not provide matching within its database, so testing with other companies is recommended for this. Ancestry, 23and Me, and MyHeritage provide matching and place testers among various African communities around the world.

Gedmatch www.gedmatch.com

A free DNA comparison and analysis website for people who have tested their autosomal DNA using a direct-to-consumer genetic testing company. Testers download their DNA data file from the testing company, and then upload it to GEDmatch. GEDmatch processes the file, adds it to a genealogical database, and provides applications for matching and further analysis. Because GEDmatch aggregates files from all testing companies, your potential for matches is greater. Shares with law enforcement.

- Privacy: www.gedmatch.com/terms-of-service-privacy-policy May disclose data if necessary to comply with a subpoena or warrant. Will attempt to alert you unless notification is prohibited under law.

Genetic Genealogy

Bettinger, Blaine T. *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*. Second Edition. New York: Family Tree Books, 2019.

Griffeth, Bill. *The Stranger in My Genes: A Memoir*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2016.

Griffeth, Bill. *Strangers No More: A Memoir*. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2022.

Shapiro, Dani. *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love*. New York: Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2020.

International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG). www.isogg.org. (beginners' guides) ISOGG is a non-commercial, nonprofit. Membership is free, but ISOGG solicits donations.