

Beginning Your Genealogy Quest

❖ Start With Yourself

- *Prepare Pedigree Chart and Family Group Record with information YOU know*
 - *Family Group Record: One for each couple on Pedigree Chart and one for each marriage*
- *Record the source of each new piece of information that you learn about an ancestor*

❖ Decide What You Need to Learn

- *Research the BLANK spots on your chart – Focus on one ancestor at a time*
- *Then, choose and focus on one objective at a time about a life event or background topic*

❖ Choose a Source of Information

- *Person – Interview Living Relatives – Or others who may have known person you're researching*
- *Gravestone*
- *Photos*
- *Old homes, memorials, etc.*
- *Bible*
- *Birth, death, marriage record*
- *Census*
- *Military record*

❖ As your find information...

- *Fill in blanks on Pedigree Chart and Family Group Records*
- *Determine what research is needed for remaining blanks*

❖ Research

- *Use a Research Log*
- *List your research objective, name and location of source, date, notes, and results (found or not found)*
 - *Keep track of sources for each piece of info you find or receive*
- *Good Resource Books for beginning Researchers – found in most libraries*
 - *The Handy Book For Genealogists*
 - *Genealogy Online for Dummies, Matt Helm and April Leigh Helm*
 - *Unpuzzling Your Past, Emily Anne Croom*
 - *The Source, from Ancestry.com*
 - *Many more beginners books in your library*

❖ Organize Your Papers Early

Paper

File pedigree charts and family group sheets in 3-ring binders by surname

File original documents (birth, death, marriage) and correspondence in separate folders

Make an index of contents of each folder as you acquire documents; mark each paper with a number (St-1, St-2, etc)

As your research expands, add new binders and folders

If you do this when you first begin, you won't become overwhelmed as your paper pile begins to grow

Computer

- *Buy Genealogy software and enter husband and wife, children, siblings, grandparents, etc. The software will organize your data and various reports can be printed.*
- *Be sure to print pedigree charts and family group sheets, along with photos, and documents gathered and organize for safekeeping. Computer software changes, becomes obsolete; computers die. You need a print copy of everything!*

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❖ Continue learning

- *Join a Genealogy Society*
 - *Attend seminars*
 - *Buy a beginners book*
 - *Talk to other genealogists*
 - *Go online to Rootsweb for their free lessons*
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Free Websites to Get You Started

Family Search – free site from Morman Church

<https://familysearch.org/>

Find A Grave – volunteer-supplied grave and family information

<http://www.findagrave.com/>

Chronicling America – free newspaper search from Library of Congress

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

US GenWeb – Free information available for every state and county

<http://usgenweb.org/>

Example: Burnet Texas GenWeb

Free information about Burnet County

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txburnet/>

In Texas for all library patrons – Tex Share Database
free census, digitized books, Sanborn Maps
go thru your library website – free with library card and password
and can be used at home

Cyndi's List – links to genealogy websites worldwide

<http://www.cyndislist.com/>

\$\$\$ Websites

Ancestry – has everything, but costs the most

www.ancestry.com

Genealogy Bank – Historical newspapers, obituaries, SSDI

www.genealogybank.com

Fold3 – Historical Military Records and more

www.fold3.com

Newspapers.com – historical newspapers

<https://www.newspapers.com/>

Family Group Record

If typing, set spacing at 1 1/2. Page _____ of _____

Write date as: 4 Oct. 1896

Write place as: Tryon, Polk, North Carolina, USA or St. Martins, Birmingham, Warwick, Eng.

Husband		Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
Given name(s)		name	
Born (day month year)	Place	LDS ordinance dates	Temple
Christened	Place	Baptized	
Died	Place	Endowed	
Buried	Place	Sealed to parents	
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	
Husband's father Given name(s)		Last name <input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
Husband's mother Given name(s)		Maiden name <input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
Wife		Maiden name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
Given name(s)		name	
Born (day month year)	Place	LDS ordinance dates	Temple
Christened	Place	Baptized	
Died	Place	Endowed	
Buried	Place	Sealed to parents	
Wife's father Given name(s)		Last name <input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
Wife's mother Given name(s)		Maiden name <input type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
Children List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.		LDS ordinance dates	Temple
1 Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
		name	
Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
Christened	Place	Endowed	
Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
Spouse Given name(s)		Last name	
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	
2 Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
		name	
Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
Christened	Place	Endowed	
Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
Spouse Given name(s)		Last name	
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	
3 Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"	
		name	
Born (day month year)	Place	Baptized	
Christened	Place	Endowed	
Died	Place	Sealed to parents	
Spouse Given name(s)		Last name	
Married	Place	Sealed to spouse	
Select only one of the following options. The option you select applies to all names on this form.		Your name	
<input type="checkbox"/> Option 1—Family File Send all names to my family file at the _____ Temple.		Address	
<input type="checkbox"/> Option 2—Temple File Send all names to any temple, and assign proxies for all approved ordinances.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Option 3—Ancestral File Send all names to the computerized Ancestral File for research purposes only, not for ordinances. I am including the required pedigree chart.		Date prepared	
		Phone ()	

Husband Given name(s)		Last name	
Wife Given name(s)		Maiden name	
Children List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth.			LDS ordinance dates
			Temple
4	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
		Born (day month year)	Place
		Baptized	
		Christened	Place
		Endowed	
		Died	Place
		Sealed to parents	
		Spouse Given name(s)	Last name
		Married	Place
		Sealed to spouse	
5	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
		Born (day month year)	Place
		Baptized	
		Christened	Place
		Endowed	
		Died	Place
		Sealed to parents	
		Spouse Given name(s)	Last name
		Married	Place
		Sealed to spouse	
6	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
		Born (day month year)	Place
		Baptized	
		Christened	Place
		Endowed	
		Died	Place
		Sealed to parents	
		Spouse Given name(s)	Last name
		Married	Place
		Sealed to spouse	
7	Sex	Given name(s)	Last name <input type="checkbox"/> See "Other marriages"
		Born (day month year)	Place
		Baptized	
		Christened	Place
		Endowed	
		Died	Place
		Sealed to parents	
		Spouse Given name(s)	Last name
		Married	Place
		Sealed to spouse	
Other marriages List other marriages and sealings of the husband, wife, and children on this form. List any necessary explanations.			
Sources of information Add further information on attached sheets as necessary.			

Note: Please take every reasonable step to see that the information on this form is as accurate and complete as practical. This will help maintain the integrity of Church family history files and reduce duplication of temple ordinance work.