

Resources for Starting your Family History

1. Start with what you know ...

- Start with yourself! Compile what you and your relatives already know about your family.

2. Get organized ...

- Use family group and pedigree charts or free family history software to stay organized.

3. Decide what you want to learn ...

- Focus your research by selecting a specific fact you'd like to learn about one ancestor.

4. Select records to search ...

- Ask a Local History / Genealogy librarian which types of records will help you find out what you'd like to know.

5. Obtain and search records ...

- Use the internet or ask your local Family History / Genealogy librarian to help you access the specific records you wish to search.

6. Record what you find ...

- Make note of what you've found by copying useful information about your ancestor into your personal records.

7. Repeat ...

- Once you've found what you were looking for, select something new you want to learn and repeat the process!

Resources for Getting Started

Who do you think you are? : The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History

By Megan Smolenyak

This official companion guide to the hit NBC series *Who Do You Think you Are?* offers everything readers need to begin their journey into the world of family history.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy [2nd ed.]

by Christine Rose

Written by professional genealogist Christine Rose, this is a great "how to begin book" for the most novice of researchers, but also contains useful tips and guidance for researchers of all levels.

How to do everything. Genealogy [3rd ed.]

by George G. Morgan

A great beginners guide for budding genealogists, this work focuses on how to start and organize your research, how to search both traditional and online sources, and methods and techniques to help you be more successful in your search.

The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy [3rd ed.]

by Val B. Greenwood

Considered to be the "gold standard" of reference books dealing with American genealogy, this book provides the reader with a solid background to genealogy, and discusses the many types of records available for use in genealogical research.

The Source : A Guidebook of American Genealogy [3rd ed.]

Loretto Dennis Szucs, Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, editors

One of the premier reference books for genealogical research, this book serves as a handbook and guide to aid genealogical researchers in selecting, locating, and utilizing primary and secondary sources.

Contact the Local History/ Genealogy Department with any questions about your ancestors:

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<http://www.onlib.org/web/lh>