

Ancestry 101

Jolene Shaffer/RayneScraps Designs© 2007



With the event of digital scrapbooking we also have the ability for digital ancestry scrapping and research. It used to be if we wanted any type of information on our family's backgrounds and ancestry we had to make a trip to either a library, depend on someone else in the family to remember things, spend money on books or researchers, or dig thru tons of old archives if we were lucky enough to get access to state or national records facilities. With the advent of the internet it has become so much easier and so much faster to find out who we look like or where we came from. This article is designed to help you either get started or to find places and information you may want or need.

You will find links for all charts and their definitions in this article so that you may go and download to print out or use in a graphics or word program of your choice.

Getting Started

1. Start with YOU and work backwards. You need to start with what you know-by memory and known facts! Start with you on your own Pedigree Chart and fill in the blanks as far back as you know for sure and that way you know who is missing so you can start filling in the blanks!

Include things such as: First, Middle and Last Name (Maiden Name for women)

Approximate Dates for Birth, Death, Marriage, Residences Location of Events (where born, where died, where married)

PEDIGREE CHART: A pedigree is an identification of the direct ancestors of one person, such as yourself. (To include yourself and spouse on the same pedigree, make the first person one of your children.) Use ID numbers to identify the names on the chart — the first person on the first chart should be number 1. Note that a man's ID number is always double the ID number of his child. With the man always in the upper position, all males have an even number and females an odd number. A wife's number is always one higher than that of her husband.

EXAMPLE

Chart no. _____

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. _____ on chart no. _____

Mark boxes when ordinances are completed.

- Baptized
- Sealed to parents
- Sealed to spouse
- Family Group Record exists for this couple
- Children's ordinances completed

1 (Name) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____
(Spouse) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

2 (Father) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

3 (Mother) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

4 (Father of no. 2) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

5 (Mother of no. 2) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

6 (Father of no. 3) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

7 (Mother of no. 3) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

8 (Father of no. 4) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

9 (Mother of no. 4) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

10 (Father of no. 5) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

11 (Mother of no. 5) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

12 (Father of no. 6) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

13 (Mother of no. 6) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

14 (Father of no. 7) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When married _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

15 (Mother of no. 7) _____
When born _____
Where _____
When died _____
Where _____

Your name and address: _____

Telephone number _____ Date prepared _____

FamilyHistorySourceGuide™ Published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 2004 Printed in USA 24105

2. Get all your family information together. Talk or write to immediate family members still living. Compare notes with your siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents etc about things that could be forgotten over time. Sometimes written letters are a huge help and if you are “interviewing any of them it can also help to record it on tapes or even on videotape! You may well be surprised at the variations of the same events in each person’s recollection. Always remember to note **LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION**—this is a huge part of tracking information on your ancestors! Fill out a **FAMILY GROUP SHEET** for each family you talk to. Ask them about photos, family bibles, old letters, news clippings, family recipes, traditions, and life experiences—anything that may be up in that trunk in Aunt Tilly’s attic! ☺ Make copies if you cannot keep the originals. Many times other family members also would be thrilled to have a copy of Great Grandma Lizzie’s love letters or Uncle Jonas’s Military records! You may find a “Famous” family member buried in the attic, basement or even in the memories of an older family member.

FAMILY GROUP SHEET: a form used to record information about each married couple on a pedigree chart, including vital events (birth, marriages, death) and locations of vital events for the couple and all their children!

EXAMPLE

Family Group Sheet

Husband's Full Name **Chart No.**

Number here	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth							
Ch'rd							
Marr.							
Death							
Burial							

Places of Residence _____
 Occupation _____ Church Affiliation _____ Military Rec. _____
Other info. if any, no. 11 or 12 etc. Also indicate date for each item.

His Father _____ Mother's Maiden Name _____

Wife's Full Maiden Name

Wife here	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth							
Ch'rd							
Death							
Burial							

Places of Residence _____
 Occupation _____ Church Affiliation _____ Military Rec. _____
Other info. if any, no. 11 or 12 etc. Also indicate date for each item.

Her Father _____ Mother's Maiden Name _____

Sex	Children's Names or Full (changed) name at birth	Children's Date	Day	Month	Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
1		Birth							
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
2		Birth							
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
3		Birth							
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
4		Birth							
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
5		Birth							
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
6		Birth							
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
7		Birth							
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							
8		Birth							
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.							
		Death							
		Burial							

Compiler _____ Notes _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Date _____

from AVM Family Group Sheet to The Evening Postcard, P.O. Box 300, Memphis, TN 38101-0300. Includes all the information of name from original sets.

Husband's Full Name

- Now that you got all the immediate family info you probably have found out about other relatives you didn't realize you had or had not thought about! Distant cousins, great aunts and uncles, etc are a goldmine for more information so it's time to start checking with them if you can. As you backtrack into each generation you will find more and more info to save or to research about your heritage. If you happen to have an unusual last name you can also check phone listings or city directories for names with your spelling and contact them by phone, letter or email asking if they happen to be related giving them some info to go on! **REMEMBER** –keep copies of those letters and emails or dates of phone conversations for later documentation as you

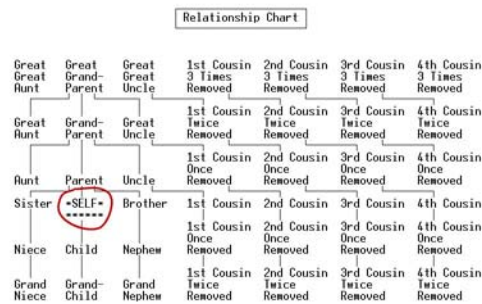
need it. Checking online databases at places such as Ancestry.com or RootsWeb.com can also give you a wealth of information on others with the last name of who you are searching for. I was having a very difficult time locating my great grandmother's family and it turned out that she used a nickname that I would have never thought of and that my gram didn't think to tell me before she died! Once I found that info I was able to go back to their immigration from Wales and Germany! If I had only thought to ask more questions when my grandparents were alive I would have saved a lot of time and energy! However it has lead to contact with some second and third cousins with whom I talk and share info and we are all getting to know each other. In another time it may not have been possible but thanks to EMAIL and online databases we have "found" each other! You may have some difficulty sometimes figuring out those relationships..who is a first cousin, second cousin, great-grand aunt, first cousin once removed etc--- go check out some of the tools on the internet that can help you decipher how you are related to each other ...

I AM

RELATED HOW?

- <http://www.borisbrooks.com/genealogy/cousins.htm>
- <http://www.geocities.com/look4whittens/cousinfinder.html>
- http://sfhs.eget.net/P_articles/cousinfinder.html
- <http://www.feliixplace.com/genealogy/relationship.html>

EXAMPLE



4. Write for death records—these are an essential tool for information as they include information you may not have such as their actual dad, their next of kin, parents names, where they lived, and possibly their ss info, cemetery info etc. If you can determine what state they lived in at the time of their death you can contact that state's vital statistics office for a copy. Some states charge for them and some do not. You will have to check their guidelines but most of them have an online site where they can tell you what they need and how you can obtain it from them. REMEMBER to locate not just your direct ancestor but their siblings as well as they also are an important part of your heritage.



5. It applies for Birth records and Marriage Certificates, Funeral Records, Baptism/Confirmation Records, Burial/Cemetery Records, and locating Obituaries in the huge resources of online databases and newspapers. Many of these are kept on microfilm at your library or paper office but also sites such as Ancestry.com have them scanned into their database for your use for a monthly or yearly fee.



6. Check all the census records you can find ...some databases are free to search while others you have to join to search and some again charge a monthly or yearly fee. Census records not only tell you who was in the family but also their neighbors..I found out that my maternal great grandmother married the boy next door that way—they were on the same page in the census and further checking showed they lived next door to each other at the time of that census!

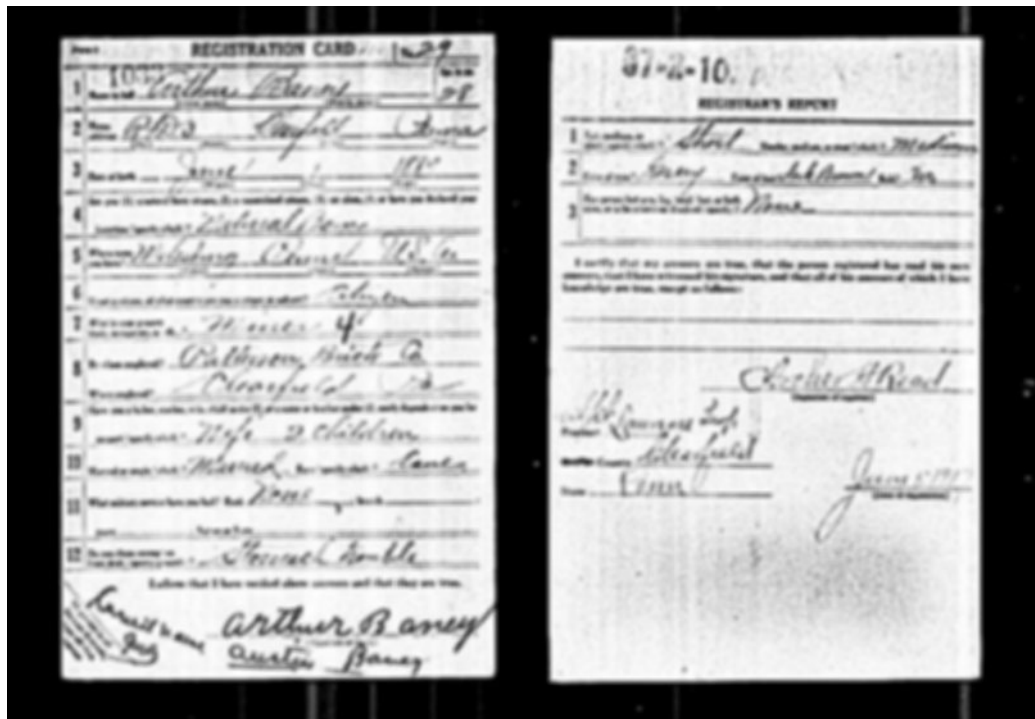
Form 15-6
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

Enumerated by me on _____

(Print name of enumerator, if any, and indicate the time at which the entries are made. See instructions.)

PLACE OF BIRTH		MOTHER TONGUE (OR NATIVE LANGUAGE) OF FOREIGN BORN			CITIZENSHIP, ETC.				
If enumerated and of his or her parents. If born in State or Territory. If of foreign birth, give country in detail. (See instructions.) Distinguish Canadian, and Irish Free State from Northern Ireland.		Language spoken in home before coming to the United States	CODE			Type of residence in United States	Suburbanization	White, or other, or other race	Age
FATHER	MOTHER		Sp. at B. S.	Gen. C.	No. Nat.				
19	20	21	A	B	C	22	23	24	

7. Check military records..items such as a draft card registration usually has the date of birth, address where they live and next of kin listed on them. I used this to finally find the birthdate for a great uncle I only had a year for!



8. Check land records...many times you will find info on your “homestead” by doing these types of searches. How parcels of lands were passed down generation-to-generation or sold to another family member or even just sold to someone else. Many times it provides you with info on where to look for more information or even in some cases it can lead to old photos and clippings or letters!



9. Family Seach. Org is a huge wealth of info sponsored by the LDS and is the major resource for most of us searching. They have an immense library and various locations all over the country you can visit as well as online databases, forms and a huge variety of information that will prove helpful in your research!
10. MOST OF ALL ENJOY IT! Take the time to enjoy the finds you come across...read the letters, read the news clippings, check out the neighbors on the census, and check out the towns or cemeteries! In the end you will have a wealth of info not only to scrapbook but to hand down to your family and other generations to come!

I hope this has been of some help with your heritage scrapping and maybe with your family traditions, photos, odds and ends and how to find more out about them!

Kit used for my tree is [Olivia's Tree](#) by me.

RESOURCES FOR CHARTS ETC

1. http://genealogy.about.com/library/free_charts/bl_pedigree.htm
2. <http://www.misbach.org/pdfcharts/>
3. <http://www.ancestry.com/charts/ancchart.aspx>
4. <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html#>
5. http://www.uftree.com/family_tree_chart.asp
6. <http://www.cyndislist.com/supplies.htm>

ANCESTRY RESEARCH RESOURCES

1. www.ancestry.com
2. www.familysearch.org/
3. <http://www.cyndislist.com/>
4. <http://familyhistory.com/>
5. <http://www.kindredtrails.com/>
6. <http://www.kindredkonnektions.com/>
7. <http://www.genealogy-geneology.net/>
8. <http://www.genealogy.com/>
9. <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/>
10. <http://www.obitcentral.com/index.html>
11. <http://www.rootsweb.com/>
12. <http://www.byubroadcasting.org/ancestors/>
13. <http://www.ancestralfindings.com/>
14. <http://ce.byu.edu/is/site/courses/freecourses.cfm>