

GENEALOGY FOR BEGINNERS



**Greenup County Public Library
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Genealogy & Local History Room

Tips On Tracing Your Family Tree

- 1) Start with what you know. Use the Pedigree Chart and fill in as much as you know. Start with yourself and continue on to your parents, grandparents, etc. Your chart will be #1. You are going to be working backwards. For a genealogist each new generation back is the prize.
- 2) Fill out Family Group Sheet. This helps keep your families together in groups and makes them easier to sort out.
- 3) TALK TO YOUR FAMILY! I cannot express the importance of this step. If at all possible do this in a group setting. Asking your grandfather what his grandmothers maiden name was may get a response of "I don't think I ever remember hearing it" but if you are talking to a group of siblings or cousins, one may say "I think I recall Mother telling me her mother was an Gayhart" then you may hear your grandfather say "I believe you are right, Mother had an Uncle Lee Gayhart". This gives you two clues. Your grandfather's grandmother (your great grant grandmother) was a Gayhart and she had a brother named Lee. Take notes! Jot down, names, dates, marriages, where they lived at the time, occupations, anything that may help you on your trek. But also, try to take an oral or video recording. You take notes because something may happen to your electronics and besides that, when your relatives are no longer around, it sure is good to see or hear them again. Go through your notes as soon as possible and get them into some type of working order.
- 4) Check family resources. Bibles, the stack of letter's tied with a ribbon, your grandmothers scrap book, that envelope of obituaries that someone saved, the box of photos in the attic (don't forget to look on the backs!), etc. Chests and trunks are wonderful places to find these things. If they do not belong to you, always ask for permission first.
- 5) Check out the family plots in the cemeteries. If you mother, father or grandparents visited a grave then that person meant something to them, chances are, that they were a relative. Take down the name of the cemetery, the location of the cemetery, the location of the grave and the names and dates of the persons on the tombstone. Take a photo of the tombstone.
- 6) Gather official documents. Birth certificates, marriage certificates, social security card applications, death certificates, baptismal records, wills, deeds, estate records, etc. You have to pay close attention to who provides the information for death records. The informant on the death certificate is not always a close family member or someone "in the know". A death certificate is only as accurate as the informant. The same holds true with marriage records. I know that my mother's age is wrong on her marriage license. She was fifteen and eloping and told the clerk that she was 21.
- 7) United States Census records are wonderful sources of information. Check with your local library or genealogy societies, most will have subscriptions to Ancestry.com where you can access these records for free.
- 8) Visit your local library or genealogical society. Someone there will be willing to help you.

PEDIGREE CHART



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Great Grandparents

Chart No. _____

No. _____ on this chart is the same as
No. _____ on pedigree Chart No. _____

Father

b.
w.
m.
d.
w.
br.

Grandparents

4

b.
w.
m.
d.
w.
br.

5

b.
w.
d.
w.
br.

6

b.
w.
m.
d.
w.
br.

7

b.
w.
d.
w.
br.

8

b.
w.
m.
d.
w.
br.

9

b.
w.
d.
w.
br.

10

b.
w.
m.
d.
w.
br.

11

b.
w.
d.
w.
br.

12

b.
w.
m.
d.
w.
br.

13

b.
w.
d.
w.
br.

14

b.
w.
m.
d.
w.
br.

15

b.
w.
d.
w.
br.

1

b.
w.
m.
d.
w.
br.

Mother

b.
w.
d.
w.
br.

Spouse

KEY

- b. - born
- w. - where
- m. - married
- d. - died
- br. - buried



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FREE Genealogy Websites

US Gen Web

Launching Point for State & County Sites
<http://www.usgenweb.org>

Boyd County Kentucky US Gen Web

<http://kykinfolk.com/kyboyd>

Carter County Kentucky US Gen Web

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

Greenup County Kentucky US Gen Web

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kygreen2>

Lewis County Kentucky US Gen Web

<http://hollyhockfarms.com/ky-lewis/>

Mason County Kentucky US Gen Web

<http://kykinfolk.com/mason/>

Lawrence County Ohio US Gen Web

<http://theusgenweb.org/oh/lawrence/>

Scioto County Ohio US Gen Web

<http://theusgenweb.org/oh/scioto/>

Kentucky Department of Libraries & Archives

<http://kdla.ky.gov/records/e-archives/pages/default.aspx>

Kentucky Land Office Database

<http://sos.ky.gov/admin/land/Pages/default.aspx>

West Virginia Vital Records

http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx

Family Search (Latter Day Saints Website)

<https://familysearch.org/>