

How to Start Your Family Genealogy

By Linda Hammond

Listening to Your Relatives' Stories

1. Listening to stories (if you can listen due to the strict disciplinary restrictions set by your parents or close relatives).
2. Remembering what was said, "accurately."
3. Sometimes the story teller "fudges" on some of the details. Get to know who does and does not manipulate historical family events and details.
4. Write down the story, ask questions, get dates and details.
5. Take into consideration: name changes, especially when people get married or move out of an area.

My Family Story

- My mother left Georgia in the early 1950's and moved to Buffalo, NY
- She left her husband and 7 children to pursue a better life for her family. She promised them that she would return.
- In Buffalo, she found a job, saved her money and returned to Georgia to retrieve her children, as she promised.
- Now, there are over 170 relatives in our local genealogy map!

Who is the Storyteller in Your Family?

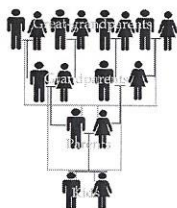
- Aunts
- Uncles
- Grandparents
- Great Grandparents (Ideal - due to the fact that they have the most accurate history).
- Older sisters and brothers
- Cousins
- Close family friends

How to Begin Compiling Your Information

FORMS

1. Start with your parents
 - Names
 - Dates of Births
 - Places of Births
- Their parents (same info)
- Their siblings (same info)

Family Hierarchy Chart



Where do you go from this point on?

- Websites
- The city/area where your parents were raised
- Gather information from grave sites, funeral homes, newspaper articles, census records, military records, etc.
- *This process will consume you. It takes a LOT of time to do the research. You will spend hours on end gathering accurate information.*
- *If you are dedicated, it will last a lifetime and you will become your family Historian.*

What Items to Save and Collect

- Pictures
- Videos
- Special Objects: Jewelry, Bibles, Obituaries, Something special connected to the person you are researching
- Journaling books

OTHER ITEMS:

WEBSITES

- Remember: Searching websites is extremely time consuming, but the reward is worth it! Find the website that works best for you. Talking with people will help you find different websites for specific searches that are optimal for your search/searches.
- www.churchoflatterdaysaintsgenealogy.com
 - On this website, click on the WIKI (to the right) on the webpage
 - You can search by county, state or country
 - You can search by US Census Bureau records
 - The next Genealogy Class at the Mormon Church on Maple Road will be held on October 20, 2018

Websites - Continued

- See handout
- Leg work – you will need to go and do the physical labor of visiting government offices for birth certificates, death certificates, etc.
- Be sure to have your ID and any other documents that connect you to the individual you are researching.

Culture and Heritage

Remember, as African Americans, you have a beautiful culture, history and it should not be eradicated or forgotten. Take steps to preserve it!

