

BEGINNING GENEALOGY

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GENEALOGY is another word for FAMILY

Genealogy is NOT tracing my last-name-line back to some historical figure

Genealogy IS researching my families.

A basic family is a HUSBAND or FATHER and a WIFE or MOTHER and a CHILD or CHILDREN.

All families are not the same. Some have extra members

How we keep track of the information we find on our families and how and where we find more information is what makes up GENEALOGY or FAMILY HISTORY.

PEDIGREECHARTS give the name and some information on our direct line ancestors. But nothing about the siblings of those individuals.

FAMILY GROUP CHARTS provide information on the members of a specific family; the parents and the siblings and even the grandparents.

The two kinds of charts enable us to track the information we find.

But soon the kinds, quality and number of individuals increase and we need more than paper forms! We need to use a computer.

There are a great many programs available – both free and costly. We need to determine our needs and acquire a program that meets those needs. We might get one program to get started, then change to another as our work progresses.

One we get beyond our own parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles; what do we do?

- Ask family members
- Search census
- Search vital records
- Search newspapers
- Search church records
- Search books

Where can we find this information?

Family members:

- Holiday parties
- Reunions
- Write to them
- Go visit them

On the internet:

- ancestry.com
- familysearch.org
- genweb.org
- worldvitalrecords.com

Physical locations:

- Cemeteries
- Libraries
- Court houses
- Museums
- Historical locations