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Genealogy

How to Get Started

There are a number a questions to ask as you get started researching your family. Answering the following five will help you on your way. For additional help you can download our *Family Group Sheet*. This form gets you started at the first level of your research and will make the later process much easier. You can also use this form to create the family tree for each successive generation, making filing and referencing quicker.

Getting Started, Five Easy Steps to Genealogical Research

1. Yours or mine? Determine early on which side of the family you want to start your research with. You can choose maternal (Mom's), paternal (Dad's), your's or your spouse's. Gardening tip: separating the family branches make seeing the whole tree a lot easier.
2. Start in a straight line. It will be easier for you to find family relations if you start with the trunk of your family tree. List yourself, your parents, their parents and the great grandparents as far back as you can easily find.
3. Check the closet. Photos, albums, family bibles and letters are just a few of the resources just waiting to be tapped. Many photos have names and dates on the back and this will help you put faces with names you may or may not be familiar with yet. Albums and family bibles generally record births, marriages, deaths and important information that will move your research along faster. Letters are wonderful because they are not just informational, but ways to get to know someone more closely than you are able to by looking at legal documents or photographs.
4. It is all about who you know. Sit down and talk with older members of your family if you can and get the stories from them. Their memories are treasure troves of information that will be lost forever once they are gone. It is very important that you try to record what they have to say with either video or audio tapes.
5. Know your location. Where were you born? Your parents? Their parents? This information will help you find additional information in your respective home towns. Much of this work can be done by phone or online.

Internet Resources:

www.rootsweb.org
www.ancestry.com
www.findagrave.com
www.okcemeteryrecords.org
www.familyhistory.org
www.okhistory.org
www.usgenweb.org