



Grow Your Family Tree[©]

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Overview

Genealogy is the study of family histories.¹

This beginning-level lecture is meant to help you learn the first steps to start discovering your ancestors and recording your family history. An overview of national, regional and local resources will be provided as well as a discussion of useful Internet sites

Basic Steps:

1. Start with what you know.
2. Identify a research objective.
3. Develop a research plan.
4. Execute the plan.
5. Analyze, evaluate and correlate the information.

Step 1: Start with What You Know

- Start with your immediate family and then work back in time.
- Seek family traditions and oral history.
- Contact family members.
- You can use genealogy software or forms.

Step 2: Identify a Research Objective

- Identify a single, clearly-defined objective, including name, time period, location, and what information you hope to find.
- Learn about the locality to determine what sources are available for the time period.
- Conduct a literature search.

Step 3: Develop a Research Plan

A good research plan includes:

- Background information and evaluation of the problem.
- Identification of any constraints or limitations.
- Identification of records and repositories.

- A summary of findings.
- Full research notes and analysis of information.
- Identification of next steps.

Step 4: Execute the Plan

- List the repositories you visited.
- List the resources you used.
- Cite your sources!
- Identify records that could not be searched or provided negative results.
- Discuss any problems encountered.
- Take full research notes by abstracting, extracting or transcribing the relevant records recording all relevant details.
- Clearly separate your comments from the information in the record.
- Make copies as necessary.

Step 5: Analyze, Evaluate & Correlate

- Analyze and evaluate the new information and negative results.
- Organize it in a systematic way, such as chronologically using a timeline.
- Does it correlate with what you already know?
- Evidence has different confidence levels.
- What future research needs to be conducted?

¹ *Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary* (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1994), "genealogy."

Cautions:

- Just because it is published in a book or on the Internet does not mean it is true.
- Don't incorporate information into your tree until you verify it.
- Use original records, if possible.

Bibliography:**Beginning Genealogy**

Croom, Emily Ann. *Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy*. Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, 1995.

Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. 3rd ed. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2000.

Szucs, Loretto Dennis and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking. *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*. Provo, UT: Ancestry, 2006.

Maryland Research

Schweitzer, George Keene. *Maryland Genealogical Research*. [n.p.]: G. K. Schweitzer, 1991.

Shawker, Patricia O'Brien. *Research in Maryland*. Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2007.

Barnes, Robert Williams. *Guide to Research in Baltimore City and County*. Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1989.

Locality References

Eichholz, Alice, editor. *Redbook: American State, County and Town Sources*. 3rd ed. Provo, UT: Ancestry, 2004.

The Handybook for Genealogists. Logan, UT: Everton Publishers, 2006.

National Resources**Family History Library**

http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlc/frameset_fhlc.asp

*Microfilm accessed through local

Family History Centers (FHCs)

*Free access to subscription databases

Frederick Family History Center
199 North Pl
Frederick, MD

Hampstead Family History Center
4117 Lower Beckleysville Road
Hampstead, MD

National Archives and Records Administration
Pennsylvania Avenue at Eighth Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20408
<http://www.archives.gov/>

*Federal censuses

*Immigration records

*Military service and pension records

*Federal land records

Library of Congress
Genealogy and Local History Section
101 Independence Avenue at First St. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20504
<http://www.loc.gov/>

National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution
1776 "D" Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
<http://www.dar.org/library>

United States Research Outline
<http://net.lib.byu.edu/fslab/researchoutlines/US/US.pdf>

United States Military Records Research Outline
<http://net.lib.byu.edu/fslab/researchoutlines/US/USMilitaryRecords.pdf>

Regional Resources

National Archives—Mid-Atlantic Region
5000 Wissahickon Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19107
<http://www.archives.gov/philadelphia/>

*Court records

*Naturalization records

Maryland State Archives
350 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, MD 21401
<http://www.msa.md.gov/>

*Public Records from 1634-1789

*Original state and county records through mid-twentieth century

*Microfilm of original records

*Indexes

*Federal censuses

*Mortality schedules

*Church records

*Court records

The information in this handout is representative of the types of sources available and should not be considered all inclusive. Internet sites checked on 10 September 2014.

- *City directories
- *Land records (Military land records, Land Office records, County land records)
- *Maps and atlases
- *Immigration and naturalization records
- *Historical newspapers
- *Probate records
- *Tax records
- *Vital records (birth, marriage, & death)

Maryland Historical Society and Maryland Genealogical Society
201 West Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
<http://www.mdhs.org/>

- *Major collection of biographical materials
- *Cemetery records
- *Church records
- **Norris Harris Church Register File*
- *Immigration records
- *City directories
- **Dielman-Hayward File*
- *Manuscript Genealogies
- **Calvert Papers*
- *Land Office records
- *Historical newspapers
- *Tax records

Baltimore City Archives
211 East Pleasant Street, Room 201
Baltimore, MD 21202
<http://baltimorecityhistory.net/>

- *Immigration records
- **WPA-HRS Index*
- *Baltimore City tax records

Enoch Pratt Free Library
400 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

- <http://www.prattlibrary.org/>
- *Maryland Room
- *Major collection of biographical materials. The "Biography File" is 180-drawer card index from 1800s and 1900s.
- *City directories
- *Maps and atlases
- *Historical newspapers

Johns Hopkins University
George Peabody Library
17 East Mount Vernon Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
<http://peabodyevents.library.jhu.edu/>
**Register of Provincial Families*
*Maps and atlases

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University of Maryland College Park Libraries
Theodore R. McKeldin Library
College Park, MD 20742
<http://www.lib.umd.edu/mckeldin>
*Maps and atlases

Maryland State Law Library
Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, MD 21401
<http://www.lawlib.state.md.us/>
**Baltimore Sun* on microfilm

Maryland Research Outline
<http://net.lib.byu.edu/fslab/researchoutlines/US/Maryland.pdf>

Local Resources

Kuethe Library Historical & Genealogical Research Center
5 Crain Highway, SE
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
<http://www.aagensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=9>
*Contains holdings of Ann Arrundell County Historical Society and Anne Arundel Genealogical Society
*More than 4,000 volumes
*Manuscripts
*Maps
*Photographs
*Vertical files

C. Burr Artz Public Library, FCPL
110 E. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
<http://www.fcpl.org/departments/maryland-room>
*Local history collection
*Special emphasis on Frederick County & City

Carroll County Public Library
<https://www.library.carr.org/>
*Basic genealogy guides & books like the ones listed in the Beginner's Bibliography above
*Dedicated Genealogy section
*Interlibrary Loan

Internet Sites - Subscription

Ancestry: <http://www.ancestry.com>
*Federal censuses

Fold3: <http://www.fold3.com>
*Military records

Genealogy Bank: <http://www.genealogybank.com>
*Historic newspapers

Historical Society of Frederick County
<http://www.hsfcinfo.org>

Internet Sites - Free

Cyndi's List: <http://www.cyndislist.com>
*Reference site covering many genealogical topics
*Software information

Note: Most Maryland counties have a genealogical society or a historical society or both.

FamilySearch: <http://www.familysearch.org>
*Federal censuses
*Baltimore City probate records
*Records being uploaded daily

FamilySearch Wiki:
https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page

USGenWeb: <http://www.usgenweb.com>

Roots-L: <http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l>

Rootsweb Maryland Resources:
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/md.html>

Maryland land records: <http://mdlandrec.net>

Archives.org: <http://www.archives.org>
*Baltimore City Directories

Genealogical Societies

National Genealogical Society
<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Maryland Genealogical Society
<http://www.mdgensoc.org/>

Maryland Historical Society
<http://www.mdhs.org/>

Baltimore County Genealogical Society
<http://www.baltimoregenealogysociety.org/BCGS/home/>

Historical Society of Baltimore County
<http://www.hsobc.org/>

Carroll County Genealogical Society
<http://www.carr.org/ccgs/>

The Historical Society of Carroll County, Inc.
<http://www.hsccmd.org/>

Frederick County Genealogical Society
<http://www.frecogs.com/index.html>

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