



Tips for Beginning Genealogists

Every family tree is as original and unique as you are.

Not every online hint connects to your family tree.

List women by their maiden name in your ancestor chart.

A research log & Correspondence log will save you time.

Use ancestral charts to keep the big picture in perspective.

Use family group sheets for a detailed look at each family.

Nicknames

Record all facts

Record all details you find in records.

DNA Testing:

Use genetic genealogy to confirm your paper trail and find new cousins.

Join Facebook groups for your area of research

Use the Date Month Year format for dates:

e.g., 18 Jan 1832, 7 May 1898, 30 Apr 1795

Look for naming patterns

Check for spelling variations:

Surnames were often spelled phonetically by census takers.

Smith · Smyth · Smythe

List your resources

(book? author? page? site, collection? record?)

Interview living relatives:

Do this early before their stories and memories are lost.

Go Offline:

Visit local libraries, courthouses, and historical societies for records not yet digitized.



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