

Getting Started

First: list the generations you know along with what you know about each person: birth date and place, marriage date and place, death date and place siblings and spouses. Include sources.

Next fill in a pedigree chart and family group chart. Don't abbreviate names and include middle names and use all capitals for surnames. List women by their maiden names.

Use this format for dates: day, month, year. And for places: city, county and state.

Now, to fill in the gaps in the pedigree chart. This is where the research comes in.

First, contact family members. Someone may have information you don't have: diaries, photo albums, family bibles, scrapbooks and so forth. And don't assume your surname has always been spelled one way and use family stories as clues unless there is a primary source along with them

Read how-to books and keep an eye out for classes at your local library.

Also, Ancestry Academy and Family Search WIKI have AV presentations online for free.

Consider joining a local genealogical society. Most have monthly meetings with programs, newsletters and give classes.

A couple of free sources are FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com library edition. Between them they have 30-40 billion online records.

Types of records to look for:

Census records	Church records
City directories	County histories
Tax records	Military records
Court records	Newspapers
Will and probate	Land records
Cemetery records	Vital records (BMD)

Local Resources: King County Library System, Seattle Public Library, Family History Centers, NARA (Sandpoint), Seattle Genealogical Society, Suzzalo Library (U. of WA), Fiske Library \$, Tacoma Public Library, Puget Sound Regional Archives, Heritage Quest Research Center in Sumner.

And remember, Google is your friend!

Genealogy Software:

Roots Magic: www.rootsmagic.com

Family Maker: www.mackiev.com

Legacy Family Tree: <https://legacyfamilytreemaker.com>