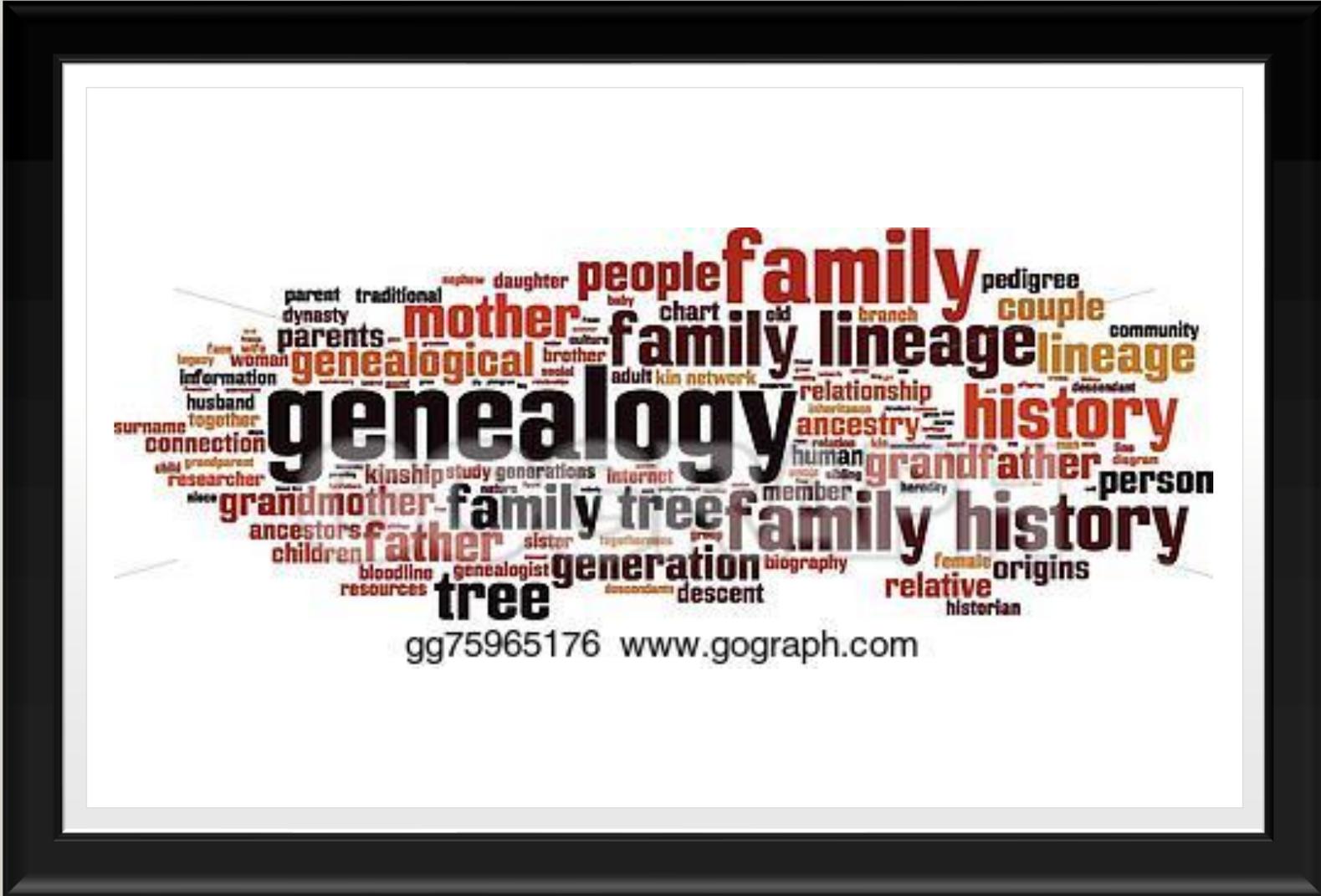


# BEGINNING GENEAOLOGY 101

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gg75965176 www.gograph.com

# WHAT IS GENEALOGY?

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Webster defines genealogy as the account of the descent of a person, family or group from an ancestor, or the study of family pedigrees.

# GENEALOGISTS LAMENT

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Put simply, it is

”Passing down family information from one generation to the next and  
keeping records of important family information’

Lament

“When we were young, we weren’t really interested in our roots. . .

But now that we are interested, there is really no one left to ask.



# WHAT DO I WANT TO KNOW?

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1. Where did I come from?
2. Generations to include (2 branches)
3. Stories
4. Dates , Places , Countries
5. Professions (Artists, Musicians) Dirty little secrets (rumors), Medical history

## WHAT COMES FIRST?

“TO BEGIN MY LIFE WITH THE BEGINNING OF MY LIFE,  
I RECORD THAT I WAS BORN”

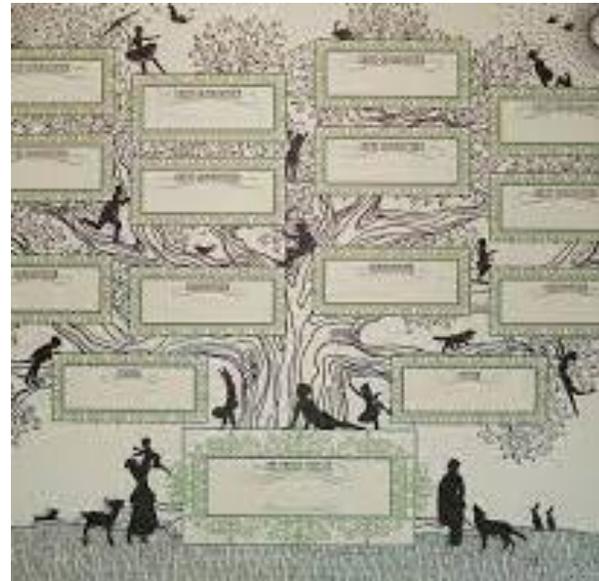
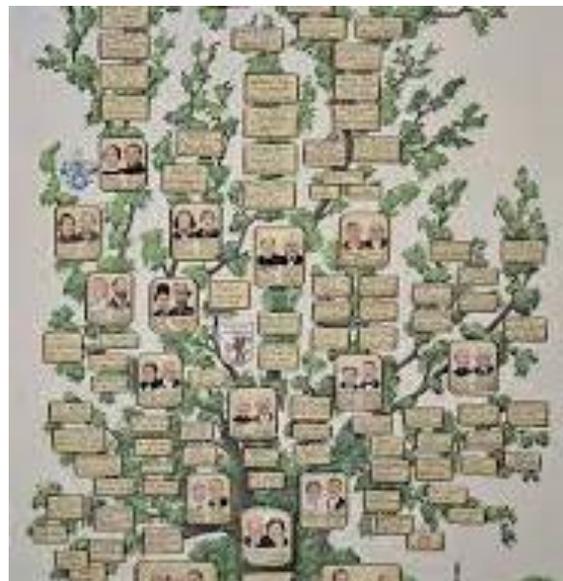
DAVID COPPERFIELD

DAVID COPPERFIELD,  
BY  
CHARLES DICKENS.



- 
- Write down what you know starting with yourself. Do you have a copy of your own birth certificate?
  - Gather information you “know” Dates of Birth for you, your siblings, and parents,
  - Dates of Deaths
  - Places where these folks live/lived
  - Photos, Obituaries, funeral cards, birth certificates





# Our Family Tree

Wife (Our Name)

Mother

Father

Husband (Our Name)

Brothers and Sisters

Husband's Brothers and Sisters

Our Children

Wife's Maternal Aunts and Uncles

Husband's Maternal Aunts and Uncles

Husband's Paternal Aunts and Uncles

# REMEMBER:

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Remember: different family members will have different versions of events or provide conflicting information.

## TAKE NOTES!!

There may be something in the family stories that helps you uncover facts

When filling out charts, use a pencil and a pen, or different-colored inks—pencil or one color for things you are fairly sure are accurate, pen or another color for things you can back up with records

# THINGS YOU CAN DO

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- Get on the phone/internet and talk to your relatives
- Birthdays of all living family members you can contact
- Death dates of family members
- For example, you may not know when Aunt Mae died, but her children probably remember
- Remember that when Aunt Mae died, she may have been living with Cousin Lucy in Annapolis, not in her home in Richmond



# GETTING YOUR FAMILY TO TALK

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Interviewing Family Members:

1. Record stories, not “just the facts” because often stories are full of information
2. Set a time/date for the interview so everyone has time to prepare. Prepare a list of questions and forward them before the interview. Bring several notepads, paper, and pens/pencils to record information
3. Interviewing Family Members. You have your phone so record conversations and take pictures. You may not think a piece of information is important until later, so it is good to record the interview so you can go back to it later

# INTERVIEWING FAMILY MEMBERS

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- Always start with a question you know will elicit a reply (Such as, “Remember when you told me the story of how Granny’s brother died?”)
- Ask questions: don’t be a bystander in the interview, just be sure not to dominate. Sometimes family secrets will be kept, so don’t push when it is obvious a person doesn’t want to tell everything they know.
- Use props: music, photos, funeral cards, etc. can bring memories flooding back. Use your set of questions as a guideline: let your relative go off on that tangent. Your interview will probably answer questions that you didn’t know to ask.

# REMEMBER

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- Check and recheck the information you have gathered. Especially if it has been a long time since the family member's death, memories tend to fade and cloud. Make copies of informational records supporting (or disproving) the data you have.
- Check multiple sources, and make sure you document where you found the information.
- And after you have all you can get from your family.....



# EVALUATE WHAT YOU HAVE

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- Where are the gaps? Did you learn what you wanted to know? Direct your research in that direction.  
Work backward from the present.
- If there is an ancestor with a gap you'd like to fill in, look for some basic records like
- City directories, telephone directories, Vital records, like birth, death and marriage  
Try County clerks and bureau of vital statistics.

# OTHER OPTIONS

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- Social Security Death Index at Family Search – LDS or Ancestry.com
- Newspapers on microfilm, Cemetery records, Funeral homes, wills, deeds, probates, military service records, education/employment records
- Immigration and naturalization records. Published family genealogies

# WHERE ELSE TO LOOK

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1. Backs of old photographs, Mail/Postcards, Baby books, Adoption records, Wedding announcements, guest books, Divorce papers, Obituaries, funeral books, wills, memorial cards, Report cards, awards, diplomas, yearbooks, transcripts.
2. Religious blessings, baptismal records, christening records, confirmation records, Pastors' records, church directories, member lists, Journals, diaries, letters, cards, photos, autographs, bibles, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings. Employment records, achievement awards, disability records, pensions, tax records, union and retirement records.

# INTERNET RESOURCES

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- L.D.S. Family search center .....Devrie Conlin 432-631-4195
- Ancestry.com
- Census records
- Look on the internet for books on your family name.
- Here we have school annuals ...Midland High back to 1929 and Lee High back to 1962

# INTERNET RESOURCES, CONT.

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- Census Online Searchable by year, state, and county Also includes some tax lists and mortality schedules
- Ellis Island Records Searchable by passenger name or by ship name
- Kentucky Vital Records Index Search death index from 1911-1992, marriage index from 1973-1993, and divorce index 1973-1993

# ROAD TRIP!!!!

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Using the dates and names you have for your ancestors, choose a few to start

- Visit local libraries, historical and genealogical societies, and other repositories  
State Libraries and court houses.

- 
- WARNING!!!!!! No matter if in a book, or on the internet, just because it is in print, DOES NOT MAKE IT ACCURATE!!!!!!
  - Names
  - Places of death
  - Dates are often just a suggestion

# ORGANIZING THE STUFF

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1. Make a copy of anything definitive
2. Binder/folders
3. Legal pads/notebooks
4. Highlighters
5. Paper clips/stapler
6. Pens and pencils
7. Forms for Genealogy

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- Individual Record:

There are several individual records that are handy for use

Family Group Records

are great because they list the husband, his vital records, including parents' names, and names of other spouses; wife and her information; and provides space for listing up to twelve children with their basic vital records

Individual Records

Usually gives you room to record sources

Similar to Family Group Records/Sheets

- 
- Research Journal/Log, Lets researchers keep track of what records they have already looked at
  - Lets researcher know that a source has been used to its fullest: For example, a census record might record a neighbor for your ancestor, and later you might find that the neighbor was related.
  - Using the research log will save you time going back to find the record a second time

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### 1. Notes and Comments

A simple form to attach to each ancestor so that the researcher can put in information that may not be pertinent at the time. Can also be used to note which resources have not been used or ideas for other places to look.

2. Analysis Sheet. This sheet is extremely helpful when trying to sort out thoughts about ancestors. Can be used to sort out relationships as well.

3. For example, What do I already know? I know that John Smith was killed in a work-related accident at age 48, and that he was born in 1880.

# ANALYSIS SHEET, CONT.

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- What does this suggest?

I should be able to find John Smith in the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses.

I may find a death certificate for him.

If he was killed in a railroad or industrial accident, I should be able to find records to that effect.

Since many newspapers would have reported on the story surrounding his death, I may find a newspaper article about it.

If Smith belonged to a worker's union, I may be able to find employment records.

# PEDIGREE CHARTS

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- Pedigree Charts

Can be useful in seeing relationships between family members

Does not allow for recording children of each person; each individual would eventually need to be person #1 on the chart

Good basic tool for researching without having to take the whole “kit and kaboodle” along.

# CORRESPONDENCE RECORD SHEET

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This is quite helpful to use to pare down the amount of items you send out.

For example, if you sent to four libraries for a particular obituary, etc., you might forget what you asked each for.

allows you to log what you have sent, who has replied, and what the results were



# CENSUS RECORDS

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- Census Records

Census records exist from 1790 – present

The 1950 Census will be made available next year.

Very few pages of the 1890 census exist, due to a fire at the Commerce Building where they were held in 1921

The Census Bureau destroyed the remaining parts of that census in 1935

Only 6160 names still exist of the 1890 census, which were found in the move to the National Archives some years later (out of @ 63 million surveyed)

# COPIES OF CENSUS RECORDS

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- Blank copies of each form can be helpful, especially where there is no way to copy an actual record which we have available.

Can be used in conjunction with a copy of the actual record, since they are often unreadable when copied

All are different, with a different number and category of columns, but all allow room to record the state, the date the census was taken, and after 1810, the county in which it was taken.

# CENSUS RECORDS

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- Depending on the year, there are many things that can be learned from a census:
  - Place of residence of an ancestor
  - Approximate date of birth (the 1900 census has the birth month and year of birth, plus the age at last birthday)
  - Name and sex of everyone in the household, as well as their relationship to the head of household
  - Whether the person is single, married or widowed, and in some cases, how long that person has been married or their age at the time of marriage

# MORE CENSUS RECORD INFORMATION

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- How many children were born to each female, and of those, how many are still living

Place of birth of each individual, and both their parents, and, if an immigrant, the year of immigration to the U.S.

Occupation of individual, and type of industry they worked in

How many months of the year that person was employed

Whether or not the person can read, write, and speak English

Whether the person owned or rented, and whether or not they lived on a farm