

CHAPTER 2

**3-Easy Steps**

Follow These 3-Easy Steps to Begin Building Your Family Tree and Connect to Your Ancestors

STEP 1 - Identify Your Ancestors Using Your Family



The success of tracing your family roots and stories increases when families work together. Family members will often have information to share, or they may be willing to help you look for information. Your relatives may remember important events and dates that have not been recorded. They may have family heirlooms, records, mementos, photographs, and other valuable items. They may have interesting family stories to tell, and they can sometimes direct you to others who knew your ancestors or to other relatives you may not know.

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Suggested Activities

- Purchase family history software to help you if you haven't already and learn the basics (*see Chapter 5: Family History Software*).
- Start writing down what you know about your family.
- Print out a blank *pedigree form* and *family group sheet* on your computer to make it easier.
- Call relatives to find out if someone has already compiled a family history or other records that might contain the information you're looking for. Ask them to e-mail a GEDCOM file of their information. This is a great head start.
- Look around your house for documents that might provide new information or verify the information you already have. Keep copies of everything you find in your search. It may not seem important now, but it will in the future.

STEP 1 - Identify Your Ancestors Using Your Family

BEGIN BUILDING YOUR FAMILY TREE WITH WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW



The information you gather about your ancestors gives you a greater appreciation of your heritage, the sacrifices your ancestors made for you, and a better understanding of what their life was like. Your knowledge of your forebears will increase, your family will grow closer, families will be strengthened, and the opportunity to learn more about your kindred dead will bless lives.

As you gather information about your ancestors, you are welding family links, and drawing yourself and your family closer to God. Your ancestors want to be found as much as you want to find them.

Follow the 3-Easy-Steps to begin building your family tree and connect to your ancestors.



QUICK TIPS ON GETTING STARTED

1. Begin with a pedigree chart. It will be a road map for your Family history search. Create your own four generation pedigree chart. From memory, begin to fill in information on the lines indicating your father, your mother, your grandparents, and so on.
2. Start with yourself and what you already know about your parents and grandparents.
3. Work back one generation at a time, from the known to the unknown.
4. Be as complete as possible when you record information.
5. Don't be overwhelmed by the process.
6. Choose one of the commercially available family history software programs (See Chapter 5)

Write Everything You Know About Your Ancestors

Identifying your ancestors is fun and so much easier today. You can begin right now by picking up a pencil and writing down information on a piece of paper.

Begin with what you already know by writing information on yourself and work back one generation at a time. The most important family history information you already possess – your memories and the memories of your loved ones. Gather