



Beginning Genealogy: Session 1 Genealogy 101

CHATHAM COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

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Course overview.

- Genealogy 101.
- Organizing for genealogy.
- Digital methods.
- Basic DNA.
- Problems in genealogy.
- Special communities.

Heavy emphasis will be placed on your progress and problems!



Level setting

- Round-robin self-intro (*feel free to decline*):
 - Where are you in your family history search?
 - What questions do you have?
 - What problems are you trying to solve?
 - Do you already have a partial tree?

My self intro.



Session 1 objectives.

High level overview of
the family research
process.

- Understand common genealogy terms.
- Understand genealogical standards.
- Understand the use of a family group sheet.
- Understand the use of a pedigree/ancestor chart.
- See how to begin your pedigree chart and your family group sheet.
- Basic understanding of genealogy software.
- See how to find resources online.
- See how to conduct a census search (if internet available).
- Begin your own family research!

For me, objectives are:

- Understand where participants are on their family history journey.
- Learn of topics you want me to cover.

Ask questions throughout!



What is genealogy?

- A record or table of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or ancestors; a family tree.
- Direct descent from an ancestor; lineage or pedigree.
- The study or investigation of ancestry and family histories.
- The study of family history and/ or biological bloodlines.
 - Identifying and recording ancestors and their families, and learning their stories.
 - Capturing and recording basic data for each person:
 - Name. Date and place of birth. Names of parents and spouse. Date and place of marriage. Names of children. Date and place of death. Date and place of burial.
 - Capturing and recording other facts and relationships.
 - Military service. Occupations. Travel and immigration.



Why do genealogy / family history?

- To learn the stories and history of your family and others.
- To gain a sense of what your ancestors experienced.
- To flesh out things left unsaid in your family.
 - Military experiences
 - “Scandalous” relationships
 - Half-siblings
- To learn your DNA origins and relationships.

Unlock the mysteries in your own story!



Terms: What is a fact?

- A fact is a proven or unproven event, supported by one or more citations of sources.
 - Example, your birth date could be supported by citing your birth certificate from the database “North Carolina birth records 1777-1985.” [this is an invented source]
- A proven fact is one where the preponderance of authoritative evidence supports the truth of the fact.
- An unproven fact is one where there are no or only dubious sources, or one in conflict with the proven fact.
 - An example is the birth date of my grandfather: he was born in 1904 according to the family bible, but his military records give 1902. His father, the town doctor, produced a false birth certificate so he could enlist in the Navy at age 16.



Terms: What is a source?

- A source is where info came from.
- A source could be a conversation you had with your grandmother, a 100-year-old history of your family that has known errors, a military service record obtained from the NMPC, etc.
- Some sources are *authoritative* or *reliable* because they were created closely in time to the event they documents.
 - Example: birth and marriage records for those events.
 - Sometimes it is said that authoritative sources have high *surety value*.
- Some sources are not authoritative, because they record information long after the actual event occurred or are not based on sound research.
 - Examples include family stories and birth dates derived from death records.
 - Ages from census records are frequently off by a year or more.
 - Compilations of records into genealogy books frequently have errors.



Terms: What is a repository?

- A repository is the place where the source can be found.
- You might access a set of birth records for your home state on Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.org. These are derived repositories, i.e., they are not the original record source, but have collected and digitized records from around the world.
- You might go to the state archive and handle original land grants from the 1700s. The grants are original sources, and the state archive is the repository.



Terms: What is a citation?

- A citation is the linkage between a fact and a source, with repository listed so others can verify the linkage.
- Example:
 - One's marriage date (the fact),
 - Proven by your marriage certificate (citation),
 - Where marriage records are compiled together (source),
 - Kept at the county courthouse (repository).



National Genealogical Society (NGS) Standards

- Record sources for every bit of information.
 - If you can't show where you got the information, you have a hint, lore or mythology.
 - Family stories are lore until they are backed up with documentation. Record the source as such.
- Record data based on evidence.
 - Test every hypothesis against credible evidence and reject those that the evidence shows are incorrect.
- Seek original records or reproduced images of original records.
 - The closer in time to the event, the more likely the record is correct.
- Use secondary sources as guides.
 - For example, a family tree from someone else is of limited value until you verify the information yourself.



NGS Standards (continued)

- State facts only when supported by convincing evidence and identify the evidence when communicating the fact or conclusion to others.
- Use limiting words such as “about” and “probably.” Explain your reasoning.
- Avoid using or distributing misleading, unsupported or inaccurate information.
- State carefully and honestly the results of your own research and acknowledge all use of other researchers’ work.
- Recognize collaborative nature of genealogical research. Make your work available to others and welcome critical comment.
- Be open to new evidence that might change your conclusions and efforts.
- Use ethical standards throughout your research.

Source: <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/guidelines/>



Your first steps:

- Capture what you know right now.
- Decide how you will manage your info.
- Record your sources.

Jones, Ebenezer
Died: In Jamestown, August 25, 1883.
Born: Berkshire Co., Mass.

Father of: Mrs. L.N. Willard; Mrs. Lyman Aiken;
Miss Addie H. Jones and Leonard Jones, all of
Jamestown. Ebenezer Jones, Jr. of Sedgemon, Tenn.
Mrs. Ralph Fessenden, of Sinclairville, Miss
Aurora Jones and W.V. Jones of Elmwood, Illinois.
Mrs. Walter Bates of Dewittville, and also of the
late Mrs. M.J. Gaddes and Capt. Robert Jones.

Chaut. Dem. 8-29-1883

22/75.
Cards found in Jamestown Historical Society

Washington Winsor Jones
Born at Jamestown N.Y.
April 7 1833 - Jan 24 1900
Buried Elmwood Ill.

Nancy Ketcheson
Died - April 29 - 1864
Married Oct 8 - 1856
Parents of William Atkins Jones
Oct 13 - 1857 - July 19 - 1929
Buried in Abingdon

Owen M Jones
Nell - Jones Bellwood

[distribute handouts]



Knowing how to figure out relationships helps a great deal

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
0	Common Ancestor	Son or Daughter	Grandson or Daughter	Great Grandson or Daughter	2nd Great Grandson or Daughter	3rd Great Grandson or Daughter	4th Great Grandson or Daughter	5th Great Grandson or Daughter	6th Great Grandson or Daughter	7th Great Grandson or Daughter
1	Son or Daughter	Siblings	Niece or Nephew	Grand Nephew or Niece	Great Grand Nephew or Niece	2nd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	3rd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	4th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	5th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	6th Great Grand Nephew or Niece
2	Grandson or Daughter	Nephew or Niece	First Cousin	First Cousin Once Removed	First Cousin Twice Removed	First Cousin 3 Times Removed	First Cousin 4 Times Removed	First Cousin 5 Times Removed	First Cousin 6 Times Removed	First Cousin 7 Times Removed
3	Great Grandson or Daughter	Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin	Second Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin 3 Times Removed	Second Cousin 4 Times Removed	Second Cousin 5 Times Removed	Second Cousin 6 Times Removed
4	2nd Great Grandson or Daughter	Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin	Third Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin 3 Times Removed	Third Cousin 4 Times Removed	Third Cousin 5 Times Removed
5	3rd Great Grandson or Daughter	2nd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin 3 Times Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin Twice Removed	Fourth Cousin 3 Times Removed	Fourth Cousin 4 Times Removed
6	4th Great Grandson or Daughter	3rd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin 4 Times Removed	Second Cousin 3 Times Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	Fifth Cousin	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	Fifth Cousin Twice Removed	Fifth Cousin 3 Times Removed
7	5th Great Grandson or Daughter	4th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin 5 Times Removed	Second Cousin 4 Times Removed	Third Cousin 3 Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Twice Removed	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	Sixth Cousin	Sixth Cousin Once Removed	Sixth Cousin Twice Removed
8	6th Great Grandson or Daughter	5th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin 6 Times Removed	Second Cousin 5 Times Removed	Third Cousin 4 Times Removed	Fourth Cousin 3 Times Removed	Fifth Cousin Twice Removed	Sixth Cousin Once Removed	Seventh Cousin	Seventh Cousin Once Removed
9	7th Great Grandson or Daughter	6th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin 7 Times Removed	Second Cousin 6 Times Removed	Third Cousin 5 Times Removed	Fourth Cousin 4 Times Removed	Fifth Cousin 3 Times Removed	Sixth Cousin Twice Removed	Seventh Cousin Once Removed	Eighth Cousin

- Start with the common ancestor.
- Find one person along the top row and one person down the left column.
- The intersection identifies the relationship.
- When we get to DNA, you'll see that relationships beyond 4th cousin are distant indeed.



Family Group Sheet and Pedigree Chart

- Free forms online:
 - Ancestrylibrary.com → Charts & Forms
 - <https://www.ancestry.com/cs/charts-and-forms>
 - FamilySearch.org → Search → Research WIKI → Forms → Genealogy Research Forms
 - https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogy_Research_Forms
 - National Genealogy Society
 - <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/charts/>
- Forms can be completed on paper or electronically. You can also let your genealogy software do the work for you!



Family group sheet

Family Group Record ancestry.com

Prepared By _____ Relationship to Preparer _____

Address _____ Date _____ Ancestral Chart # _____ Family Unit # _____

Husband		Occupation(s)	City	County	State or Country	Religion
Born	Date—Day, Month, Year					
Christened						Name of Church
Married						Name of Church
Died						Cause of Death
Buried		Cem/Place				Date Will Written/Proved
Father						Other Wives
Mother						

Wife maiden name		Occupation(s)	City	County	State or Country	Religion
Born	Date—Day, Month, Year					
Christened						Name of Church
Died						Cause of Death
Buried		Cem/Place				Date Will Written/Proved
Father						Other Husbands
Mother						

• Sex MF	Children Given Names	Birth		Birthplace			Date of first marriage/Place		Date of Death/Cause			Computer ID. #
		Day	Month	Year	City	County	St./Ctry.	Name of Spouse	City	County	State/Country	
	1											
	2											
	3											
	4											
	5											
	6											
	7											
	8											
	9											
	10											
	11											
	12											

NOTE=Direct Ancestor Form # F106 <http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/familysheet.htm> © 2007 The Generations Network, Inc.

- A family is one of the basic building blocks of genealogy, the other being the individual.
- A family group sheet lets you record relationships and facts about this family grouping.
- Important info on this sheet includes:
 - Birth, death, marriage dates and places.
 - Names of children and other spouses.



Pedigree chart

- The pedigree chart shows ancestral relationship back several generations.
- Children are not displayed in this format.
- Continuation numbers link multiple charts.

Page



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Pedigree Chart for

Chart no.

2.

b.

p.

m.

p.

d.

p.

4.

b.

p.

m.

p.

d.

p.

8.

b.

m.

d.

9.

b.

d.

10.

b.

m.

d.

11.

b.

d.

12.

b.

m.

d.

13.

b.

d.

14.

b.

m.

d.

15.

b.

d.

1.

b.

p.

m.

p.

d.

p.

3.

b.

p.

d.

p.

5.

b.

p.

d.

p.

6.

b.

p.

m.

p.

d.

p.

7.

b.

p.

d.

p.

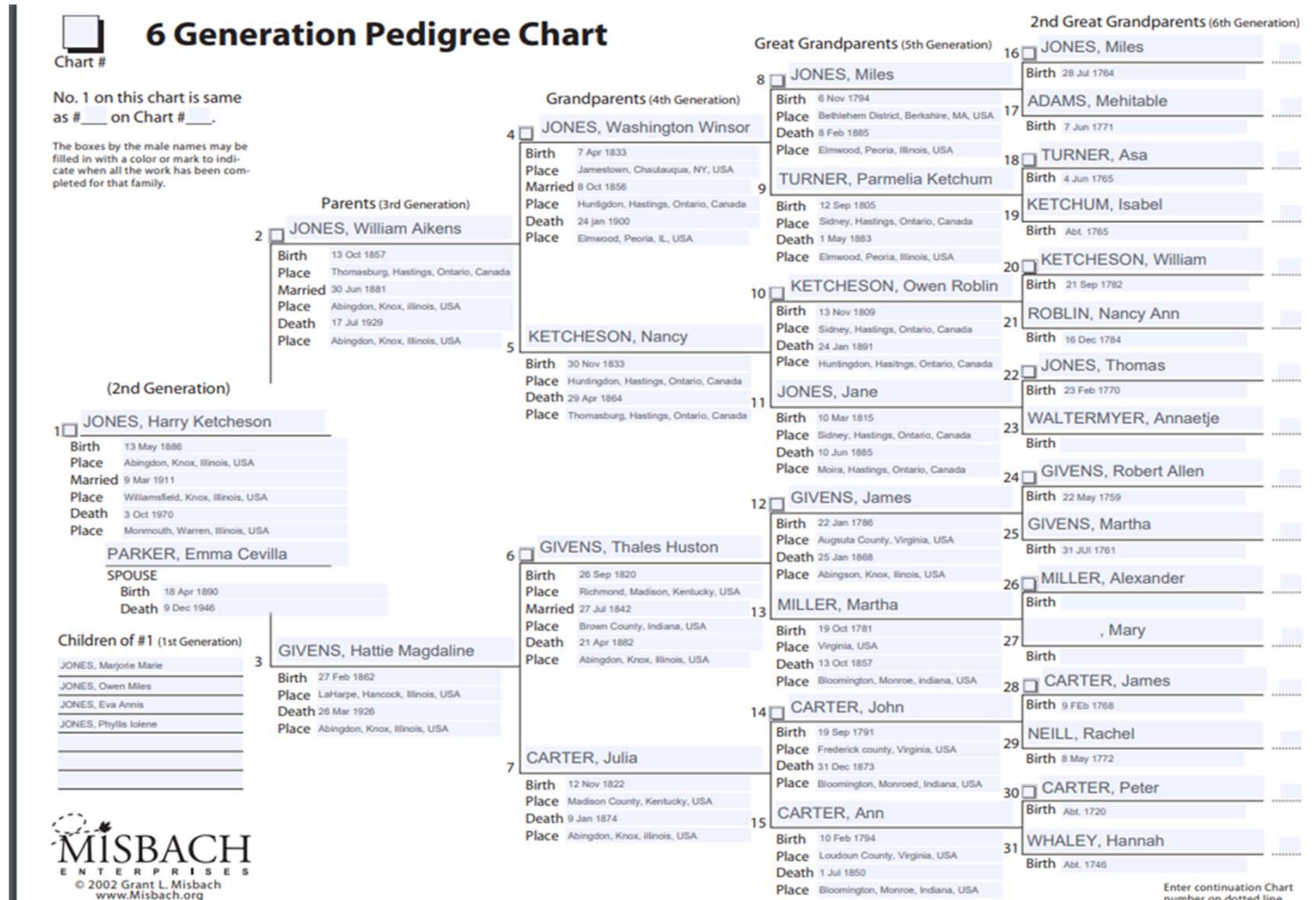
Continuation numbers link multiple charts.

b. = birth
m. = marriage
d. = death
p. = place

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One example





Best practices for recording information

- Record full formal names, recording all persons with their birth surname.
 - Some recommend listing surname first in capital letters. Example “SMITH, John”
 - Use additional facts to record alternate names, e.g., married or adoptive names.
- Record dates as day, month, four-digit year (ex: 20 Feb 2019).
- Use “Abt.”, “Bef.”, “Aft.” or “Bet.” for estimated dates.
- Record places as town, county, state, country (ex: Pittsboro, Chatham, North Carolina, United States). Use leading commas if town/county not known.
 - Some researchers add County/ Township/ Village/ etc. in addition to place names.
- Record place names as they were known on the date of the event.
 - Example: Annapolis, Maryland, British North America.
 - Changing county boundaries are a particular challenge. Use resources to ensure you record the place as it was on the date!



Genealogy software: two ways to record your tree.

- On your computing device.
 - Advantages:
 - Privacy, data control, many features.
 - May connect to online resources.
 - Disadvantages:
 - May be difficult to collaborate.
 - Features in one program may not work in another.
- On internet websites.
 - Advantages: Collaboration, research, data preservation.
 - Disadvantages: cost, data ownership, data control.



Genealogy software

- Examples of programs for your personal computer:
 - Family Tree Maker
 - Legacy Family Tree
 - RootsMagic
 - Reunion (for MAC)
 - Family Tree Builder
 - Family Historian
- See: www.smarterhobby.com/genealogy/best-genealogy-software/



Genealogy web sites

Examples of genealogy websites where you can build your tree and do research.

Site	URL	Cost
FamilySearch	https://www.familysearch.org/	Free.
Ancestry	https://www.ancestry.com/	Library Edition free, other uses paid.
MyHeritage	https://www.myheritage.com	Paid.
FindMyPast	https://www.findmypast.com	Paid.
WikiTree	https://www.wikitree.com/	Free.
Genealogy Bank	https://www.genealogybank.com/	Paid.
Newspapers.com	https://www.newspapers.com/	Free through library, other mode paid. Some access with a subscription to Ancestry.
Fold3	https://www.fold3.com/	Paid. Some access with a subscription to Ancestry.
HeritageQuest	https://www.heritagequestonline.com	Free through library, other mode paid.

FamilySearch and WikiTree use “unified” trees (*one Tree to rule them all!*)



GENEALOGY BASICS - G... William Aikens Jones (18... X

Secure | https://www.familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/portrait/MW4T-RQC

FamilySearch

Family Tree Search Memories Indexing

Messages Volunteer Help

Reece Jones

Tree Person Recents Find Lists

Portrait

Options

Miles Jones 1764-1812

Mehitable Adams 1771-1812

Asa Turner 1765-1847

Isabel Ketchum 1765-1843

William Ketcheson 1782-1874

Nancy Ann Roblin 1784-1872

Thomas Jones 1770-1837

Anna Nancy... Meyers 1775-1844

Miles Jones 1794-1885

Pamela Ket... Turner 1805-1883

Washington... Jones 1833-1900

Nancy Ketcheson 1833-1864

Owen Roblin Ketcheson 1809-1891

Jane Jones 1815-1885

William Aikens Jones 1857-1929

Hattie M Givens 1862-1926

Type here to search

9:57 AM 4/30/2018



ancestry Home Trees Search DNA Health Help Extras Hire an Expert 99+ 1 Jim Davis

Davis-Boyt-20170716 Tree Search Search Tools Edit

Oliver Bond Bush
BIRTH 9 AUGUST 1871 • Georgia, United States
DEATH 13 NOVEMBER 1923 • Barrow Ave. Age: 52. Probably tuberculosis, Pelham, Mitchell, Georgia, United States
great-grandfather

View in Tree View Notes View Comments Merge with Duplicate Save to Tree Print Member Connect

LifeStory **Facts** Gallery Hints

Facts Show Add

Name and gender

1871 (AGE) **Birth** 9 August 1871 • Georgia, United States 12 Sources

1871 **Birth (Alternate)** 9 August 1871 • Miller, Georgia, United States 7 Sources

1873 **Birth (Alternate)** about 1873 • Georgia, United States 1 Source

1875 **Birth of Sister Virginia Demaris Bush (1875–1902)** 29 January 1875 • Georgia, United States

1875 **Death of Brother James Scarborough Bush (1868–1875)** 14 April 1875

1876 **Death of Brother James Scarborough Bush (1868–1875)** 14 April 1876

1876 **Birth of Brother Unnamed Bush (1876–1876)** 6 September 1876

1876 **Death of Brother Unnamed Bush (1876–1876)** 8 September 1876

Sources Add

Ancestry Sources

1880 United States Federal Census

1900 United States Federal Census

1910 United States Federal Census

1920 United States Federal Census

Directory of Deceased American Physicians, 1804-1929

Georgia, Death Index, 1919-1998

Georgia, Deaths Index, 1914-1940

Family Add

Parents

Dr Elijah Blackshear Bush Sr 1850–1914

Susan A. Scarborough 1850–1915

Siblings

Spouse & Children

Mattie Lillian McNair 1872–1911

James Abner Bush Sr. 1893–1966

Eunice Monterey Bush 1896–1898

Oliver Bryan Bush 1897–1959

Mabel Lillian Bush 1899–1972

Nancy Emma Bush

Tutorials



Census search example

- If internet available ...
- What we actually did was use FamilySearch.org to try to find ancestors of some in the class.
- We also showed what a tree and combo pedigree/ group chart looked like on Ancestry.com.

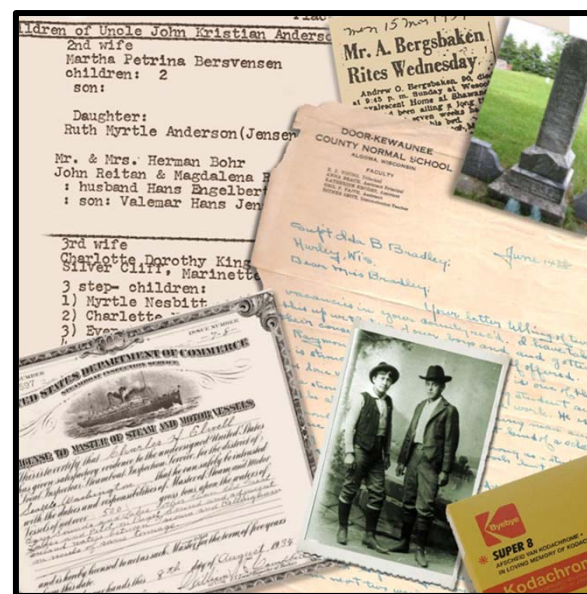


Begin your own family research!



What are some sources of family information?

- Personal knowledge. Record the memories of your oldest family members! Read old letters. Collect old photos.
- Family records, especially bibles.
- Vital records kept by governments.
- Census records, both state and national.
- Cemetery records.
- Church records.
- Newspaper notices, esp. obituaries.
- Military records.
- Land records.
- Probate records.
- Immigration and passenger records.
- Naturalization records.





Search strategies

- Identify, record and source what you know.
- Search family “archives.”
- Choose a type of record to search.
- Obtain records.
- Use the information you found.
- Record your citations.



Two very good resources

- FamilySearch research wiki
 - https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page
 - Enter any search term, but especially locations. The wiki will show you significant results.
 - [Example: Chatham County]
- The Family History Guide to Genealogy
 - <https://www.thefhguide.com/>
 - Free, self-guided learning on family history topics.



What do you do when you meet the inevitable brick wall?

- Investigate the FAN club (Friends, Associates and Neighbors).
- Build a complex timeline of potential ancestors.
- Get a wider net of DNA test results to draw on.
- Take more-specialized DNA tests (Y-DNA and mtDNA) and join projects that specialize in your area.
- Search additional record sets that you haven't already investigated.





Time for your genealogy.

- Open discussion and questions.
- Homework for session 2:
 - Complete a family group sheet for the largest family you have in your tree right now.
 - Complete a pedigree chart using yourself as the starting person. Take it as far back as you like
 - Ensure you have a Family Search account (and others, if you like) and that you've entered your family as far as you can take it.
- Bring your family group sheet and pedigree chart to next session.
- It's fine to enter info into any genealogy software (web, tablet or desktop) and produce these in the software.