

Getting Started in Genealogy

Additional Resources

Below are additional materials and or free resources to help you get started organizing your family history.

Book Ideas



[Organize Your Genealogy: Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher](#)

by Drew Smith

[Our Family Tree: A History of Our Family](#) by Chartwell Books

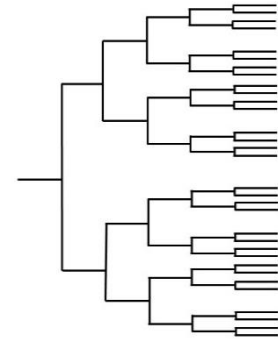
[The Tree of Life - Real Leather Journal](#)

Free Forms and Charts

[Ancestry's Free Charts and Forms Page](#) – These are free to download and use as you wish.

[National Archives Free Forms](#) – This includes free census record worksheets.

At this stage in your research, I recommend the [Family Group Sheet](#) and the [Ancestral Chart](#). These are great if you are just getting started or you are not a computer user. You will use multiple copies of the Family Group Sheet, one for each couple with children.



Bring these charts (your work in progress) to family reunions to have the family help fill in the blanks... especially the Family Group Sheets.

How to Start Your Family Tree for Free – Free eBook



Regardless if you plan to pay for a subscription to a genealogy website like Ancestry.com, FindMyPast, or MyHeritage, you should review my free 16-page eBook.

It is designed to maximize free resources and it might save you some money as you get started.



Online Family Trees

There are several places to start your family tree online. Here are several services that have free or paid subscriptions.

One note about paid vs. free subscriptions. Most paid services allow you to create a tree for free on their platform. In many cases, some of the records are free to view and others are not. Typically, the records that are behind the paywall are those the platform purchased for their subscribers. The records that are free to use are either records that volunteers contributed to or are paid for with tax dollars. For example, the U.S. Census records are always free everywhere because they are U.S. records held at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

About Building Trees

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is highly recommended that you choose one place for your primary tree. This is your “go to” tree where you will always have things as current as possible.

Having trees on all services can be cumbersome to manage every time you have an update to your family history. However, it is recommended to build a tree on other services specific to the ancestors you’re currently researching, as their search functions (hinting features) may find records for you.

FamilySearch.org

[FamilySearch](#) is a service of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints (Mormons). You do not have to be Mormon to use their service. It is free to everyone and will always be free. They encourage you to use it.

Keep in mind when building a tree on FamilySearch that you are adding your family to the world collaborative tree. It is not your own tree. It is one huge world tree, so others can change your work.

This service is an excellent resource of millions of records that may not be found anywhere else or may be available for free, when others require subscription.

Ancestry.com

[Ancestry](#) is one of the largest paid subscription services in the world. It has online trees, records, DNA, and much more. If you’re looking for a one stop shop in the U.S. then Ancestry is an excellent choice. Below are some affiliate links for your convenience. We’ll talk more about how to use Ancestry in other Genealogy TV Academy courses.

- [Ancestry Free Trial](#)
- [Ancestry DNA](#)

FindMyPast

[FindMyPast](#) is another excellent resource. It is headquartered in the United Kingdom and specializes in British and Irish Records. FMP has an online tree building component, free options, online records, and

has unique British and Irish parish records as well as the famous 1939 Registry that you won't find anywhere else. FMP has partnered with [LivingDNA](#) for DNA testing.



[MyHeritage](#) is another excellent resource with a wide variety of tools some of which you will not find anywhere else. Headquartered in Israel, MyHeritage boasts free options along with paid services, tree building, and records from around the world, including the United States. Their DNA services are unmatched by anyone else. For those into learning the DNA side of research, they have chromosome mapping as well as they have partnered with Genetic Affairs to provide Auto Clustering of DNA matches.

The above information regarding online services is constantly evolving. All of these services are excellent and unique.

Additional Videos

Here are some introductory videos about some of the various services to help you see how they work, before you make a decision as to which service you'll choose to start.

- [Inside Scoop About FamilySearch.org](#)
- [FindMyPast UK and Irish Genealogy Research](#)
- [MyHeritage.com Website Tour \(2019\)](#)
- [Ancestry.com](#) There is no general overview about Ancestry. Here is a list of some videos to help you get started.
 - [Ancestry.com: New Hint Feature Tricks \(2019\)](#)
 - [10 Free Things on Ancestry](#)
 - [Ancestry.com New Tools July 2019](#)
 - [Ancestry's New Tree Tags, ThruLines Q's Answered. Bonus Hack!](#)
 - [Ancestor Profile Clean Up on Ancestry.com \(2020\)](#)
 - [Fixing Ancestor Relationships on Ancestry.com](#)
 - [AncestryDNA Shared Matches to Solve Genealogy Research Questions](#)
 - [Playlist of all Ancestry Videos on Genealogy TV](#)

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