



## ***Getting Started in Genealogy***

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1. Start with yourself and work backwards, not skipping generations along the way.
  - a. Accuracy is derived by working the entire family (siblings), not the extent of the depth of your search.
2. Survey family members for family bibles, baby books, photos, family stories.
3. If not familiar with computers or the Internet, learn these skills first.
4. Organize your data in a method that best suits you.
  - a. A software package will hold your documentation, including pictures, and not require duplicating data input. They can generate reports and graphs.
5. Use free resources, such as Family Group Sheets and Pedigree Charts to record your data, all downloadable from the Internet.
  - a. Women are recorded with their maiden name
  - b. Dates are recorded: ddmmyyyy
  - c. Use acceptable abbreviations, e.g., abt, beg, aft, prob
  - d. Create a document of spelling surname variations (including initials for first name)
  - e. When searching, most of the time you will need to have a name, an approximate date, and an approximate location
  - f. Locations are recorded from smallest to largest, e.g., city, county, state, country (if outside U.S.)

6. Cite your sources as you enter your data. There will be conflicting information, which you must learn to reconcile.

a. Someone else's tree is not a source!

7. Collaborate! Ask for help!

a. Find a mentor

b. Join a society

c. Attend workshops

d. Take free online classes

i. [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com)

ii. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

e. Visit our library at 1701 Menlo Avenue, Napa, CA