How To Plant a Family Tree

Genealogy - A Hobby for Yourself, A Legacy for Descendants

To start your family genealogy, begin with yourself. Then, list your parents (include your mother’s maiden name), grandparents, great-grandparents, etc., as far back in your ancestry as possible.

Information to include for each person: Date Born, Where Born, When and Where Married, Death Date, Where Died, Where Buried. Add to this any other interesting details of each person’s life.

Where to Look for Family Information:

**Home Sources:**
- Legal Papers
- Certificates (Birth, Death, Baptismal, Marriage, etc.)
- Military Records
- Family Records
- Family Bibles
- Financial Records
- Announcements
- Licenses
- School Records
- Household Items (Samplers, Silverware, Souvenirs)
- Newspaper Clippings
- Scrapbooks
- Photo Albums

**Institutional Sources:**
- Genealogical Societies
- Historical Societies
- Church Records
- Cemeteries & Cemetery Records
- Township, County, State & National Archives
- County Courthouse Records

CAUTION!! Keep accurate records of where you find each piece of information. Documentation of sources is essential.

START NOW!

Once you have acquired the basic statistical information, your research will become a virtual treasure hunt. You will begin to gather pictures, documents, personal items and memorabilia. You will become acquainted with family members you’ve never met before. You’ll enjoy personal visits with the elder members of the family and will find more at a family reunion than the potluck picnic.

For more information, contact your county historical society.