

Genealogy Basics –A Pedigree Chart

By Joe Petrie

One of the most important parts of Friends of Irish Research's (FIR) free Introductory Seminars and of FIR's free individual consults is when we help clients manually fill-in a Pedigree Chart form (also known as an Ancestor Chart). Generally, we find that the clients can fill-in vital information for all their parents and grandparents; i.e., often dates and places of: Birth, Marriage, Death and Burial. Vital information for great grandparents and even their surnames, especially female maiden surnames, are often unknown.

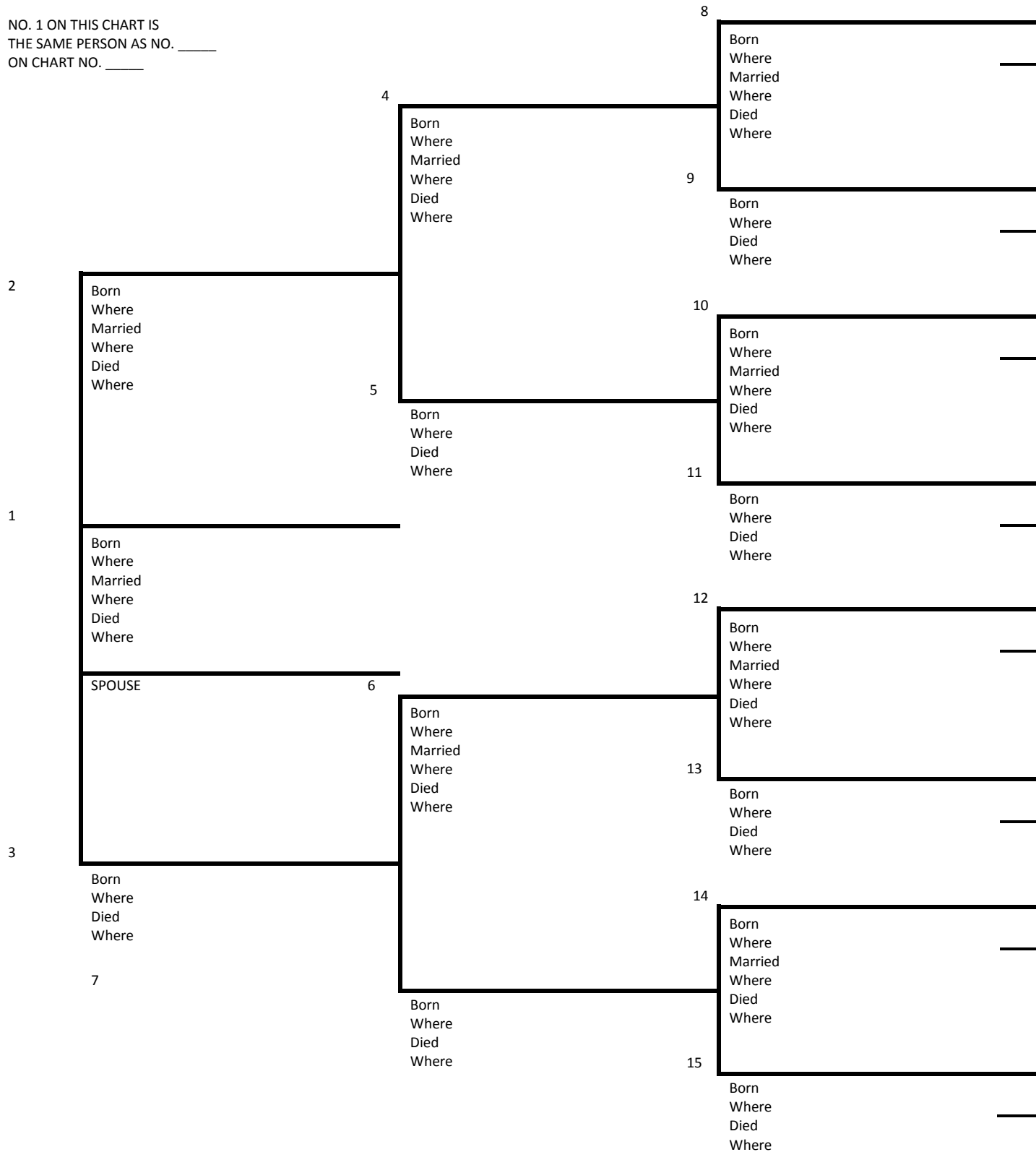
We'll cover only the Pedigree Chart in a case study approach. Case in point: On May 21, 2014, at an individual consult at my local library (a library sponsored event), a client, Marie, told me that she always wanted to construct a Pedigree Chart. I gave Marie a blank Pedigree Chart. I told Marie to fill-in what she could - starting with herself in Block 1. In Block 2, I told Marie to fill in her father's information followed by her mother's information in Block 3. In Blocks 4 and 5, I told Marie to fill in her father's parents' information where the male's information was always in the even numbered block. Then she filled in Blocks 6, 7, 8 and 9 without further help. (Please note that Blocks 8 and 9 were Great Grandparents' blocks.) Marie could not fill in the remainder of the Great Grandparents blocks.

I asked Marie a series of questions about her grandmother's information that was contained in Block 5 and most importantly the marriage information from Block 4. (To save space, the marriage information is only recorded in the even numbered blocks.) Because they were married in Massachusetts, we searched for their Marriage Register record in the AmericanAncestors.org web site. We found their marriage record and more importantly the bride's and groom's parents' full names (including mothers' maiden names). The record identified when the couple was married, where they were married and the name and address of the official who registered the marriage. We downloaded the image. Please note that if the couple had been married in Cape Breton, it is likely that much of the same information could be found in the NovaScotiaGenealogy.com web site. Also, please note that the blank form that follows is similar to the one that Marie used.

PEDIGREE CHART

CHART NO. _____

NO. 1 ON THIS CHART IS
THE SAME PERSON AS NO. _____
ON CHART NO. _____



During the remainder of the two hour session, using the FamilySearch.org and AmericanAncestors.org web sites, Marie found 4 of 5 of her grandmother's siblings, including birth records for 3 of them. Using US Census records in FamilySearch.org, Marie determined that her great grandparents were married in Ireland and immigrated to the US when their eldest daughter was 1 year old. For the eldest daughter, she found a birth month and year, her married surname and her daughter.

And it all started with Marie's first Pedigree Chart.

Friends of Irish Research (FIR) is a CBGHA Affiliate. The PowerPoint Seminar is available on the FIR web site, www.friendsofirishresearch.org in the School of Irish Genealogy tab.

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Your comments and suggestions are important to me. My address is: joe-apg@norwoodlight.com

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