

Genealogy Introductory Seminar

Friends of Irish Research (FIR)

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Brockton, MA 02301

<http://www.friendsofirishresearch.org/>



Coverage

- **How to start family genealogy research**
- **What to collect**
- **Where to find the information**
- **When to conduct family genealogy research**
- **Beginner's Guide**
- **FIR's Free Help**
- **Got Genealogy's 10 Golden Rules**
- **Form Workshop**



How

Gather information from family sources and transcribe the information on genealogy forms that are commonly used or plain white paper.

- Start with your family
- Move on to your families – call or visit the elders
- Ask about their families
- Ask to see photos
- Ask to see documents



What

Collect and transcribe vital information: births, marriages, deaths, christening and burial.

- Do I really need Baptism/Christening information?
- How do I record unmarried couples with children?
- How do I record spouses where I can't find a surname especially a maiden name?



Where

Identify repositories and web sites.

Critical questions are:

- Why use a Family History Center?
- As the Internet coverage increases, do I really need to visit repositories?



When

When is there an appropriate time and place.

- Do I ask questions at weddings, funerals, wakes etc.? One tip is to collect telephone numbers and email addresses at the event and ask whether the individual is receptive to a call or an email to discuss family genealogy.
- Another is to collect obituary information from a newspaper, at a wake or funeral and call family later.



Beginners Guide

The best place to begin your research is at home. Write down everything you know about your family. Begin with yourself and your immediate family, then your parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. Do not overlook siblings as they may remember things that you do not know. Use a blank Pedigree Chart for parents and grandparents. Use a Family Group Sheet for each family. Use two or more for multiple marriages. The Mid-Continent Public Library (<http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/family-history-forms>) has free forms.



Beginners Guide - Research

Check through family records looking for birth, death and marriage records. Family Bibles often contain family records. Check with family for newspaper clippings of obituaries, wedding announcements, birth announcements, death certificates, journals, charts, military papers, old photos, ancestral charts, registers, pedigree charts, etc.



Beginners Guide – Stay Organized

- Write everything down and if possible digitize it.
- Make a list to keep track of your research. If possible, use a computer program. One computer technique is described in [Family History Quick Start](http://www.familyhistoryquickstart.com) (www.familyhistoryquickstart.com) where the authors offer a free on-line course on using folders to store information and on the use of a scanner (with the OCR capability) to collect and digitize information.
- Remember to document the source.



Beginner's Guide – Create a Tree

- Create a Family Tree - also known as a Pedigree Chart. (My first one was in pencil on graph paper.)
- Why? It will help you to identify what Vital information is missing, i.e., Places and Dates of Birth, Marriage(s), Death and Burial.



Beginner's Guide – Software?

- If you have a computer, install freeware. We recommend Legacy 7.0, a free software. Please see our website.
- Transfer your information to your computer program. Check for typos and missing data. In the record's notes section, cite sources. Once you have checked all family sources you need to decide what missing information you want to locate about your family.



Getting Free Help from FIR

- Free Genealogy Consults are available from the Friends of Irish Research.
- The genealogy volunteers help people begin their family history and break-down genealogy barriers. In addition to specializing in Irish genealogy, our volunteers have done extensive research in the US (especially in Massachusetts) and Canada (especially in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland).



About FIR's Free Help

- FIR volunteers staff the facility on most Friday evenings from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM.
- We prefer that free consults be scheduled by Email by emailing friendsofirishresearch@gmail.com. Your Email should provide information on the individual(s) that you need the volunteers to assist you with. A response normally is processed the same day.



No Computer or No Email

Please call FIR at 978-660-5041.



FIR Web Site Information

<http://www.friendsofirishresearch.org/>

- [Genealogy Research](#)
- [Links To Our Friends](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Joe's Free Websites](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [School of Irish Genealogy](#)



Information on FIR's Consultation Form

- Name
- Address
- Research Goal (Get Started, Irish Citizenship, Locate Ancestor)
- Ancestor's Vital Information (Date and Place)
- Children Vital Information
- What You Have Found (from Various Resources)



10 Rules from “Got Genealogy”

Rule No. 1

“SPELING DUSN’T COWNT” check all variant spellings of names. Whenever possible, use wild card or Soundex searches to help

Rule No. 2

ASSUME NOTHING don’t assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and corroborate your facts as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify.



Rules 3 and 4

Rule No. 3

USE DISCRETION when reporting family information, as it may affect some of your living relatives.

Rule No. 4

ALWAYS DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY CONTRADICT ONE ANOTHER



Rules 5 - 7

Rule No. 5

MOST DATES ARE APPROXIMATE

Rule No. 6

IF UNSURE, SAY SO

Rule No. 7

COMPUTERS ARE GREAT, BUT DON'T FORGET
THE LIBRARY



Rules 8 - 10

Rule No. 8

JUST BECAUSE IT'S ONLINE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TRUE

Rule No. 9

PASS YOUR RESEARCH ALONG

Rule No. 10

DON'T DIE WITH YOUR STORIES STILL IN YOU

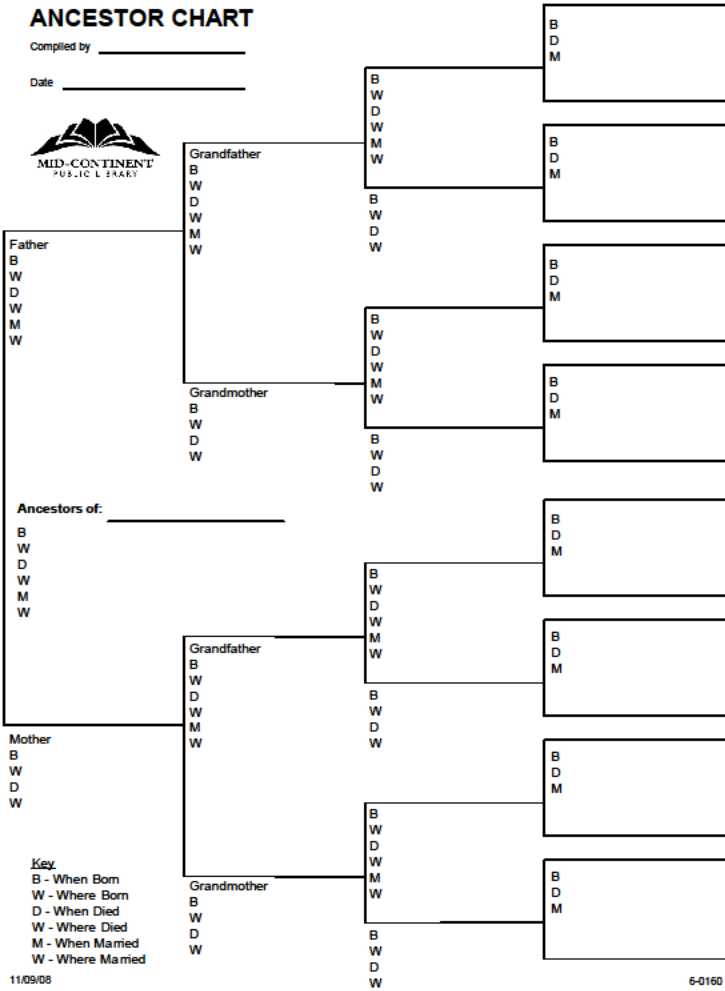


Pedigree Chart Workshop

ANCESTOR CHART

Compiled by _____

Date _____



Family Group Sheet Workshop

Compiled by _____
 Date _____

FAMILY UNIT CHART



DATE (day-mo-yr) LOCATION (city / township, county, state)

HUSBAND

Birth		
Marriage		
Death		
Burial		
His father's full name		
His mother's maiden name		
Other wives' names		

WIFE

Birth		
Death		
Burial		
Her father's full name		
Her mother's maiden name		
Other husbands' names		

CHILDREN	DATE (day-mo-yr)	LOCATION (city / township, county, state)
#1	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#2	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#3	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#4	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#5	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#6	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	

10/08/07

(Over)

