Beginner Kit for Family History Research

A suggestion guide for those interested in researching
their family history

Developed by
GRAND STRAND GENEALOGY CLUB
Meetings held the second Saturday of the month
10 am-12 noon
at
Chapin Memorial Library
400 14th Avenue North
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Club website: www.scgsgc.org
Club email: genieclub2002@gmail.com
Also check out our Facebook page

As a beginner researching of your family, do you wonder how do I start? An internet google search 9/11/2019 for "beginning genealogical research" noted that there are 22,500,000 internet links or sites for the beginner in addition to books for beginners. Each suggested system is written differently and yet there is sameness as far as

…... how to start,

…...where to find information,

…...what to do with found information.

This booklet suggests a basic step by step process for beginning genealogical researchers and also seasoned researchers who need a "restart".

  The Grand Strand Genealogy Club (GSGC) hopes that you will use this booklet as a guide for your journey. The club meetings are held the second Saturday of the month at 10 am in the Chapin Library first floor meeting room and offers presentations, a mentoring program and interactive discussions.

In addition, Chapin Library on the second floor has a dedicated room for genealogy research. The Shirley Boone Research Room contains a wealth of research books and materials organized by interest and information. In this room you can find a quiet environment, tables, chairs and two computers to work on your research. There are additional computers in the main room which you may use as well. Here you have access to the world edition of Ancestry plus Chapin Library is a dedicated Family History Research affiliate library. Library personnel in the main room are also available to answer questions you may have.

  You are encouraged to attend the GSGC meetings, investigate the Shirley Boone Research Room plus free access to the Ancestry and Family Search genealogical programs. You may wish to bring a thumb drive to download information you find. It may also be printed off or emailed to your home computer. To have access to the Chapin Library computers, you will need your library card and pin number. The GSGC has no membership dues but does have a Geni Jar which accepts donations to enhance our programs.

Why are you interested in genealogy? Are you curious about family history, previous generations and if you share any of their genes? Wonder where to start family history research? What is wonderful about this process is that are no specific rules and no two people conduct research in the same way. Following are suggestions which may be helpful as you formulate an approach to plan your family history journey.

Step 1 – Interview family members for information and memories. Be sure to document who shared the information. You may want to record or video the interviews for future reference.

Step 2 - Start listing vital facts (birth, marriage, death) about yourself and your family. Be sure to document where you found the information such as census records, birth certificate, family.

Step 3 – Organize the information. To start with suggest you use a Pedigree chart. Below is a sample and in the appendix there is a complete chart you may copy and fill in the facts about your family.

<div align="center">

Tips for Completing a Pedigree Chart

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List your name in position #1 on the left side of the chart.
Positions 2 and 3 will list your father and your mother.
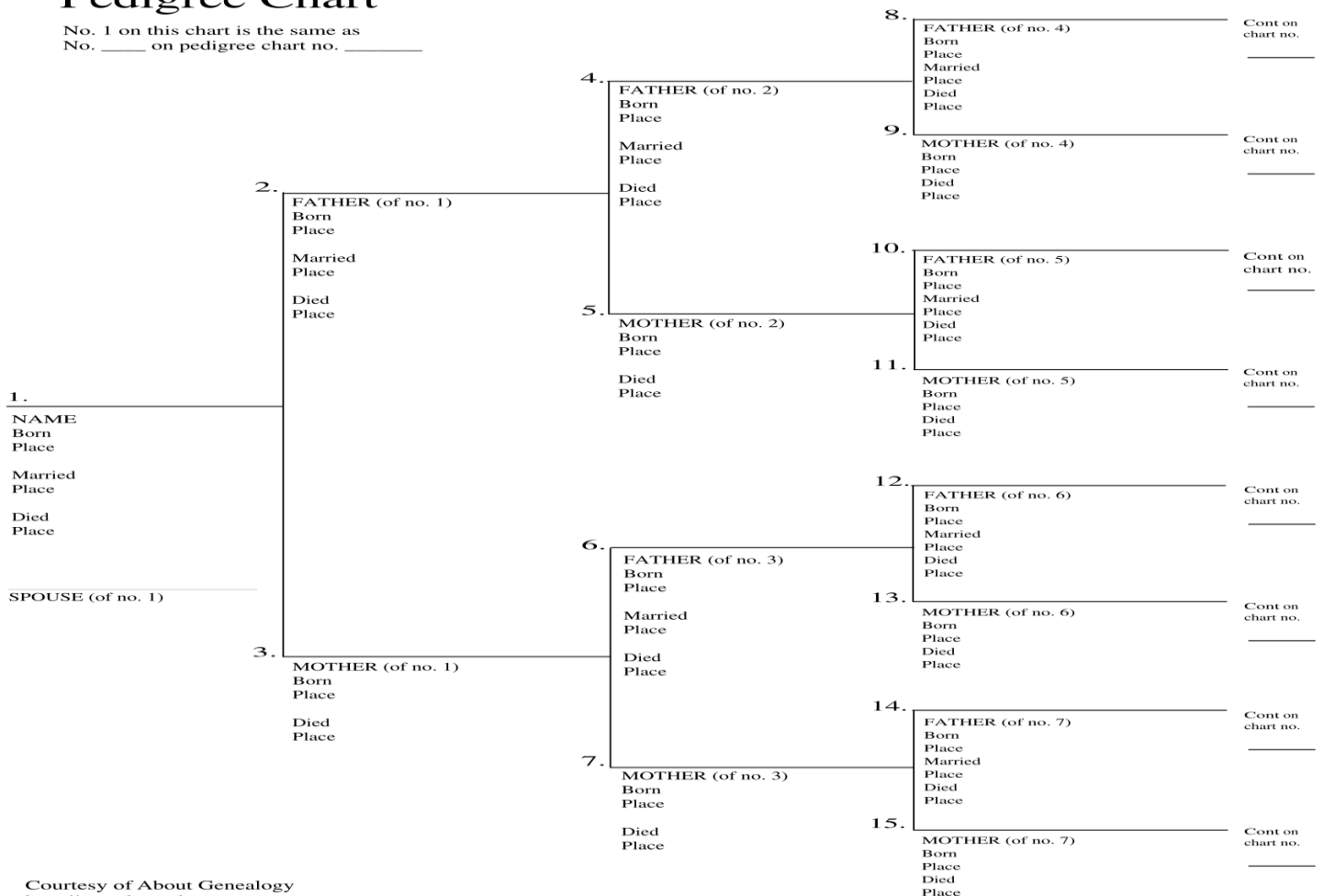Continue building to the right, including grandparents, great-grandparents etc.
Always use MAIDEN NAMES for any female listed on your chart even if have been married several times.
When entering genealogical dates, the general accepted format is day, month, year.

Pedigree Chart

Chart no. _____

No. 1 on this chart is the same as
No. _____ on pedigree chart no. _____

1.
NAME
Born
Place

Married
Place

Died
Place

SPOUSE (of no. 1)

2. FATHER (of no. 1)
Born
Place

Married
Place

Died
Place

3. MOTHER (of no. 1)
Born
Place

Died
Place

4. FATHER (of no. 2)
Born
Place

Married
Place

Died
Place

5. MOTHER (of no. 2)
Born
Place

Died
Place

6. FATHER (of no. 3)
Born
Place

Married
Place

Died
Place

7. MOTHER (of no. 3)
Born
Place

Died
Place

8. FATHER (of no. 4)
Born
Place
Married
Place
Died
Place
Cont on chart no. _____

9. MOTHER (of no. 4)
Born
Place
Died
Place
Cont on chart no. _____

10. FATHER (of no. 5)
Born
Place
Married
Place
Died
Place
Cont on chart no. _____

11. MOTHER (of no. 5)
Born
Place
Died
Place
Cont on chart no. _____

12. FATHER (of no. 6)
Born
Place
Married
Place
Died
Place
Cont on chart no. _____

13. MOTHER (of no. 6)
Born
Place
Died
Place
Cont on chart no. _____

14. FATHER (of no. 7)
Born
Place
Married
Place
Died
Place
Cont on chart no. _____

15. MOTHER (of no. 7)
Born
Place
Died
Place
Cont on chart no. _____

Courtesy of About Genealogy
http://genealogy.about.com

Step 4 – Since each family have a number of children and information on the pedigree chart is more general, you may want to fill in a Family Group Record giving more specific details about each family. This would list the parents giving information about each parent regarding where and when born and other details. It would also list all the children and information about them. A form that may be copied is available in the appendix.

Family Group Record

Step 5 – If you use the computer, you may want to investigate the various programs to record your facts and it will give you the ability to add information as you find it. Family Search (www.familysearch.org) is a free program with tutorials, free forms and access to ancestral information.

Step 6 – The best place to start is with yourself and work backwards recording and documenting your information. Federal census records are a good starting point. According to the year, they may give you information about where your ancestors were living, number of children living with them, occupation, where born and other information to give you clues of where to look next. You become a detective figuring out where the clues will lead you so you can prove that the facts are true. Depending on the time frame, there are all sorts of sources online to help you find out about your ancestors.

Step 7 – Starting your research, stay focused on one person. Don't try to do all the people at once. It generally is easier to trace the father's side to begin with because the last names would be the same. It is easy to get side- tracked, so try and stay focused!

Step 8– You are now off and running. Everyone has different reasons to want to find out about their ancestors. It is part of the past that helps make you who you are. From the beginning you can go in many different directions with your research. Family Search, which was mentioned in step 4, will help you establish your tree and beginning research. It provides research strategies, web sites, resources, and books for your review. Many other programs have similar resources.

*Don't forget to check out our website at **www.scgsgc.org**. Feel free to contact Grand Strand Genealogy Club (**genieclub2002@gmail.com**) should you desire additional mentoring support.*

We welcome your feedback as to how you were able to use the information provided and would appreciate suggestions and additional resources helpful to the new researcher.

Happy hunting into the past!