

Genealogy at the Memphis Public Library-Getting Started

STEP 1:

Talk to your relatives. Start with the oldest ones first. Be sure to take written notes or record your interviews. Gather names, birthdays, and residences of their parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. Fill out this information on the pedigree chart provided.

STEP 2:

Identify your research subject. Start with the relatives before 1950. Write down their first, middle, and last names. Be sure to consider name spelling variations—literacy has varied among the populace throughout history and record keeping was affected by that as well.

Subject 1:

First Name_____ Middle Name_____ Last Name_____

Birthday_____

Birthplace and other Residences_____

Subject 2:

First Name_____ Middle Name_____ Last Name_____

Birthday_____

Birthplace and other Residences_____

Subject 3:

First Name_____ Middle Name_____ Last Name_____

Birthday_____

Birthplace and other Residences_____

STEP 3:

While you're researching, only pursue one subject at a time. Use Ancestry inside a Memphis Public Library Branch to search the available records. Identify your ancestors by using key information and context clues (recognizable household members, etc.). Work backwards from there.

NOTES:

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