Family Research Forum

26300 Evergreen Rd | Southfield, MI 48076 | www.southfieldlibrary.org | 248-796-4224

How to Research Your Family's Ancestors

The purpose of family research is to discover and prove where your ancestors lived, who they married, how they are related, etc.

1. **Create printed, organized overviews of what you already know**. *Pedigree charts* summarize what you know about your family and are handy while researching or communicating with others. You can find printable forms on Ancestry Library Edition; most genealogy software provides them, too. *Strongly consider* having an electronic database for your information so that you can keep your charts accurate and print them easily.

2. **Follow your direct line.** Use their vital records---birth, marriage, death.

3. **Find all censuses** where your direct ancestor appears.

4. **Develop a chronology** of your ancestor's life to better understand their entire lifespan, starting with vital record and census information. Add other important events (the birth of siblings, the loss of parents, migrations, illnesses, etc.) to better understand their circumstances, influences and outlook.

5. **Write a narrative** for each direct ancestor based on their chronology. Here is when you can best think through possible scenarios and examine the conclusions you've made. Also, you can add information to put them in a geographical/historical context.

Further development: deeds, wills and estate records; church records; *collateral relatives* (brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews.) DNA testing may put you in contact with others who are related to you---sometimes they're able to expand your information. You must have a sound genealogy for DNA testing to be useful! When working with a DNA match, being aware of your collateral lines greatly increases the likelihood of finding exactly *where* you match.

Ancestral Chart

ancestry.com

Chart No. _____

No. 1 on this chart is
the same person as No. _____

On Chart No. _____

BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

NAME OF SPOUSE

BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

CONT. ON CHART _____

CONT. ON CHART _____

CONT. ON CHART _____

CONT. ON CHART _____

CONT. ON CHART _____

CONT. ON CHART _____

CONT. ON CHART _____

CONT. ON CHART _____

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Family Group Record

ancestry

Prepared By _____ Relationship to Preparer _____

Address _____ Date _____ Ancestral Chart # _____ Family Unit # _____

Spouse 1

Occupation(s) _____ Religion _____

	Date—Day, Month, Year	City	County	State or Country	
Born					
Christened					Name of Church
Married					Name of Church
Died					Cause of Death
Buried		Cem/Place			Date Will Written/Proved
Father		Other Spouses			
Mother					

Spouse 2

Occupation(s) _____ Religion _____

Born					
Christened					Name of Church
Died					Cause of Death
Buried		Cem/Place			Date Will Written/Proved
Father		Other Spouses			
Mother					

•	Sex	Children Given Names	Birth Day Month Year	Birthplace City	County	St./Ctry.	Date of first marriage/Place Name of Spouse	Date of Death/Cause City County State/Country	Computer I.D. #
		1							
		2							
		3							
		4							
		5							
		6							
		7							
		8							
		9							
		10							
		11							
		12							

Relationship Chart

- Identify your nearest common direct ancestor with the relative.
- Locate your relationship with the common ancestor and the relative's relationship to the common ancestor.

If My \ Are Their	Parent	Grand Parents	2 x Grand Parents	3 x Grand Parents	4 x Grand Parents
Parent	Sibling	Niece or nephew	Grand Niece or nephew	2 x Grand Niece or nephew	3 x Grand Niece or nephew
Grand Parents	Niece or nephew	**1st cousin**	1st cousin 1 x removed	1st cousin 2 x removed	1st cousin x removed
2 x Grand Parents	Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 1 x removed	**2nd cousin**	2nd cousin 1 x removed	2nd cousin 2 x removed
3 x Grand Parents	2 x Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 2 x removed	2nd cousin 1 x removed	**3rd cousin**	3rd cousin 1 x removed
4 x Grand Parents	3 x Grand Niece or nephew	1st cousin 3 x removed	2nd cousin 2 x removed	3rd cousin 1 x removed	**4th cousin**

So Much Genealogy on the Internet!

Books

FamilySearch Digital Library familysearch.org/library/books *A searchable, full-text collection of family/personal histories and area records. Type a surname, county or other term into the Search box. You'll need to create a free account if you don't have one already.*

Genealogical Publishing Company genealogical.com *Selling to researchers, libraries and book dealers, this publisher has been in business for many years. Order online, subscribe to their 800-title searching capability or read their weekly blog. Has been listed on the "Best 101 Websites" for Family Tree Magazine.*

Google Books books.google.com *A gigantic collection of books of all kinds. With your free Google account, you can move titles into your own "Library" and add tags. Some are fully viewable, others can be previewed and possibly Interloaned through your Library.*

Cemeteries

Cemetery Records Interment.net *Worldwide*

Find a Grave Findagrave.com *Southfield cemeteries are here. Be careful of using photos; they are copyrighted by the contributors, who "own" them.*

Certification

Board for Certification of Genealogists bcgcertification.org
How to become certified, genealogists' Code of Ethics, genealogical proof standards, skill building and more. Here's one place to find a certified genealogist and their research specialties.

Commercial databases through the SPL Website

Ancestry Library Edition *is available ONLY from an SPL computer in the Library and is NOT available to you from home. IMPORTANT: While in the Library, use the link from our SPL Genealogy webpage to connect. The Library edition differs from the personal subscription version---it's information only; you can't create a record. Ancestry is a great source of census images, which are primary evidence (i.e., documents created at the time of an event.) It's important to find your ancestors in each census. Don't forget to seek out the Slave Schedules (1850 and 1860 only), when needed. You can email records of interest to yourself or others.*

MyHeritage Library Edition *is available both while you're in the library (use the link from the SPL Genealogy webpage) AND from home (Southfield/Lathrup Village cardholders). In addition, Michigan residents can use it through Mel.org. Like Ancestry, this is a Library Edition. Besides the full US federal census it also offers selected other censuses from the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada, Venezuela, Netherlands, France, etc.*

Commercial Databases (where you can build and maintain your family genealogy)

Ancestry ancestry.com (Subscription version) *to build an online tree with attached sources, you must use the personal subscription version. Ancestry DNA tests are very popular so there are many people available for comparison. Everybody seems to be on Ancestry.*

FamilySearch familysearch.org *A worldwide Family Tree for creating original entries or using profiles already created by other researchers. The huge LDS database of original documents and high-quality transcriptions is searchable and can be linked to your entries. Be aware: as a Wiki, this is a group effort, so you can modify the entries of others and vice versa! You must create an account---which is free. AI is helping them transcribe even more original documents.*

Legacy Family Tree legacyfamilytree.com *Serious software for your personal computer, affiliated with FamilySearch. The Standard Edition is free. Available in foreign languages. Notice the "20 Reasons to Buy" link at the bottom. A good candidate for your personal research archive.*

MyHeritage myheritage.com (Subscription version) *Family trees build quickly here. Offers DNA testing. Innovative software enhances your photos: colorizing, animating, dressing in period costumes, etc.*

Rootsmagic rootsmagic.com *A respected family tree software for your home computer that replaces Family Tree Maker and synchs with your Ancestry tree, if you choose. FamilySearch certified. A good choice for anyone.*

Tribalpages tribalpages.com *A free online database with fee-based upgrades for increased space and features. Good value; secure and private; great reports; charts and pedigrees are quickly and easily generated. Free mobile app.*

WikiTree wikitree.com *Another wiki site creating a worldwide family tree. Free, with an active, outreaching community for friendly activities. It asks members to abide by their Honor Code which emphasizes accuracy, cooperation and courtesy.*

DNA Testing

There are 3 main kinds of commercial tests of interest to genealogists:

1) Y chromosome (paternal, deep ancestry, only men can test)

2) mitochondrial (maternal, deep ancestry, both men and women can test)

3) autosomal (draws from both sides of your ancestry and is the most versatile for matching with others, both men and women can take this test.)

African Ancestry africanancestry.com *This black-owned company traces your genetic ancestry back to one of 400 ethnic groups. No autosomal testing. All-inclusive, family travel option to Cameroon, Ghana and Sierra Leone for those who test. The largest database of African lineages.*

Ancestry dna.ancestry.com *Autosomal testing only. Uncomplicated. Nice "origins" reporting with percentages. Lots of people use this test, so it's a good place for anyone to connect and share family trees. Look out for sales.*

DNA Painter www.dnapainter.com *A free, user-friendly online tool for chromosome mapping. People say it's addictive!*

Family Tree DNA familytreedna.com *The first consumer DNA testing company. Look out for sale pricing. Sophisticated software allows specific chromosome comparisons with others (chromosome browser.)*

International Society of Genetic Genealogy isogg.org *Confused by the whole DNA thing? Here's an authoritative place to educate yourself or find a consultant who can interpret your results or compare testing services.*

MyHeritage myheritage.com *DNA matching, origins and ethnicity estimates and genetic groups---all from your cheek swab. Includes a chromosome browser. Price friendly.*

23andMe 23andme.com *Complete testing with an easy to use matching tool; shows Neanderthal percentage; integrates tests from other family members. Colorful and well laid out. Look out for sales.*

Focused Information

Backcountry Revolutionary; Southern Campaign Revolutionary War Pension Statements & Rosters revwarapps.org *At this writing, over 30,000 pension applications/bounty land claims and 485 roster transcriptions. Shows links to similar sites, including Free African Americans in the Revolution.*

Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writer's Project, 1936-1938. www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection/ *A digital collection of the Library of Congress; there are 2,300 first person accounts and 500 black and white photographs of former slaves. These materials were gathered in the 1930's.*

Charles F. Heartman Manuscripts of Slavery Collection cdm16948.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16948coll6 *Part of the Xavier University of Louisiana digital library. Spanning from 1724 to 1897, these documents pertain to enslaved Negroes and Free People of Color in Louisiana, especially the New Orleans area.*

Digital Library on American Slavery library.uncg.edu/slavery/ *University of North Carolina. Varied sets of documents---legislative petitions, county court petitions, wills, inventories, deeds, bills of sale, cohabitation records, court proceedings and documents related to civil cases filed by slave owners, slaves and free people of color.*

JewishGen jewishgen.org *"The Global Home for Jewish Genealogy." There's a lot to discover here. This worldwide experience includes a Holocaust database and a place to search family trees.*

Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery informationwanted.org *For decades after Emancipation, formerly enslaved families placed ads to reconnect with their scattered loved ones.*

Les Filles du Roi - The King's Daughters www.acadian.org/history/les-filles-du-roi-kings-daughters/ *In 1661, New France was struggling and needed to become better established. Single and widowed women in France were encouraged to come to New France (Quebec), marry, establish families and become permanent residents.*

LowCountry Africana lowcountryafricana.com *A website and research project to study Gullah/Geechee cultural heritage in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida; digitized and indexed. A "treasure trove of primary documents, book excerpts and multimedia" that takes time to explore.*

National Society Descendants of Colonial Indentured Servants indenturedservants.org *Their listing of online resources (which includes a link to the Immigrant Servants Database at Price Genealogy) offers help in locating these elusive ancestors. Take a look at their list of Approved Ancestors.*

Revolutionary War usgwarchives.net/pensions/revwar *Pensions, rosters and land grants posted on USGenWeb, from various sources including state libraries.*

Sephardicgen sephardicgen.com *Created by Jeffrey Malka to bring information and guidance to Sephardic family researchers.*

US GenWeb Projects www.usgenweb.org *free genealogy sites organized by state with gateway links to counties; developed in 1996 and maintained by volunteers .....some counties have vibrant sites while others are underdeveloped or orphaned; nevertheless, still an important source of unique, local information, don't overlook this.*

US Indian Census Rolls accessgenealogy.com/native/free-us-indian-census-rolls.htm *A free site, arranged by jurisdiction, can also search through a tribe link, 1885-1940. These censuses also show on Ancestry and Fold3.*

Virginia Untold: The African American Narrative lva.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/collectionDiscovery?vid=01LVA_INST:01LVA&collectionId=81107304620005756&lang=en *A gorgeous treasure trove of document images with abstracts and indexing.*

Voyages www.slavevoyages.org *The Trans-Atlantic and Intra-American Slave Trade Databases have information on thousands of slave voyages starting in 1514. LOTS of fascinating background information on the site, including lesson plans.*

Yad Vashem yadvashem.org *The World Holocaust Remembrance Center commemorates Jews murdered in the Shoah. The Hall of Names creates a memorial to many of them with names and photographic portraits, restoring their personal identity.*

1890 Census Substitute Project, Oakland County (Michigan) ocgsmi.org/1890-census-substitute-project/ *An irreplaceable contribution.*

Genealogical Societies

DAR Daughters of the American Revolution dar.org *Lineage records are online; look in GRS (Genealogical Research System) section for patriots and descendants.*

Detroit Society for Genealogical Research dsgr.org *Organized in 1936. Note the Denissen Index (in Resources) to Genealogy of the French Families of the Detroit River Region; members can view the full text.*

Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society fhwgs.org *The first African American genealogical society in Michigan. Take a look at the Links Page.*

Oakland County Genealogical Society ocgsmi.org *Inspect the Free Information and Data. This organization always has a worthwhile project in development.*

Immigration

Immigrant Ancestors Project immigrants.byu.edu *"Brigham Young University uses emigration registers to locate information about the birthplaces of immigrants in their native countries, since this information is often omitted in many port registers and naturalization documents of their destination countries." Records come from throughout Europe.*

ISTG Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild immigrantships.net *Starting with lists from the 1600's; they're always recruiting volunteers to help transcribe---see the online application form.*

Libraries

Allen County Public Library genealogycenter.org *Located in nearby Ft. Wayne IN, this is one of the most important genealogy collections in the country. Well-worth visiting in person, you can prepare in advance by searching their catalog. Lots of good advice on their YouTube channel.*

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
familysearch.org *Find a Family History Center to visit, create a chart, search their catalog for resources or search their truly stupendous collection of online records; A VERY IMPORTANT SOURCE OF ONLINE DOCUMENTS.*

The Library of Congress loc.gov *Of special interest in their Digital Collections is Chronicling America (chroniclingamerica.loc.gov), a collection of digitized American newspapers from 1756-1963.*

The Library of Michigan (LOM)
www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/public/programs-for-the-public *Programs are historical and genealogical; you can register for a Zoom link that will be sent to you. The Library of Michigan also offers the use of subscription databases to in-state cardholders. Follow their link to apply for an e-card.*

National Archives archives.gov/research *A staggering number of federal documents are in the archive itself or its regional branches. Because the holdings are so vast, it's not easy to access them without contacting the Archives directly, going there in person or hiring a researcher. Their online site aims to provide indexes, finding aids and research tools, as well as instructions for researching in person.*

Maps

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries
digital.newberry.org/ahcb *Informative and easy to use. Keep in mind that the records you need might be found in another county due to changing boundaries over the years. From the Newberry Library in Chicago.*

David Rumsey Map Collection davidrumsey.com *Stanford University Library, Cartography Associates. Many kinds of maps, modern and old, with full citations. Downloadable, can order prints. Focuses on rare 18th and 19th century maps of North and South America.*

Multi-purpose Destinations

Google google.com *Several possibilities for genealogists; free. Books, Docs, Google Earth, Search, Map, Alerts. Starting searches with "genealogy:" helps focus results. You can build your own library of books and documents.*

Photographs

Dead Fred deadfred.com *Accepts photos or images of photos taken prior to 1965 of persons who are deceased; you can submit them with tags or list them as "Mystery". You can download a posted image or even apply to have the original---if there are no other claimants and you can prove your relationship, it will be shipped to you. They will take photos that you don't want or can't take care of and add them to their archive.*

iMemories imemories.com *They've digitized 50 million memories and have never lost or damaged one! Will digitize and can enhance if you choose. Will give an advance quote.*

Library of Congress loc.gov/pictures *All kinds of pictures to enjoy and learn from. Type in your ancestor's county or occupation. Digitized images can be downloaded---but first read the "Rights and Restrictions Information" page. Most images can be purchased.*

Scandigital scandigital.com *Another place to professionally digitize your photos, slides, negatives and home movies.*

Portals

CyndisList cyndislist.com *Free; a HUGE cross-referenced index of genealogy sites begun in 1996; a place to begin or to ponder, especially when you're stumped.*

Linkpendium linkpendium.com *another gigantic site of genealogy links developed by the founders of Rootsweb; organized in a straightforward way by locality or surname; some links are free, some are fee.*

YouTube youtube.com *Search under "genealogy" for an array of good advice, interesting ideas and useful demonstrations from a variety of personalities.*

Research Assistance

Ancestor Seekers ancestorseekers.com *Offering "Dream Genealogy Vacations" to Salt Lake City centered around the FamilySearch Library. A week-long trip includes nearby accommodations and optional evening group activities; Ancestor Seekers consultants will assist you, in addition to the staff and volunteers of the FamilySearch Library.*

Legacy Tree Genealogists legacytree.com *Affiliated with MyHeritage and headquartered in Salt Lake City, they are highly regarded and cover many parts of the world. Sample reports show on the site. Flexible payment options available.*

ProGenealogists progenealogists.com *Affiliated with Ancestry, their process starts with a research estimate. Heritage tourism, heir research, books and oral histories are also available.*

What is a GEDCOM?

It's an acronym standing for **GE**nealogical **D**ata **COM**munications.

GEDCOM is a file format first developed in 1987 by the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) to allow the import/export of computerized information between genealogical databases. With GEDCOM, you're able to communicate the information from *your* application to other, different genealogy applications. It formats the file in a standard way that promotes sharing. Nearly every genealogy application supports GEDCOM.

To convert your information to a GEDCOM file, follow the Export menu prompts in your genealogy software; if online, follow the Download instructions.

To use or receive a GEDCOM file, follow the instructions for Import or Uploading. When receiving a file, it's generally best to make a new database instead of integrating it with your already existing information.

There have been many revisions and improvements to GEDCOM over the years. It's still stands as the most widely recognized way of trading information between genealogical researchers.

8 Steps for Tracing Slave Ancestors

Franklin Carter Smith and Emily Anne Croom December 2002

Follow these steps for using 1850 and 1860 slave schedules to trace your slave ancestors.

Before starting to trace enslaved ancestors, you'll need to research your family back to the Civil War in censuses, vital records and other genealogical sources. Find as much information as you can.

Then review a family group sheet of the post-Civil War family members you want to focus on. You'll need a list of their given names and ages to (l) determine which family members might have been born as slaves and (2) determine the slaveholder's name.

If you know the slaveholding family's name, you can start researching that family. If not, start with the presumption that your ancestral family kept its former or most recent slaveholder's surname—but be alert for clues that imply otherwise.

Here are eight steps to get started:

1. Using your list of ancestral family members from the 1870 census, subtract 10 years from your subjects' 1870 ages to estimate their ages in 1860. Isolate the names and ages of those who were living in 1860 for the next steps.

2. Look at the neighborhood where your ancestors lived in 1870 for white families with the same surname. Make your search countywide, or even statewide, if your ancestors' name was unique. Create a list of same-surname candidates for the slaveholding family. Include possible spelling

variations: Harget(t), Hargit(t), Horgett, Hargot, Horgatt and so on. Consider going back as far as the 1850 census, or that county's marriage and deed records, to look for white families of that surname.

3. Determine which of the white families on your list owned slaves in 1860 by looking at that county's 1860 slave schedule. You might be able to eliminate families whose names aren't there, but also check the 1850 slave schedules before you do.

The 1850 and 1860 slave schedules are rarely indexed and name only slaveholders (with each slaveholder, they list slaves by sex, age and color, but not by name). You'll find a free index for the 1850 slave schedule on FamilySearch.org. Subscription site Ancestrv.com hosts both the 1850 and 1860 slave schedules (see if your library offers Ancestry Library Edition free to patrons).

4. Compare the ages of your ancestor's family group in 1860 with slaves' ages in households in the slave schedule. Does a group of slaves in any household match the list of your family members' sexes and ages? Remember that the slaves were grouped under the name of the slaveholder and identified by sex, color and age—rarely by name. Your ancestors might have been a family prior to the war, but the parents might have lived on neighboring farms, so search for the mother and children together.

5. Prioritize the slaveholding candidates according to what you find in the slave schedules:

   - Likely candidates: The ages of your ancestral family members fit within the ages listed in their 1860 slave schedules.
   - Less likely candidates: The ages of your ancestral family members and those listed on the 1860 schedule don't appear to coincide.

- Least likely candidates: Those candidates not listed in either the 1860 or 1850 schedules. Some slaveholders might have been omitted, but the schedules are probably the most complete resource available.

6. Repeat this for the 1850 slave schedule, especially if your ancestors' ages indicate they were a family before 1850. Sometimes, people were accidentally omitted from both general population and slave schedules.

7. If your search produces enough evidence to suggest further investigation of a particular candidate, start researching that white family. Study the leading candidate(s) in the county records to determine if your family is included in those records.

8. Don't try to make your ancestor fit into an obviously unlikely match. If these steps above don't produce the name of the slaveholder, consider these factors:
   - Your family might have moved from its 1860 home after the war to a neighboring county or town. Although some freed men and women moved away after the war, often they remained on the same land for many years.
   - The slaveholding family might have moved away after the war. Prewar county records might reveal their identity.

If you don't find candidates of the same surname as your family, consider slaveholders from the 1860 slave schedules who lived near your family in 1870. Review others who owned slaves in your focus county in 1860. Your ancestors might have lived on a plantation near the same-surname white family.

African American Research: Tips for Tracing Families Post-1865

Ancestry.com blog, Posted: 28 Feb 2014 10:41 AM PST

Tracing African American genealogies has many challenges. However, I find it one of the most rewarding areas of family history research in my work as a professional genealogist. The greatest challenge obviously comes when an ancestor is traced back to the time of slavery. While there are many different methodologies that can be used to break beyond the Civil War threshold, there are plenty of other challenges that you may encounter in tracing an African American family after 1865. I would like to provide a few tips that you will want to add to your tool-belt in carrying out such research.

Surnames

Many people think that all freed slaves adopted surnames after emancipation. However, slaves did typically have surnames; they were just not generally known by them in public or recorded with them. Yet, to themselves and within the slave communities they were known by a surname. Here are a few things to understand about African American surnames:

- Often times a surname was derived from a former slave owner somewhere in an ancestor's past or their family's history—not necessarily the last owner they personally had.
- Surnames were typically handed down in slave families from parents to children. So a surname may have origins many generations back even though they did not remain enslaved by a family of the original surname.
- Slave status was determined at birth by the status of the mother. Because of the awful circumstances of slavery, many slaves did not know their fathers. Hence, most carried their mother's surnames.
- Some freed slaves were known to have changed their surnames after gaining freedom, but I find this to have been less common. You will want

to keep this in mind, though, and watch for surname changes between the 1870 and 1880 censuses in particular.

- In cases where a freed slave took on a new surname, it was sometimes derived from prominent historical figures, geographical icons (e.g. a river) or someone in the local community they admired (e.g. a respected abolitionist minister or legislator).

Given Names

Be cautious in regards to given names. People are often listed with nicknames or other variant names (e.g. Bob for Robert, Betsy for Elizabeth, etc.). Also, slaves (and freed slaves) often had very strong accents and because names were often spelled the way they sounded to a record-keeper, you may find very unique spellings for a more common given name (e.g. Leweser for Louisa, or Selah for Celia). Also, names can vary from record to record and so do not disregard someone because the name doesn't quite fit your immediate expectation.

Family Structures

One of the tragedies of slavery was the fact that a traditional family unit (married father and mother with children) was often not possible to maintain. As you research African American families—especially those up to 30-40 years after emancipation—keep in mind that terms of relationship were used loosely (e.g. son, daughter, niece, nephew, cousin). During slavery, in lieu of a traditional family unit, people would often congregate together for strength and support in a family-type unit even though they may not have been closely related—if at all. This cultural tradition often continued a generation or two after slavery. For example, it is not uncommon to find an African American couple in the 1900 or 1910 census listed in their late 50s and 60s with children under the age of 10 (listed as their sons and daughters). Obviously, such children were probably not actual biological children, but possibly grandchildren, nieces and nephews, or orphaned children that they kindly brought into their home.

Ages & Birthplaces

Ages for slaves and freed slaves can vary dramatically. This was because they often did not know their exact age because there were no records kept. Therefore, keep a range of 5-15 years open for consideration. Birthplaces can also fluctuate from record to record—especially if a slave was transferred across state lines as a child. As with their age, they may have been unclear of their exact birthplace.

Race & Color

These are some of the historical terms and pieces of information you need to be familiar with as you study historical records about African American ancestors:

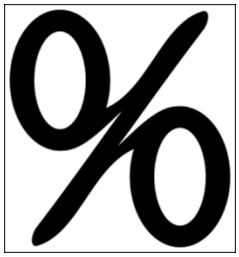
- *Mulatto*: A person of mixed race with some degree of African blood. In several states the definition was a person with 1/8th African ancestry regardless of skin color.
- *Quadroon*: 1/4th African (less-common term).

It is important to remember that race designation was subjective and usually the sole judgment of the record keeper. If a person was lighter-skinned, they may have been listed as mulatto in one record, but as black in another. Hence, do not dismiss a possible ancestral record because the race is not listed the same as another record.

A matter of degree

The Legal Genealogist blog, Posted: 13 Jan 2015 06:00 AM PST

The language of the law. Part Latin, part Anglo-Saxon, all confusing.

Today's words are a matter of percentages. 

It's very hard for *The Legal Genealogist* — or anyone else here in the 21st century — to come to grips with the reality of the race-based distinctions the law made only a short time ago.

Even though we find it distasteful, the fact is the law pigeonholed people into various categories based on the percentage of African ancestry they had, and assigned names to those categories.

The language of the law then reflected those distinctions by having names for those the law regarded as non-white.

So we don't like it. Not one bit.

But we can't begin to understand the records if we don't understand the language that was used.

Terms we may see in records we review in researching our families then may include:
• Demi-meamelouc: a person who was "1/32 black, (issue of) white and meamelouc."[1]
• Griffe: a person who was "3/4 black, (issue of) Negro and mulatto." [2]
• Marabou: a person who was "5/8 black, (issue of) mulatto and griffe."[3]
• Meamelouc: a person who was "1/16 black, (issue of) white and metis."[4]
• Métis or métif: a person who was" 1/8 black, (issue of) white and quarteron."[5]

• Mulatto: “a person that is the offspring of a negress by a white man, or of a white woman by a negro”;[6] a person who was “1/2 black, (issue of) white and Negro.”[7]
• Mustizo: “A name given to the issue of an Indian and a negro.”[8]
• Octoroon: “a person having one quadroon and one White parent and therefore having one-eighth Black blood.”[9]
• Quadroon: “A person who is descended from a white person and another person who has an equal mixture of the European and African blood”;[10] a person who was “1/4 black, (issue of) white and mulatto”.[11]
• Sacatra: a person who was “7/8 black, (issue of) griffe and Negro.”[12]
• Sang-mêle: a person who was “1/64 black, (issue of) white and demi-meamelouc.”[13]

Words like these are hard to accept. Hard to deal with. But it’s part of our history and we have to know what the words meant when we see them.

SOURCES

1. John Russell Bartlett, *Dictionary of Americanisms: A Glossary of Words and Phrases Usually Regarded as Peculiar to the United State*s, 4th ed. (Boston : Little, Brown, 1877), 422 ; digital images, *Google Books* (http://books.google.com : accessed 12 Jan 2015). Bartlett added: “...these varieties exist in New Orleans, with sub-varieties; and experts pretend to be able to distinguish them.” ↩
2. Ibid. See also *Dupree v. State*, 33 Ala. 380 (Ala. 1859). ↩
3. Bartlett, *Dictionary of Americanisms*, 422. ↩
4. Ibid. ↩
5. Ibid. ↩
6. Henry Campbell Black, *A Dictionary of Law* (St. Paul, Minn. : West, 1891), 792, “mulatto.” ↩
7. Bartlett, *Dictionary of Americanisms*, 422. ↩
8. Black, *A Dictionary of Law*, 795, “mustizo.” ↩
9. The Free Dictionary (http://www.thefreedictionary.com : accessed 12 Jan 2015), “octoroon.” ↩
10. Black, *A Dictionary of Law*, 970, “quadroon.” ↩
11. Bartlett, *Dictionary of Americanisms*, 422. ↩
12. Ibid. ↩
13. Ibid. ↩

Freedmen's Bureau Records

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands provided assistance to tens of thousands of former slaves and impoverished whites. Established with no funding, it became part of the War Department; it issued food and clothing, operated hospitals and temporary camps, helped locate family members, promoted education, helped freedmen legalize marriages, provided employment, supervised labor contracts, provided legal representation, investigated racial confrontations, settled freedmen on abandoned or confiscated lands, and worked with African American soldiers and sailors or their heirs to secure back pay, bounty payments, and pensions.

Freedmen's Bureau Records are divided into 4 broad categories. The first two categories are *not* typically useful for family researchers:

Headquarters Records: overall administration and reports on programs to President. Mostly official and statistical, not much information about individual persons.

State Records of Assistant Commissioners and Superintendents of Education: letters and reports sent to DC, narrative reports of local conditions on various social situations. Mostly summaries and reports, but some can provide detailed individual information.

However, the remaining two categories can be very useful:

→ Field Office Records

The Field Office provided direct assistance to and had direct contact with freedpeople. Letters, contracts, certificates, registers, affidavits, etc. preserve directly the experiences and circumstances of the persons involved: free people, Bureau Officers, landowners, employers and others. Some of the documents show: desperate pleas for food, clothing and medical care, testimonies about delinquent employers, accounts of the use of forced labor, violence, petitions for new schools, legal aid in courts,

applications for land and marriage certificates. ***Filled with names and personal information, these are primary documents because they are firsthand accounts---the highest level of proof in genealogy.***

Freedmen's Bureau records are considered to be the "genesis records" of African-American identity after the Civil War

→ Freedman's Savings & Trust Company (Freedman's Bank)

The Freedman's Bank was not under the supervision of the Freedmen's Bureau and was required by law to protect the interests of the depositors and their heirs. Because of this, the branches collected extensive personal information about both the depositor and their family. The branch registers cover the years 1865 to 1874, though many are missing.

The Bank was chartered by Congress in 1865 for the newly freed blacks in former slave states. It had 33 branches that required only a small deposit and gave up to 7 percent interest on savings. In 1874, mismanagement and a financial panic caused them to close. The depositors, mostly poor, received only a small percentage of their investment. Various African American organizations and benevolent societies were ruined. As a result, confidence in black-operated institutions was severely damaged.

For additional guidance, consult FamilySearch:

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Bureau_of_Refugees,_Freedmen,_and_Abandoned_Land_Records

Also: freedmensbureau.com

Also: consult the Ancestry "card catalog": U.S., Freedmen's Bureau Records, 1865-1878 and U.S., Freedmen's Bureau Marriage Records, 1846-1867

Genograms, another way to look at it

Genograms were originally designed to get an accurate understanding of current family situations for doctors and therapists. Genograms are a natural fit for genealogy, too ---- but with some expansions and reservations.

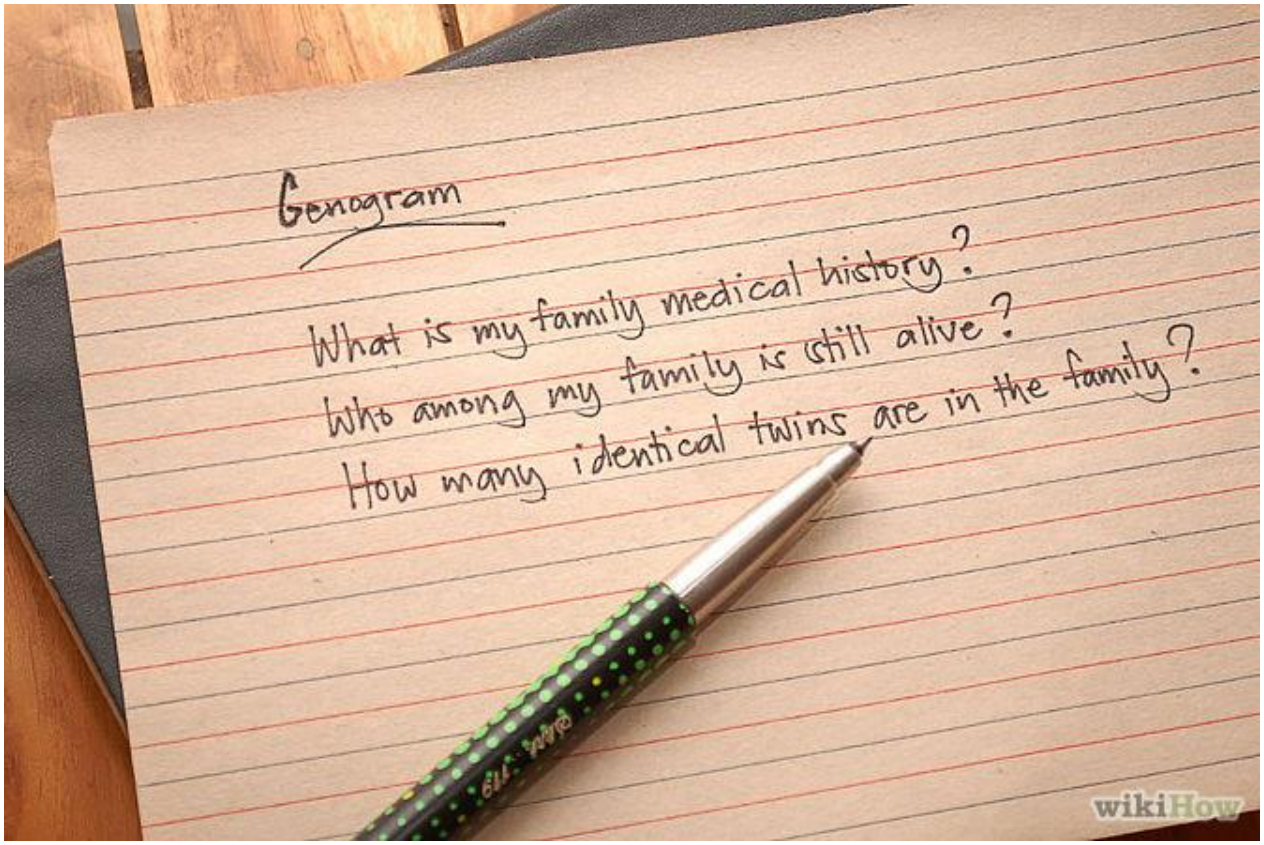
There are many ways to develop a customized genogram for a multi-generation view of *your* family group. First, pick a nuclear family---now or in the past. Then, choose a person to focus on and build your understanding by showing the people all around them. It could be your mother's side or your father's and can follow a theme like the Great Depression, or a medical condition, or religious orientation.

By mapping an overview and simply using birth/death dates, you may truly understand just how many children your great-grandparents had together. You may notice gaps between births, which could indicate illness or miscarriage. You will better note previous marriages and their children. Genograms are maps of family groups that show detailed data on the nature of their relationships.

Patterns may emerge. You can apply closeness indicators to mark the "Black Sheep" or the ones who moved away. You can note known illnesses to create a medical snapshot----- you can then see what has been passed down through the generations.

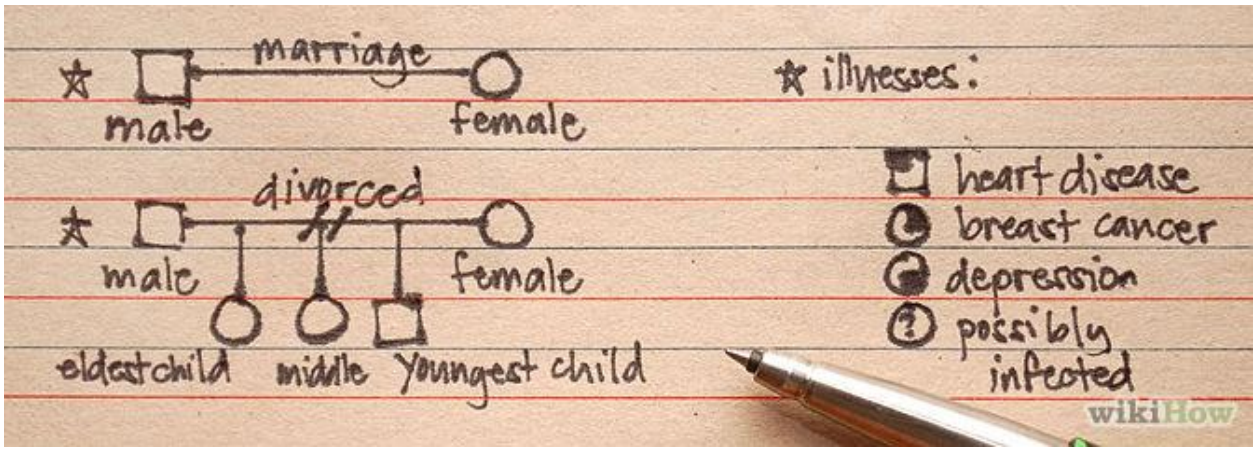
A genogram is quite flexible.

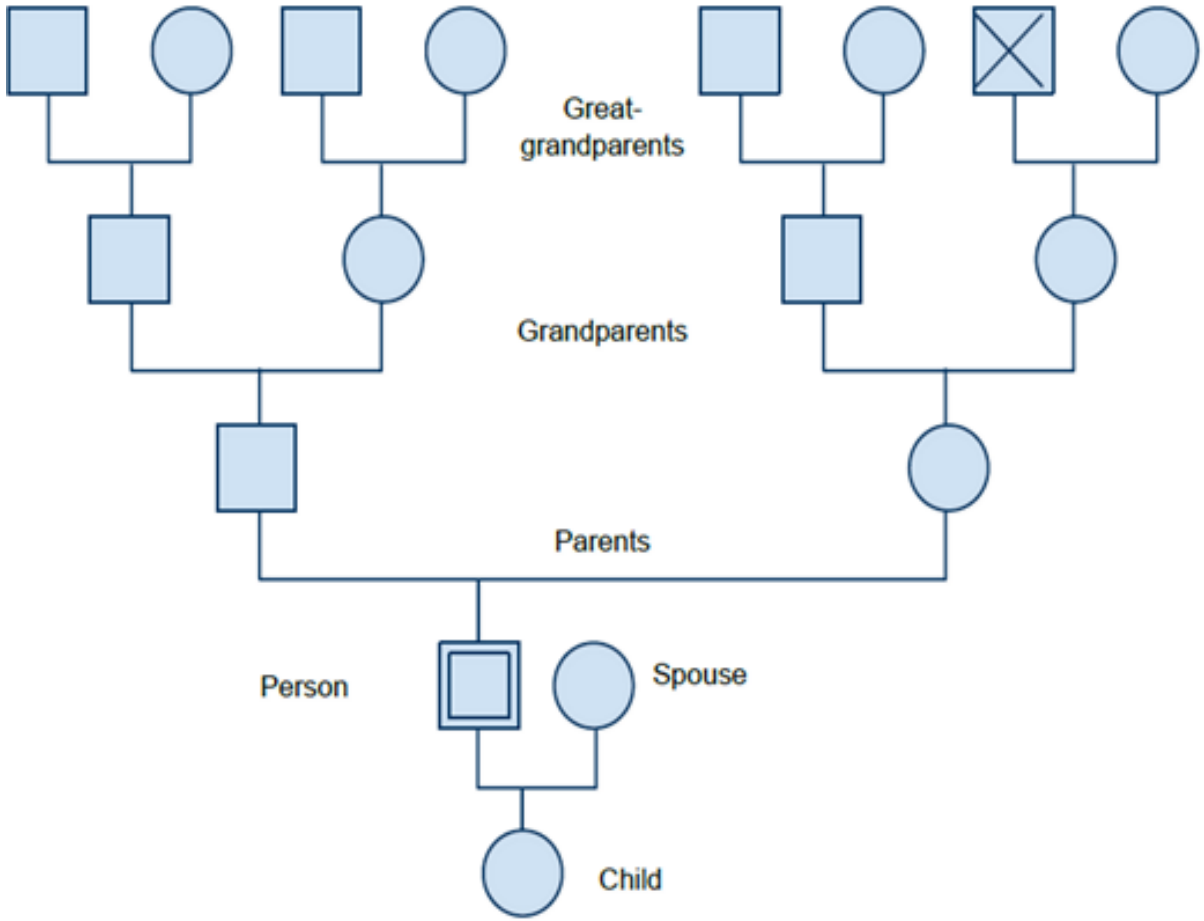
But a note of caution.....if you create a genogram involving living family members, be especially understanding of their point of view when you ask them for information. Sometimes a hurtful event comes up. Your relative may have a very personal interpretation of a relationship or event, so be sure to respect their account. *Always always* be sensitive to how it would feel if it was YOUR family concern being discussed.

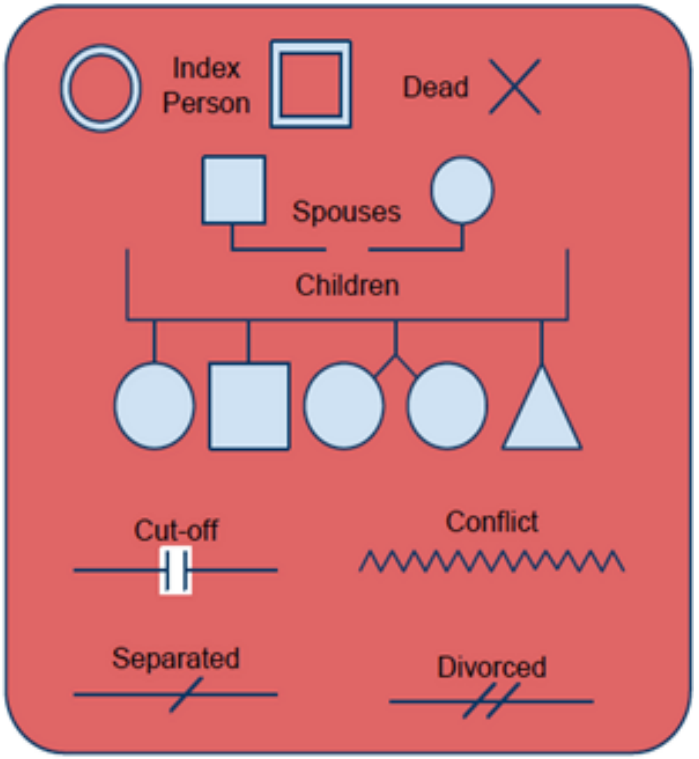


Determine your reason from creating a genogram.

Use standard genogram symbols to represent family members and their relationships, both normal and dysfunctional.







Your Family Genogram Template

Tracing Family Traits Using a Genogram

Cynthia Doxey Green, Ph.D.

What is a Genogram?

The genogram is a pictorial graph of the structure and characteristics of a family across three or more generations. The genogram will not replace traditional Pedigree Charts and Family Group Records for use in genealogical research, but it can provide a way to look beneath the surface of names, dates, and places so that genealogists can recognize family characteristics and patterns.

The genogram "illustrates graphically that relationships are ongoing, that families have histories, and that the family history influences each family member's present as well as his/her future" (Bahr, 1990). Characteristics carried from one generation to another are also called *generational transmissions* and can be illustrated on a genogram with symbols. These transmissions can be genetic, such as inherited diseases or physical characteristics, or they can come from environmental or social influences, such as traditions from a family's cultural heritage, religion, or communication patterns, and beliefs about the world.

Genograms have been used for assessing families in clinical settings such as marriage therapy, health care, and social work (McGoldrick & Gerson, 1985; Nelson-Anderson & Waters, 1998). Genograms have also been applied in education and religious counseling (Bahr, 1990). A greater interest in genetic and medical histories has prompted the use of genograms in organizing and illustrating genealogical data (Krasner- Khait, 2000). Genograms can also be used for the purpose of engendering a sense of identity and kinship, to promote an interest in genealogical research (Doxey, 1993).

Benefits of Making a Genogram

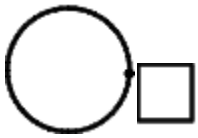
By seeing family patterns on a genogram, individuals may realize their personal identity more fully by seeing themselves as part of a greater family network, and by observing family values passed down over the generations. As we learn more about family members, we begin to

appreciate the role our ancestors played in our lives, and that we have a responsibility to them do the same for our children, thus forging a link between past and future generations.

Making a Genogram

The genogram should show at least three generations (i.e., self and siblings, parents and their siblings, and grandparents). If you have children and grandchildren, you may include them on the chart as well.

1. Gather the needed information such as *names* of all persons to be included in your genogram, including the *birth order* and *gender* of each child in each family, *marital status* of couples, and any other pertinent information, such as *dates of birth, marriage, divorce, death*, etc.

2.  Use standardized symbols:

a. Use squares to represent males: and circles for females:

b. Use double lines around the square or circle to indicate yourself, the index person.

c. Names, dates for birth and/or death should be written above or below the symbol.

d. Place an X inside the figures of those who are deceased:

3. Marital relationships are shown by connecting lines that go down and across between the partners.

The husband is on the left and the wife on the right. Divorce is indicated with two slashes (//) in the horizontal marriage line. The dates for marriage and divorce, if applicable, should be written above the marriage line.

4. Vertical lines are drawn below marriage lines for the children of the marriage, with the oldest child on the left and the youngest child on the right.

5. Special Circumstances:

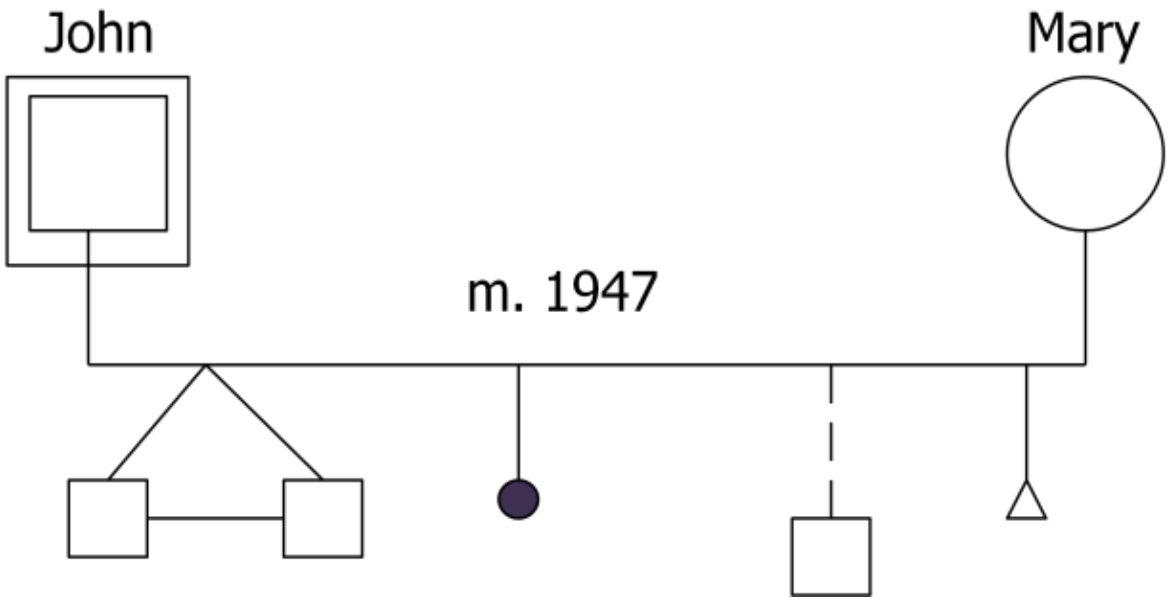
a. Diverging lines connect twins to parents.

Identical twins are connected by a bar between the children.

b. Miscarriages are noted with a small filled-in circle.

c. Dotted lines connect adopted children.

d. Pregnancies are illustrated by a triangle.



Generational Transmissions

Generational Transmissions are family or individual characteristics, beliefs, cultural values, genetic traits, or life-styles handed down from one generation to the next. Indicate **three to five** generational transmissions on your genogram chart with symbols, lines, or drawings. Suggestions about what can be traced through the generations are below, but you can use other characteristics as well. Make a legend or key showing the significance of each of the symbols you use.

POSSIBLE TRAITS TO TRACK ON YOUR GENOGRAM

<u>Socioeconomic Characteristics</u>
Occupation
Education level

<u>Genetic/Environmental Characteristics</u>
Artistic, Musical, Literary abilities
Personality traits: frugality, friendliness, etc.
Community services

<u>Genetic/Physical Characteristics</u>
Hair/eye color
Baldness, eyesight, etc.
Disease tendencies

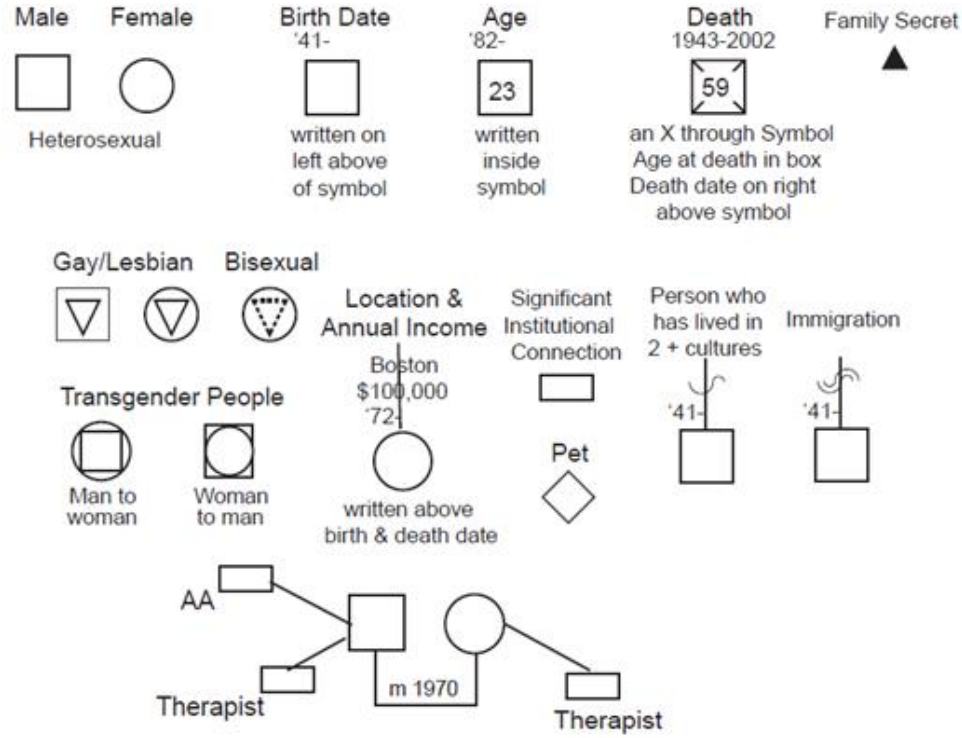
<u>Cultural Background</u>
Country of origin, languages spoken
Cultural arts, practices, and traditions
Naming patterns

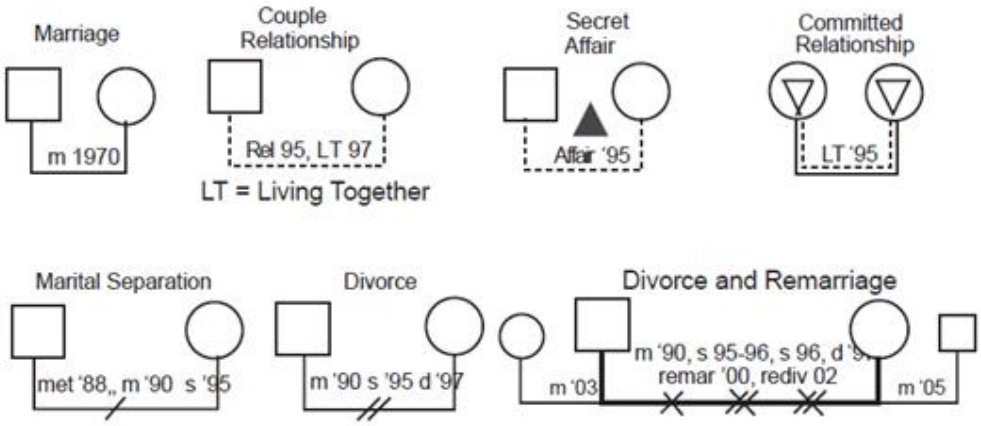
<u>Religious Values</u>
Church affiliation
Church volunteer service

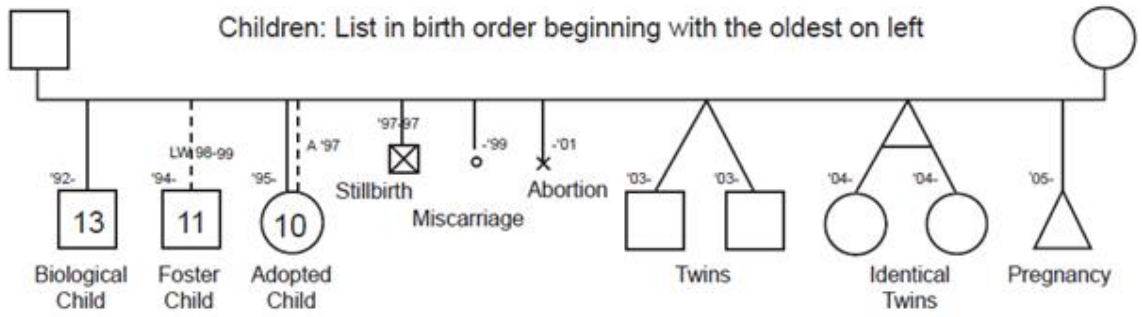
<u>Family Values</u>
Family closeness
Desire for learning or education

The Multicultural Family Institute

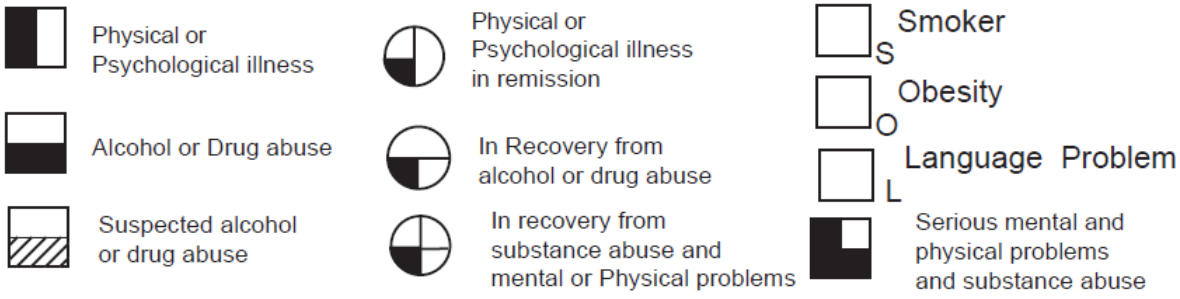
Standard Symbols for Genograms



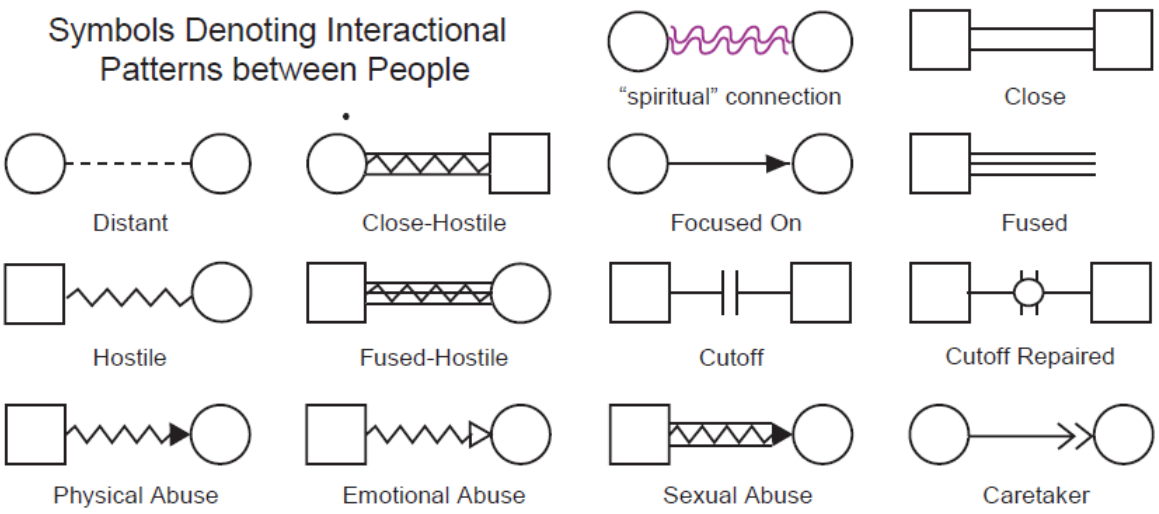




Symbols Denoting Addiction, and Physical or Mental Illness



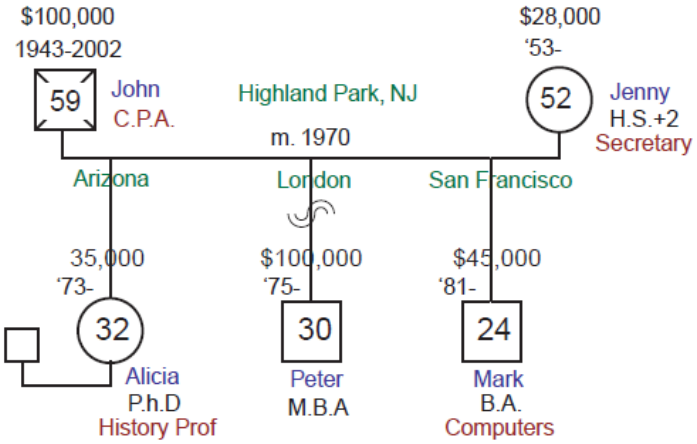
Symbols Denoting Interactional Patterns between People



Annual income is written just above the birth & death date.

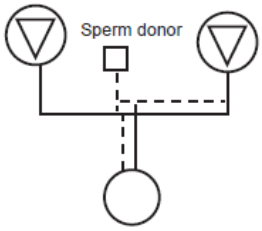
Typically you would include the person's occupation and education near the name and the person's whereabouts at the top of the line connecting to the symbol.

Symbol for Immigration =

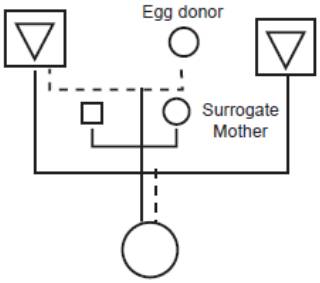


Lesbian couple whose daughter was conceived with egg of one partner and sperm donor.

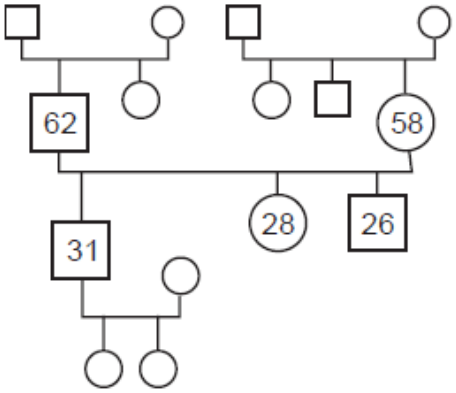
Artificial Insemination



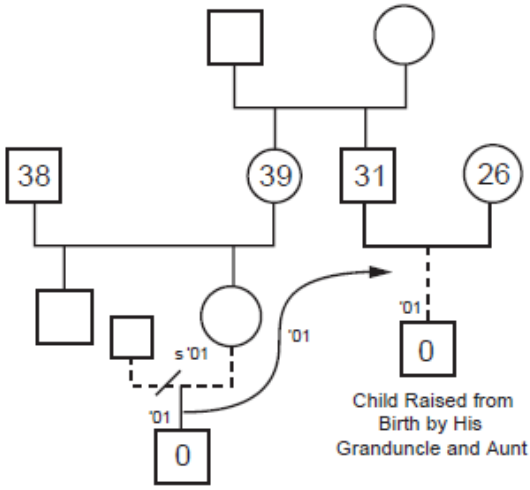
Gay Couple whose daughter was conceived with sperm of John and an egg donor, and carried by surrogate mother till birth.



Siblings of Primary Genogram Members are written smaller and higher. Spouses are written smaller and lower:



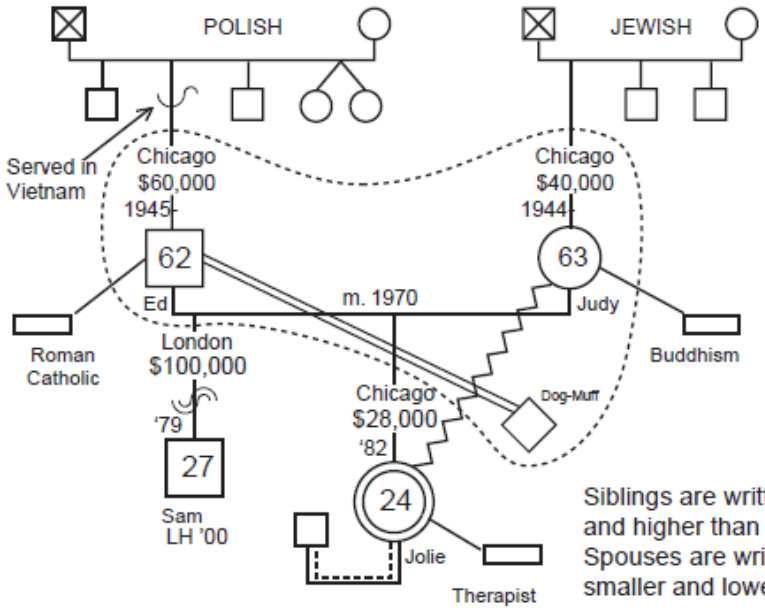
Foster Children



Use an arrow to show family into which child moved

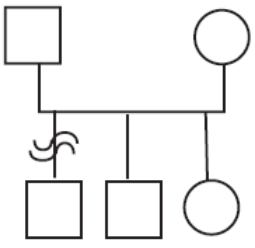
Household

Household shown by encircling members living together (Couple living with their dog after launching Children)

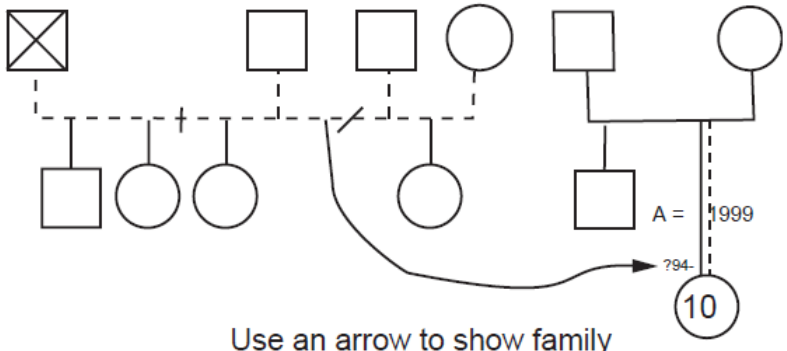


Siblings are written smaller and higher than IP. Spouses are written smaller and lower.

Symbol for Immigration

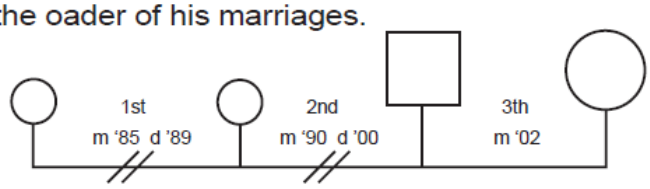


Adopted Child

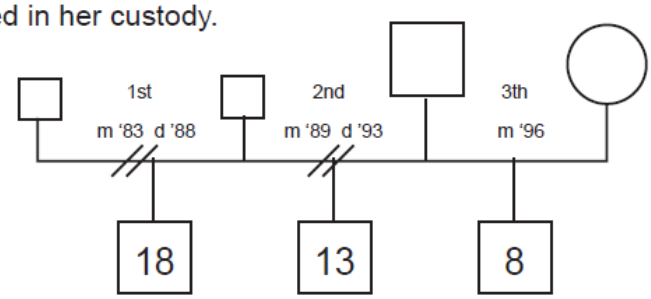


Use an arrow to show family into which child moved

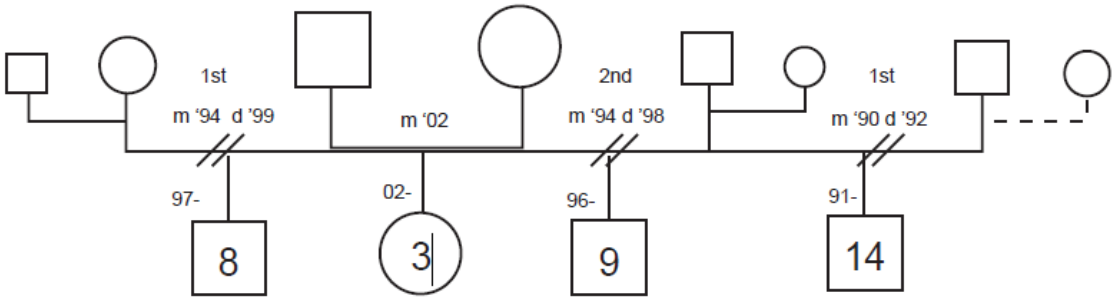
1 Husband, His Current Wife and his Ex-Wives (who are shown lower and smaller). Husband's wives may go on left to be closest to him. Indicators "1st," "2nd" etc. make clear the oader of his marriages.



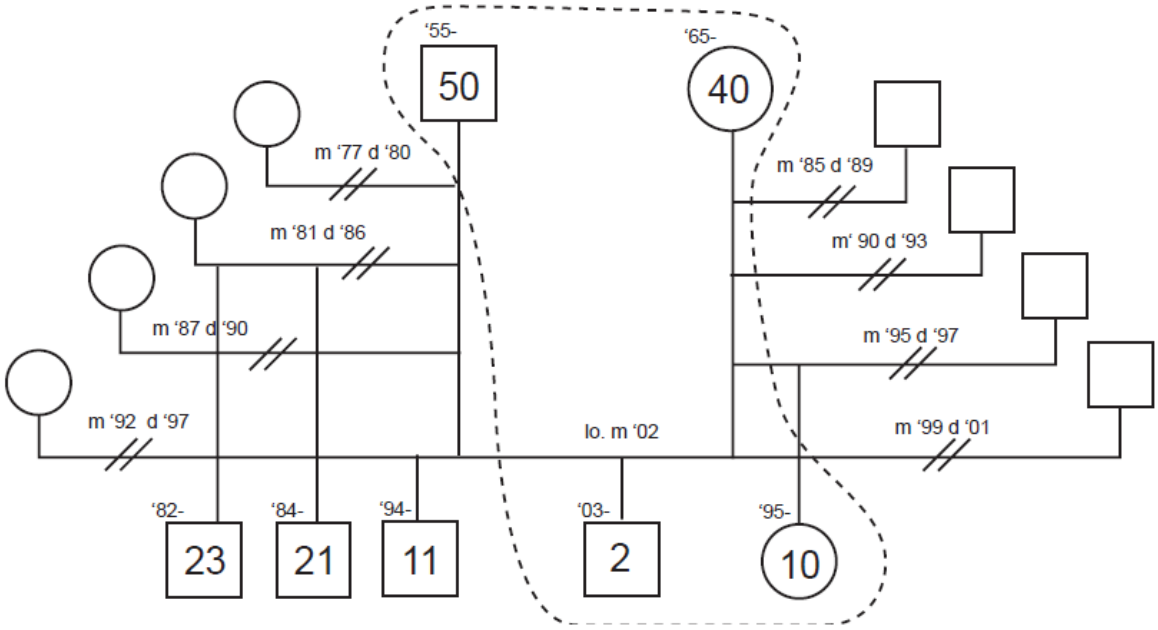
2 Wife, Her Current Husband and her Ex-Husbands (who are shown lower and smaller). Wife's previous relationships are shown on left to keep children in birth order, since they remained in her custody.



3 Couple with 3 year old, showing their previous spouses (smaller) and those spouses' new partners (even smaller)

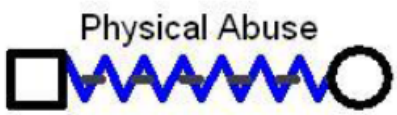


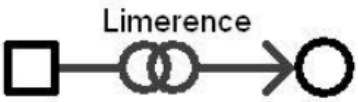
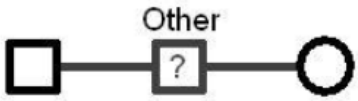
4 Couple living with their joint child and her child from a previous relationship. The other spouses of the partners are shown smaller and lower on either side of the present household, indicated by a dotted line.



Genogram Emotional Relationships Legend (Wikipedia)

Normal / Plain	Defines a plain normal relationship. This emotional relationship may serve the purpose of highlighting a normal relationship among numerous dysfunctional relationships. It may resemble the identical twins link, but the line for twins is gray. Twins are also connected to each other through a child link that looks like an inverted V. If a plain normal relationship needs to be displayed, then create a non-linear line between the twins.
Indifferent / Apathetic	Defines an apathetic relationship where one or both individuals are indifferent to the other.
Distant / Poor	Defines a distant relationship between two individuals. Communication is very limited, usually due to differences in lifestyles.
Cutoff / Estranged	Defines a cutoff relationship where two individuals have no contact at all, characterized by extreme disengagement and emotional intensity where there had formerly been love, affection, or friendliness.
Discord / Conflict	Defines a relationship in which at least one of the individuals perceives the relationship to be negative and where both individuals are convinced they are right.
Hate	Defines a relationship of intense enmity or antipathy in which the individuals wish harm upon each other and take pleasure in each other's misery.
Harmony	Defines a good relationship between two individuals in which there is mutual respect.
Friendship / Close	Defines a close relationship (friendship) between two individuals in which they share affection or esteem and engage in mutually helping behaviors.
Best Friends / Very Close	Defines a relationship of deep friendship, where two individuals share a deeper level of understanding, trust and affection than with most other friends.
Love	Defines a relationship of strong positive affection between two individuals, arising from kinship or recognition of attractive qualities.
In Love	Defines a relationship of intimacy, passion and commitment based on sexual instinct.

	Defines a relationship of distrust between two individuals where at least one of the individuals lacks confidence in the other's intentions.
	Defines a fused relationship between two individuals. Individuals become dependant on one another, and also become inseperable, with little room for their own identities.
	Defines a hostile relationship between two individuals where the individuals argue on major issues and feel heightened stress and aggression when they are together.
	Defines a distant-hostile relationship between two individuals. The two individuals rarely come into contact, but when they are in each other's presence, they argue and are hostile towards one another.
	Defines a close-hostile relationship between two individuals. These people often come into contact, but they argue and keep secrets from one another.
	Defines a fused-hostile relationship between two individuals. These individuals are always together and depend on each other, yet they are unable to live without arguing.
	Defines a violent relationship between two individuals. The two individuals often come into conflict when they meet which results in extreme actions such as physical force or excessive power.
	Defines a relationship in which the two individuals rarely see each other, but when they come together, they argue and engage in violent behavior.
	Defines a relationship in which two individuals often come into contact, but they argue and are engaged in violent behavior when they are together.
	Defines a violent behavior in an fused relationship. Violence takes place to avoid a break in the relationship, especially when intimacy/fusion is difficult or impossible to maintain. Fusion compromises the feelings, identities and self-direction of each, thus creating true instability.
	Defines an abusive relationship. This is a generic relationship for situations in which an undertermined type of abuse occurs between two individuals.
	Defines a relationship in which one individual physically abuses another. It includes any non-accidental injury to an individual, typically to a child or a woman. This includes hitting, kicking, slapping, shaking, burning, pinching, hair pulling, biting, choking, throwing, shoving, whipping, and paddling.

	Defines a relationship in which one individual has an unhealthy focus (obsession) on another individual. This may include favoritism and stalking.
	Defines a relationship in which one individual is an ardent admirer of another, and has an intense, occasionally overwhelming liking of that person.
	Defines a relationship in which one individual has intense feelings of interest towards another individual, with an acute longing for reciprocation.
	Defines a relationship in which two individuals have never met. This relationship is used to explicitly confirm that two individuals such as an adopted child and his biological parents have never been in contact. As the creator of the genogram, you may add more details regarding the relationship, such as 'never met physically' but 'met online'.
	Defines any emotional relationship that is not defined in the list. Use a comment to elaborate on the details of this particular relationship.

	Defines a relationship in which one individual emotionally abuses another. It includes any attitude or behavior which interferes with mental health or social development. This includes yelling, screaming, name-calling, shaming, negative comparisons to others, telling them they are "bad, no good, worthless" or "a mistake".
	Defines a relationship in which one individual sexually abuses another. It includes any sexual act between an adult and child, or a forced sexual action between two adults. This includes fondling, penetration, intercourse, exploitation, pornography, exhibitionism, child prostitution, group sex, oral sex, or forced observation of sexual acts.
	Defines a relationship in which an individual fails to provide for a dependant's physical needs. This includes lack of supervision, inappropriate housing or shelter, inadequate provision of food, inappropriate clothing for season or weather, abandonment, denial of medical care, and inadequate hygiene.
	Defines a relationship in which one individual manipulates another individual.
	Defines a relationship in which one individual controls another individual.
	Defines a relationship in which one individual feels resentment against someone because of that person's rivalry, success, or advantages.

Family Tree Magazine 02 Feb 2010

Your Female Ancestors' Nicknames

Who knew your great-grandma Mary could go by at least seven nicknames in genealogical records? Use our list of nicknames for more than 200 given names to figure out the various ways your female ancestor might appear in census, court, newspaper and other records. When searching databases, look for her under all possible nicknames. Note the same woman might show up with different nicknames in different records.

The same nickname might be associated with different given names.

Given name	Possible Nickname(s)
Abigail	Abby, Gail, Nabby
Adaline	Ada, Adela, Aline, Lina
Adelaide	Ada, Addy, Adela, Della, Heidi
Adela	Della
Agatha	Ag, Aggy
Agnes	Aggy, Ann, Nancy, Nessie
Alberta, Abertina	Al, Allie, Bert, Bertie, Bird
Alexandra	Alex, Andi, Sandy, Sandra, Xandra
Alexis	Lexi
Alicia, Alice	Alcy, Alicia, Lisa, Ally, Elsie
Alison	Ally
Almena	Mena, Minnie
Almira	Myra
Alyssa	Al, Ally, Lisa, Lissa
Amanda	Amy, Manda, Mandy
Amelia	Amy, Emily, Mel, Melia, Millie
Anastasia	Ana, Stacy
Andrea	Andi, Drea
Angela, Angelina	Angel, Angelica, Angie, Ann, Anna, Jane, Lina
Annette	Anna, Nettie
Antonia, Antoinette	Antonia, Net, Nettie, Tonie
Arabella	Ara, Bella, Belle
Arielle	Arie, Ella
Arlene	Lena

Aubrey	Bree
Audrey	Dee
Augusta, Augustina	Aggy, Gussie, Ina, Tina
Aurelia, Aurilla, Orilla	Ora, Ree, Rilly
Barbara	Babs, Barb, Barbie, Bobbie, Bonnie
Beatrice, Beatrix	Bea, Trisha, Trissy, Trixie
Bedelia	Delia, Bridgit
Belinda	Bell, Linda, Lyn
Bertha	Bertie, Bitha, Boots
Bethena	Bet, Beth, Thaney
Beverly	Bev
Blanche	Bea
Brenda	Brandy
Bridget	Biddy, Bridie, Brie, Delia
Calista	Callie, Kissy
Camille, Camilla	Cammy, Millie
Candace	Candy, Dacey
Carlotta	Carla, Lottie
Carmellia	Carm, Cammie, Charm, Mellie
Caroline, Carolyn	Caddie, Callie, Carol, Carrie, Lena, Lynn
Cassandra	Cass, Cassie, Sandy, Sandra
Catherine, Cathleen, Kathryn, Kathleen, Katharine	Cathy, Karen, Katie, Kay, Kit, Kittie, Rhynie, Rina, Trina
Cecilia	Cee, Celia, Cissy
Celeste	Celia, Lessie
Celinda	Linda, Lindy, Lynn
Charity	Chat
Charlene	Charlie, Char, Lena
Charlotte	Car, Char, Letty, Lotta, Lottie
Chloe	Clo
Christine, Christina, Christiana, Kristine, Kristina	Chris, Christy, Crissy, Ina, Kit, Kissy, Kris, Krissy, Tina, Xina
Cecilia, Cicely	Celia, Cilla
Cinderella	Arilla, Cindy, Rilla, Rella

Clarice, Clarissa	Cissy, Claire, Clara, Clare
Clarinda	Claire, Clara, Clare, Linda, Rindy
Clementine	Clem, Tina
Constance	Connie
Cordelia	Cordy, Delia, Della, Lil, Lila
Cornelia	Cora, Ora, Conny, Corny, Neely, Nell, Nelly
Courtney	Corky, Court
Cynthia	Cindy, Sina
Danielle	Dani, Ellie
Daphne	Daph
Deanne, Deanna	Ann, Anna, Dee, Deedee
Deborah	Deb, Debbie, Debby
Delilah	Del, Lila
Delores	Del, Lori
Delphine, Delphina	Del, Phina
Diane, Diana	Di, Ann, Anna
Denise	Necie, Dee
Dorinda	Dorie
Dorothy, Dorothea	Dora, Dot, Dottie, Dotha, Thea
Drusilla	Silla
Edith	Dicey, Edie
Elaine, Eleanor, Leonora	Elena, Ella, Ellen, Elsie, Helen, Lana, Lainie, Nell, Nellie, Nora
Elizabeth	Bess, Bessie, Bet, Beth, Betsy, Betty, Bitsy, Eli, Eliza, Elsie, Ibby, Libby, Lisa, Lish, Liz, Liza, Lizbet, Lizzie, Tess
Elnora	Nora
Emeline, Emily	Emma, Emmy, Lina, Millie, Erma
Ernestine	Ernie, Teeny, Tina
Estella	Essie, Stella
Esther	Essie, Hettie
Eudora	Dora
Eudoris	Dosie
Eugenia	Genie, Jenny
Eunice	Necie
Eustacia	Stacy

Evangeline	Eve, Eva, Angie
Evelyn	Eve, Lynne
Fidelia	Delia
Felicia	Lisha
Felicity	Fel, Feli
Florence	Flo, Flora, Florrie, Floss, Flossie
Frances	Fanny, Fran, Francie, Frankie, Sis
Frederica	Freddie, Rica
Gabrielle	Ella, Gabbie
Genevieve	Jenny, Ginny, Neva>
Georgiana	Georgie, Anna
Geraldine	Dina, Geri
Gertrude	Gatty, Gertie, Trudy
Gwendolyn	Genny, Gwen, Wendy
Heather	Hetty
Harriett	Harrie, Hattie, Etta, Ettie
Helen, Helena	Ellen, Elsie, Lena, Nell, Nellie
Heloise, Louise	Eloise, Lois, Lou, Weezy
Henrietta	Etta, Ettie, Hetty, Nettie, Retta
Hester	Esther, Hessy, Hetty
Hilary, Hilda	Hillie
Irene	Rena
Isabelle, Isabella	Bella, Belle, Cybilla, Ib, Issy, Izzy, Nib
Isadora	Dora, Izzy
Jacqueline	Jackie
Janet	Jan, Jane, Janie, Nettie
Joanna, Johanna	Anna, Joan, Jean, Jo, Joan, Jody
Jeanette	Jan, Jean, Jeanne, Jenny, Nettie
Jemima	Jemma, Mima, Mimi
Jennifer	Jan, Jenny
Jerita	Rita
Jessica	Jess, Jesse, Jessie, Sica
Joan	Nonie
Josephine, Josephina	Jo, Josie, Phena

Josetta	Jettie, Josie
Joyce	Joy
Juanita	Nita
Judith	Juda, Jude, Judy
Julia, Julieta	Jill, Julie, Juliet
Katherine, Kathleen	Kay (see Catherine)
Kayla	Kay
Kendra	Kay, Kenny, Kenji
Kesiah	Kizzy
Kristine	(see Christina)
Laodicia	Dicy, Cenia
Lauren, Laurinda, Lauryn, Lorinda	Laurie, Laura, Lori, Ren, Mindy
Laverne	Verna
Lavina, Lavinia	Vina, Viney, Vonnie, Wyncha
Leanne, Leanna	Ann, Annie, Lea, Lee
Leonore, Leonora	Eleanor, Lennie, Nora, Norah
Letitia	Lettie, Lettice, Titia, Tish
Levicy	Vicy
Lavonne	Von
Lillian	Lil, Lila, Lilly, Lolly, Odie
Loretta	Etta, Laura, Lorrie, Retta
Lorraine	Lorrie, Rainie
Loucinda, Lucinda	Cindy, Lucy
Louvenia, Lavinia	Lou, Vina, Viny
Louetta	Lou, Etta
Lucille	Lucia, Lucy Ceall, Cille
Lucretia	Creasey, Cretia, Lou
Lydia	Liddie
Margaret, Margareta, Magdelene	Daisy, Greta, Madge, Maggie, Marge, Margie, Margo, Meg, Midge, Peg, Peggy
Marilyn	Lyn
Marjorie	Geri, Jeri, Marge
Martha	Marcy, Marty, Marta, Mattie, Pat, Patsy, Patty
Matilda	Mattie, Tildy, Tillie
Maureen	Maura, Reenie

Mary	Mamie, Mae, May, Mattie, Mimi, Molly, Polly
Melinda	Mel, Mellie, Linda, Mindy
Melissa	Mel, Missy, Lissa, Lisa
Michelle	Mitch, Shelly
Mildred	Milly
Millicent	Milly, Missy
Minerva	Minnie
Miranda	Mandy, Mira, Randy
Miriam	Mimi, Mitzi
Monica	Mona
Nancy	Nan, Ann
Natalie	Natty, Nettie, Tallie
Nicoletta	Letta, Nicole, Nicky
Obedience	Bede, Biddy
Olive, Olivia	Liv, Livia, Ollie, Nollie,
Parmelia	Amelia, Melia, Milly, Parm
Patience	Pat, Patty
Patricia	Pat, Patty, Patsy, Tricia, Trish
Paula, Paulina	Polly, Lina
Penelope	Penny
Philinda	Linda
Priscilla	Cissy, Cilla, Prissy
Prudence	Prudy, Prue
Rachel	Shelly
Rebecca	Becca, Becky, Beck, Reba
Regina	Reggie, Gina
Roberta	Bobbie, Bert, Bertie, Birdie, Robbie
Rhonda	Ronnie
Rosabel, Rosabella	Belle, Rosa, Rose, Roz
Rosalyn, Rosalinda	Linda, Rosa, Rose, Roz
Roseann, Roseanna	Ann, Rose, Rosie Roz
Rosemary	Rose, Rosie, Mary, Roz
Roxanne, Roxanna	Ann, Rose, Roxie

Sabrina	Brina
Samantha	Sam, Sammy
Sarah, Sara	Sally, Sadie
Selina, Celina	Lena
Serena	Rena
Shirley	Lee, Sherry, Shirl
Submit	Mittie
Susan, Susannah	Anna , Hannah, Nan, Nanny, Sue, Sukey, Susie, Suze
Tabitha	Abby, Bitha, Bitty, Tabby
Temperence	Tempy, Tillie
Theodora	Dora, Teddie, Thea
Theodosia	Dosia, Teddie, Thea
Theresa	Terrie, Tess, Tessie, Tessa, Thursa, Tracy
Tryphena	Phena
Valerie	Val
Vanessa	Essa, Nessa, Vanna
Veronica	Franky, Frony, Ron, Ronnie, Ronna, Vonnie
Victoria	Vicky, Tory
Violet, Violetta	Vi, Letta, Lettie
Virginia	Ginger, Ginny, Jane, Jennie, Virgie
Wilhelmina	Mina, Minnie, Willie, Wilma
Winifred	Freddie, Winnie, Winnet

Genealogical Standards

GUIDELINES FOR GENEALOGICAL SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND GROWTH

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Faced with ever-growing expectations for genealogical accuracy and reliability, family historians concerned with improving their abilities will on a regular basis—

* study comprehensive texts and narrower-focus articles and recordings covering genealogical methods in general and the historical background and sources available for areas of particular research interest, or to which their research findings have led them.
* interact with other genealogists and historians in person or electronically, mentoring or learning as appropriate to their relative experience levels, and through the shared experience contributing to the genealogical growth of all concerned.
* subscribe to and read regularly at least two genealogical journals that list a number of contributing or consulting editors, or editorial board or committee members, and that require their authors to respond to a critical review of each article before it is published.
* participate in workshops, discussion groups, institutes, conferences and other structured learning opportunities whenever possible.
* recognize their limitations, undertaking research in new areas or using new technology only after they master any additional knowledge and skill needed and understand how to apply it to the new subject matter or technology.
* analyze critically at least quarterly the reported research findings of another family historian, for whatever lessons may be gleaned through the process.
* join and participate actively in genealogical societies covering countries, localities and topics where they have research interests, as well as the localities where they reside, increasing the resources available both to themselves and to future researchers.
* review recently published basic texts to renew their understanding of genealogical fundamentals as currently expressed and applied.
* examine and revise their own earlier research in the light of what they have learned through self-improvement activities, as a means for applying their new-found knowledge and for improving the quality of their work-product.

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Genealogical Standards

Standards For Sound Genealogical Research

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Remembering always that they are engaged in a quest for truth, family history researchers consistently—

* record the source for each item of information they collect.
* test every hypothesis or theory against credible evidence, and reject those that are not supported by the evidence.
* seek original records, or reproduced images of them when there is reasonable assurance they have not been altered, as the basis for their research conclusions.
* use compilations, communications and published works, whether paper or electronic, primarily for their value as guides to locating the original records, or as contributions to the critical analysis of the evidence discussed in them.
* state something as a fact only when it is supported by convincing evidence, and identify the evidence when communicating the fact to others.
* limit with words like "probable" or "possible" any statement that is based on less than convincing evidence, and state the reasons for concluding that it is probable or possible.
* avoid misleading other researchers by either intentionally or carelessly distributing or publishing inaccurate information.
* state carefully and honestly the results of their own research, and acknowledge all use of other researchers' work.
* recognize the collegial nature of genealogical research by making their work available to others through publication, or by placing copies in appropriate libraries or repositories, and by welcoming critical comment.
* consider with open minds new evidence or the comments of others on their work and the conclusions they have reached.

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Genealogical Standards

Standards For Sharing Information With Others

Recommended by the National Genealogical Society

Conscious of the fact that sharing information or data with others, whether through speech, documents or electronic media, is essential to family history research and that it needs continuing support and encouragement, responsible family historians consistently—

* respect the restrictions on sharing information that arise from the rights of another as an author, originator or compiler; as a living private person; or as a party to a mutual agreement.
* observe meticulously the legal rights of copyright owners, copying or distributing any part of their works only with their permission, or to the limited extent specifically allowed under the law's "fair use" exceptions.
* identify the sources for all ideas, information and data from others, and the form in which they were received, recognizing that the unattributed use of another's intellectual work is plagiarism.
* respect the authorship rights of senders of letters, electronic mail and data files, forwarding or disseminating them further only with the sender's permission.
* inform people who provide information about their families as to the ways it may be used, observing any conditions they impose and respecting any reservations they may express regarding the use of particular items.
* require some evidence of consent before assuming that living people are agreeable to further sharing of information about themselves.
* convey personal identifying information about living people—like age, home address, occupation or activities—only in ways that those concerned have expressly agreed to.
* recognize that legal rights of privacy may limit the extent to which information from publicly available sources may be further used, disseminated or published.
* communicate no information to others that is known to be false, or without making reasonable efforts to determine its truth, particularly information that may be derogatory.
* are sensitive to the hurt that revelations of criminal, immoral, bizarre or irresponsible behavior may bring to family members.

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4 Things to Do Before You Donate Your Genealogy

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Ancestry.com Blog

You've worked hard on your family tree and your research contains countless clues for other researchers. You don't want to let those materials go to waste. Maybe you have a family member who is as passionate about genealogy as you are and has agreed to take all of your books, notebooks and research papers. But what if you don't have someone like that who will care for your materials the way you have? If you've thought about giving your genealogy to a library or archive, here are some things to consider before you write your will.

1. Talk to the Library or Archive Before You Write Your Will

Not every library and archive can take every type of donation. The Boondocks County Public Library might be your all-time favorite place to research, but it may not be able to handle boxes and boxes of your research notes and binders. It may not have the space and it may not have a means of making the collection available to researchers later.

Susan Kaufman, Manager of the **Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research** in Houston, points out that many libraries cannot accept original photographs, due to the conditions they need to be stored in and the care they require.

Talk to the librarians and archivists where you are considering donating your materials. Describe the time period and the location that the collection covers. An archive in New Mexico might not be interested in research notes

that cover families that never left Maine. Don't take it personally if they decline your gift; they can't take all of them.

2. Get Your Materials into Good Shape

The better organized your materials are, the more likely that a library or archive will want to accept them and the faster that they will be available for researchers to use. Kaufman said that libraries and archives don't have the staff to go through box after box trying to bring order to a collection. Putting together the materials by surname, location, etc. will help tremendously.

3. Make a Monetary Gift Along With Your Genealogy

It takes time, staff and resources to process items into a library or archive. You don't want your donation turned down because it will cost too much to process. A monetary gift along with your materials will help offset this cost.

4. Let Your Family Know of Your Wishes

Sadly, many donations never make it where they were intended to go. In the process of breaking up the house when a loved one goes into a nursing home, family members have been known to toss items they didn't think were "important." As Tom Neel, Library Director at the **Ohio Genealogical Society**, points out, the executor and the obligations of a will have no power until a person dies. Neel said, "Attorneys have sent us a will copy with the bequest along with the apology that the personal belongings were sold several years before the death."

You've been climbing your family tree for a long time and have made great discoveries. Don't let your work end up in a landfill. Take these steps to help ensure that your research will be available to others for years to come.

Stuck! Things you can do…….

- Have you looked at these sources for the fact you're interested in? Ancestry, MyHeritage, FamilySearch (an Image search shows lots of unindexed records), USGenweb county pages, State Archive and county courthouse web pages. Don't hesitate to do the same search in many places.

- Notice the collateral family members on each census---the brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles living near your ancestor through the years. Where are they? Especially do this when you can't find your own ancestor in a particular census.

- Browse a few pages on either side of your ancestor's census entry. Sometimes a married sister with a different last name lives nearby. Where are the parents living out their last days? Often, the aged ones live in one of their children's homes nearby.

- Browse the census line by line in the places your ancestor lived, looking at connected names and nearby dwellings.

- Develop your ancestor's **FAN Club** (Friends/Associates/Neighbors) which is also known as "cluster research". If you're unfamiliar with this, find a video on YouTube for instruction.

- Write a biographical sketch for your ancestor. Are they the firstborn? What was their temperament? Was their life difficult or comfortable? How old were they when their parents died? Did their grandfather fight in a war? In doing this, try to identify more facts or issues that you should investigate.

- Try out a search engine---or several. Google is one place to start. **Tips:** 1) use quotation marks to keep words together, especially when searching a name 2) to limit the results, start your search with genealogy: 3) use advanced search for possible different results. **Limiting the File Type to PDF** brings up results that may not have been visible on earlier searches. PDF is a common format for family research information.

- Draw a genogram for your puzzling ancestor or even your own nuclear family.

- Work on organizing or contacting your DNA matches. Haven't tested yet? Then look into doing it. Holiday prices are usually the lowest of the year.

- Watch some of the many YouTube tutorials on genealogy.

- Create or review your online tree.

  One possibility: Tribalpages-------you can begin immediately with free space that can be expanded with a reasonable annual fee. Tribalpage printouts are good; the database is easy to use. An interesting possibility: you can order a flash drive version of your tree---a great Christmas, birthday or family reunion gift.

- Make a table of your immigrant ancestors with the relevant details you know about them.

- Browse through FindaGrave using surnames or particular places.

- Browse FamilySearch documents that were created in your *county* of interest (an Images search). Get to know what's there and how it's arranged. Probate documents can be very interesting. Remember, though, that there's no general indexing; browsing the probate index volume images carefully can produce focused results.

- From time to time, review the information in your notes, folders, documents, etc. that support what you think you already know about your ancestor. You could see things in a new way.

- Start a research blog for your personal use. You can make it private to keep track of research notes or questions. On the other hand, you can write a traditional blog to share with the public. One possibility: Google Blogger.

- Develop a Research Plan with specific goals to guide your way forward. What exactly is it that you'd like to know about a particular ancestor or family?

- Consider hiring a research professional. Check the Internet (or this document) for possibilities. Also, see if the State Archive in your state of interest keeps a current list of such researchers who use their library.

- Using your Research Plan, state exactly what your hired researcher should look for---keeping in mind that you'll be paying for each hour of their time.

- Browse through Google Books using your ancestor's name, surname or locale. Look through other online book archives, too

- Begin writing about your own life.

- Check the State Archives in the state(s) where your ancestor lived; they could be housing unique records that have been digitized.

- Browse CyndisList for new resources or inspiration---try something new.

- Tidy up your loose papers, review all files and remove duplicate photocopies, etc. Whittle your materials down; organize (or re-organize) your tangible items: books, papers, memorabilia, letters, notes, research notebooks, flash drives and other computer formats, scraps of paper. If it's all a mess, make it look better!

- Check your computerized and online filing systems for clarity and relevance. Rename anything that wouldn't be clear to someone else.

- Start a Research Log if you don't already have one. Decide what format: a looseleaf notebook, spiral notebook or computer file. If you have one already, review whatever notes, aspirations, reminders or addresses you've included. Tape small, loose notes to regular-sized pages to preserve them in a more orderly way. You might rediscover a great insight that you once jotted down, but have since forgotten.

- Develop a title and/or choose an epigraph for your possible publication, for example: "Jane Doe's Family" OR "The past is never dead. It's not even past." *William Faulkner*