

DISCOVER YOUR ANCESTRAL STORY

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Step One:

- Always **START WITH YOURSELF**; work from the known to the unknown; progress from one generation back to the next, gathering as much evidence about each ancestor as possible.
- Gather sources you already have in your home; ask your relatives what they have and what they know.
- **ORGANIZE** and keep organized; keep track of who you have written, emailed or interviewed and of the research you have done – what you looked at and where you found it; cite all your sources using full bibliographic citations.

Step Two:

- Compile what you know about your ancestors
- Enter your information onto **Pedigree Charts** and **Family Group Sheets**.
- Even better: use genealogy software to record and organize your work (Family Tree Maker & Legacy are both excellent).
- The three basic elements of genealogy are: **NAMES – PLACES – DATES**; record these accurately and in full; become familiar with the places your ancestors lived in. Record this information in a consistent manner.

Step Three:

- **FILL IN THE GAPS**: starting with the generation closest to you, identify missing or dubious information
- Develop strategies for finding the missing information on your ancestors by reading how-to guides, both general methodology and specific to the places your ancestors lived
- Genealogy is about **PROBLEM-SOLVING** so be prepared to do some reading in history and genealogical methodology and to formulate strategies. Tackle one question at a time. Prepare for success – don't just hope for it!
- **DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING** you read or hear! Most family stories may hold a small grain of truth but have been exaggerated and embroidered over the years. There is a notorious amount of error, mis-transcription and misinformation in family history books, indexes and websites. Do not graft someone else's research on to your family tree unless you are absolutely confident that their research is sound. Your motto should be: **SHOW ME THE EVIDENCE!**
- **THE INTERNET IS JUST ONE TOOL** in your research toolbox: don't overlook the resources in libraries, archives, government agencies, private collections, genealogical & historical societies, museums, etc.

21st Century Tools:

- **CONSIDER DNA TESTING** to solve your brickwall problems – Ancestry, FamilyTreeDNA, MyHeritage are all good.
- **JOIN A FACEBOOK GROUP** – there are hundreds of genealogy-related Facebook sites
- Get familiar with **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)** – this is the newest tool in the genealogy toolbox!

Step Four:

- **JOIN A GENEALOGY SOCIETY** where you live (for help, support, educational opportunities, specialty library, etc.) and join genealogy societies where your ancestors lived (for contacts, location-specific information, queries, etc.).

Finally:

- **HAVE FUN** with it – enjoy the journey of learning more about history, finding living cousins and making new friends while you travel back in time to meet your ancestors.

Recommended Websites for Beginners:

FamilySearch: <https://familysearch.org> (digitized records, Research Wiki, Family History Library Catalog & more); the downtown Kelowna Library is a FamilySearch Affiliate which means that most of the “locked” digital images you may encounter when using FamilySearch from home are “unlocked” when at the Library

- Host of the huge **RootsTech** annual conference in Salt Lake City; you can attend virtually for free: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/registration-open-rootstech-2025>

Cyndi's List of Genealogical Sites on the Internet: www.cyndislist.com; organized by place and topics

Ancestry: www.ancestry.ca; subscription website; **Library Edition available FREE at Okanagan Regional Libraries**

World GenWeb: www.worldgenweb.org; network of websites covering many countries and jurisdictions therein

Library & Archives Canada: <https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/Pages/Home.aspx>; scroll down the page to find the link to “Genealogy and Family History”

CanGenealogy: <https://www.cangenealogy.com/>; links to Canadian genealogy sites and information

Legacy Family Tree Webinars: <https://familytreewebinars.com>; subscription site but with many free webinars

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center: <https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>; second-largest genealogy library in North America; coverage is worldwide; free webinars, databases, and more

Sources for Genealogy Books & Software:

- **Global Genealogy & History Shoppe:** www.globalgenealogy.com (Software, Books, CDs)
- **Legacy Family Tree:** www.legacyfamilytree.com (Software; Absolutely free; no MAC version)
- **Family Tree Maker:** www.mackiev.com/ftm (Software; starts at \$114.95CAD, has a version for MAC users)

Kelowna & District Genealogical Society:

- Founded in 1984; registered charitable society; annual membership \$50 individuals; \$60 families
- **KDGS Family & Local History Resource Centre:** large and growing genealogy reference library; located on the second floor of the downtown Kelowna public library; **Genealogists in Residence Service**, Free drop-in guidance with your Family History; Kelowna Library: 2nd and 4th Wed. 1-3pm; West Kelowna Library: last Tues. of each month, 2-4pm
- **Monthly educational meetings** via Zoom featuring international professional speakers, usually first Monday of every month (unless a holiday), Sept-June, 7pm (Dec. and June meetings are in-person socials)
- **Special Interest Groups** include: England, Eastern Europe, Sweden (and Scandinavia), DNA, Family History Writers, Family Tree Maker software, Legacy software
- **“Let’s Talk Genealogy”** monthly Zoom meeting where you can get answers to your genealogy questions and share information
- **Central Okanagan Obituary Project** database with free downloads for KDGS members (\$10 per obituary for non-members)
- To find out more: info@KDGS.ca; website: www.KDGS.ca

More Kelowna Genealogy Resources:

- **Okanagan Regional Library Kelowna Branch:** 1380 Ellis St.; FamilySearch Affiliate, Ancestry LE, BC Vital Stats, BC Directories, Books; UBCO Innovation Library
- **FamilySearch Center:** 696 Glenmore Road; phone 250-860-1690 for hours; access to subscription databases, etc.



Family Group Record

1

Husband					
Born	date:	place:			
Baptized	date:	place:			
Died	date:	place:			
Buried	date:	place:			
Occupation					
Father				Mother	
Married	date:	place:			
Wife					
Born	date:	place:			
Baptized	date:	place:			
Died	date:	place:			
Buried	date:	place:			
Occupation					
Father				Mother	
Children					
1	gender				
Born	date:	place:			
Baptized	date:	place:			
Died	date:	place:			
Buried	date:	place:			
Spouse		name:		married:	
2	gender				
Born	date:	place:			
Baptized	date:	place:			
Died	date:	place:			
Buried	date:	place:			
Spouse		name:		married:	
3	gender				
Born	date:	place:			
Baptized	date:	place:			
Died	date:	place:			
Buried	date:	place:			
Spouse		name:		married:	
4	gender				
Born	date:	place:			
Baptized	date:	place:			
Died	date:	place:			
Buried	date:	place:			
Spouse		name:		married:	

Pedigree Chart

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

Chart no. _____

