Genealogy… is like a jigsaw puzzle
Look at each piece....

Begin with YOURSELF!

Start with things you already know:

- Birth
- Parents
- Siblings
- Spouse
- Children
Create a separate page for each Family Member
Sort the pieces ~ Start with the frame
Show Family Relationships using an organizational chart

Group family information together

Transfer individual data to master sheets
## Checklist of Sources of Genealogical Information

### Home and Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal/Family</th>
<th>School Records</th>
<th>Citizenship Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autograph Album</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>Alien Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Books</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Change of Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Plates</td>
<td>Vocational/Trade</td>
<td>Denization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Bibles</td>
<td>College/University</td>
<td>Deportment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer Books</td>
<td>Ladies Finishing</td>
<td>Naturalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Traditions</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>Passport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journals, Diaries</td>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>Visa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters</td>
<td>Honor Roll</td>
<td>Vaccination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapbooks</td>
<td>Publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td>Report Cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heirlooms</td>
<td>Transcripts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Records</td>
<td>Yearbooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health/Medical Records</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memoirs/Biographies</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Certificates

- Adoption
- Awards
- Birth
- Baptism
- Blessing
- Confirmation
- Death
- Divorce
- Graduation
- Marriage
- Manumission
- Ministerial/Ordination
- Mission Release
- Vaccination

### Newspapers

- Advertisements
- Announcements
- Obituaries
- Legal notices
- Vital Statistics
- Local
- Professional
- Trade

### Membership Records

- Awards
- Cards
- Certificates
- Programs
- Publications
- Programs
- Uniforms

### Legal Papers

- Abstracts of Title
- Bonds
- Contracts
- Deeds
- Guardian Papers
- Insurance Policies
- Land Grants
- Leases
- Livestock Brands
- Loans
- Mortgages
- Subpoena
- Summons
- Tax Notices
- Water Rights

### Licenses

- Business
- Occupation
- Professional
- Hunting
- Firearms
- Driver's License
- Motor Vehicle

### Household Items

- Clothing
- Coat of Arms
- Dishes
- Engraved Jewelry
- Engraved Silverware
- Friendship Quilt
- Insignias
- Samplers
- Souvenirs
- Tapestries
- Tools

### Employment Records

- Apprenticeship
- Awards
- Citations
- Income Tax
- Pension
- Retirement
- Severance Papers
- Social Security
- Union

### Military Records

- Bounty Award
- Citations
- Disability
- Discharge Papers
- Firearms
- Muster rolls
- Pensions
- Ribbons/Medals
- Selective Service Registration
- Service Files
- Swords
- Uniform

### Health Records

- Hospital Records
- Insurance Papers
- Immunizations
- Medical Records
- X-Rays

### Books

- Atlases
- Foreign Language
- Textbooks
- Vocational
- Yearbooks
- Other

### Financial Records

- Accounts
- Bills
- Check Stubs
- Estate Records
- Receipts
How to organize the information

- Scan records and photographs into computer
- Carry a “flash” or “USB” drive when researching away from home.
- Use binders with plastic sleeves to keep copies of documents
- Keep checklists of where you have already searched for information for each person
- Use a genealogical software program
Public and Internet Sources

Cyndi’s List.com
Ancestry.com
FamilySearch.org
Census Records
Land Records
Military Records
Newspapers

CHECKLIST OF SOURCES OF GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION
COMPILED AND INSTITUTIONAL SOURCES

Family History Library
- Family Group Records Archives
- International Genealogical Index
- Ancestral File
- Family Register

Printed Sources
- Family Histories/Genealogies
- Biographies
- Local Histories
- City Directories
- Genealogical Periodicals

Public Sources
- U.S. Federal censuses
- Indexes to federal censuses
- Mortality schedules
- Agriculture
- Revolutionary War
- Union Army survivors
- State/Local censuses
- Local historians
- Local public libraries

Court Records
- Dockets
- Minutes
- Orders/Decrees
- Judgments
- Case Files
- Indexes

Court-Related Records
- Sheriff
- Local/State Police
- Jail
- Jury
- Lawyers’ briefs
- Justice of Peace

Tax Records
- Poll tax
- Personal Property
- Real Estate
- School
- Tax Exemptions
- Professional Registration Fees

Land Records
- Grantee Index
- Grantor Index
- Deeds
- Mortgages
- Surveys
- Patents/Grants
- Livestock Brands

Immigrant Records
- Passenger Lists
- Passports
- Change of Name
- Register of Voters
- Customs Records
- Immigrant Aid Societies
- Immigrant Records
- Logbooks

Mortuary/Cemetery Records
- Burial Registers
- Funeral Cards
- Funeral Books
- Monuments/Tombstones
- Memorials
- Plots/Deeds
- Perpetual Care Fund
- Sextons

Probate Records
- Indexes
- Wills
- Inventories
- Bonds
- Settlements
- Guardianships
www.CyndisList.com

Read “About Cyndi’s List” to understand more about this website

Read the FAQs

Use the different indexes to browse or explore the many links.

Search the entire list of links

Participate in the upkeep of this site by notifying Cyndi of broken links

Join the interactive forums and newsletters by subject, topic, locality, etc.
http://www.familysearch.org
Discover your Ancestors

Find your ancestors with Record Search. Search millions of indexed records for your ancestors. Browse through images of records waiting to be indexed. More records are being added every month.

Do your part. Become an indexer. Join thousands of volunteers around the world who are helping to make more free records available online through FamilySearch Indexing.

Find out more.

News & Updates

11 Mar 2010: Record Search has just added nearly 2.5 million images, having just published the Netherlands, Zuid-Holland Province Civil Registration and adding to the already-published Netherlands, Gelderland Province Civil Registration.
Latest trends in Genealogy

- Who Do You Think You Are: new TV show on NBC
- State and national websites with census and other records
- Personal family trees
  - Private (only invited persons may view it)
  - Public (anyone can view it)
  - Contact owner of tree for additional information without seeing the owner’s personal information or email address
  - Owner of tree can give editing or contribution rights to whoever they want – or not!
It’s not cheating to look at the box…

- Verify “known” information with documents, census records, etc.
- Look on-line to access free databases
- Use free trials of “for fee” databases
- Check with other family members for related information
- Access on-line genealogy
When the Puzzle is completed...

You can enjoy your family
And history

In a whole new way.