

KNOW YOUR FAMILY TREE

Genealogy Research for the Beginner



Introduction to research

Common Terms:

- GEDCOM
- Cousins (removed)
- Soundex
- Census index/records
- SSDI
- International Genealogical Index (IGI)
- PAF (Personal Ancestral File)

Beginning Your Research:

- Start with what you know
- Key things to record:
 - County/state locations
 - Birth, Marriage, Death dates
 - Baptism, Military Service dates and units
 - Brothers and sisters
 - Family Lore
- Gather Genealogically pertinent material
 - Bible records, photos, obits, wedding announcements
- Create ancestral/pedigree charts and family group sheets:
 - Personal knowledge
 - Relative interviews
 - Genealogical materials
 - Blank pedigree chart and family group sheet
- Start from current date and work backwards in your research
- Record what you know and learn in a genealogy file
 - FAMILY TREE MAKER - <https://www.mackiev.com/ftm/>
 - Personal Ancestral File (PAF)

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/>

(free PAF genealogy program and searches option provided by LDS Church)

<https://www.archives.gov/research/census/soundex.html>

(Civil War records)

<https://www.okhistory.org/research/dawes>

(Daws Rolls to search for Native American ancestors)

Research Sources

Bible Records and Photos

- Family names and relationships

Using Microfiche/Census Rolls

- Census taken every ten years – available to public after 70 years
- 1850 first census that included all family members and birth state
- 1880 census Soundex created to account for Social Security candidates and was first census to include birth state of parents
- 1890 census records almost totally destroyed by fire
- 1900 census records only one to include Month and Year born

Funeral Homes

- Death records
- Cemetery records

Libraries

- Local (Newspapers, county histories, cemetery records)
- Family History (LDS)
- IGI, Ancestral Files, census indexes/records, genealogical books/magazines
- Salt Lake City

Newspapers

- Obituaries
- Anniversary notices and other genealogically related articles

Court Houses

- Birth, marriage and death records
- Will, probate and estate records
- Cemetery records/locations
- Tax records (Grantor/seller and Grantee/buyer)

Cemeteries

- Birth and death dates
- Family relationships

Museums

- Family records
- Local history

Social Security Records

- Birth and death dates
- Parent information

Immigration/ship manifests

- Immigration dates
- Port entries
- Family relationships

Military Records

<http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/index.html> (National Archives)

Internet Research/Email

- Email
- Genealogy sites and surname home pages
- Historical/Military records

Organize your documents

- REVIEW FAMILY SOURCE DOCUMENT EXAMPLES PROVIDED IN CLASS

Using the Soundex <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/soundex.html>

- Useful if county location unknown – census ranges 1880 to 1920
- Can account for many miss-spelled surnames

Using the Internet

Genealogy Home pages

Davis Family Genealogy Page
www.tedmrd.com

Favorite Genealogy Internet Sites

Ancestry.com (1880 Census FREE)
<http://www.ancestry.com>
Requires membership (but worth it)

Newspaper Archives
<http://newspaperarchive.com/>
Monthly or yearly fee (but worth it)

LDS FamilySearch
<http://www.familysearch.org/>

Online Searchable Death Indexes for the USA
<http://www.germanroots.com/deathrecords.html>

Searchable Death Indexes
<http://www.deathindexes.com/>

Curry County LDS Library Site
<http://curry.nmgenweb.us/>

USGenWeb Project
<http://www.usgenweb.com/>

Genealogy.com (Family Tree Maker)
http://www.genealogy.com/index_r.html
Requires membership – but worth it

WorldGenWeb Project
<http://worldgenweb.org/>

Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~chalkley/index.htm>

RootsWeb
<http://searches.rootsweb.com/>

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet
<http://cyndislist.com/>

Lots of cemetery search sites
<http://www.findagrave.com/>

Board of Certified Genealogists – How to get certified
<http://www.bcgcertification.org/>

England and Wales GRO
<http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>
Order birth, marriage, death records

Index to England and Wales Vital Records (1837 to present) - <https://www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk/freebmd>
Information needed to order from GRO (General Registry Office)

Social Security Death Index
<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/ssdi>

Obituary Lookup Volunteers – State/Country Index
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~obitl/ovlist.html>

Blank census forms for research data
<https://www.ancestry.com/cs/census-forms>

Genealogy Forebears
<https://forebears.io/login>
Excellent surname search site

The Soundex Indexing System

The soundex is a coded surname (last name) index based on the way a surname sounds rather than the way it is spelled. Surnames that sound the same, but are spelled differently, like SMITH and SMYTH, have the same code and are filed together. The soundex coding system was developed so that you can find a surname even though it may

Basic Soundex Coding Rule

Every soundex code consists of a letter and three numbers, such as W-252. The letter is always the first letter of the surname. The numbers are assigned to the remaining letters of the surname according to the soundex guide shown below. Zeroes are added at the end if necessary to produce a four-character code. Additional letters are disregarded.

- **Washington** is coded W-252 (W, 2 for the S, 5 for the N, 2 for the G, remaining letters disregarded).
- **Lee** is coded L-000 (L, 000 added).

Additional Soundex Coding Rules

1. Names With Double Letters

If the surname has any double letters, they should be treated as one letter. For example:

- **Gutierrez** is coded G-362 (G, 3 for the T, 6 for the first R, second R ignored, 2 for the Z).

2. Names with Letters Side-by-Side that have the Same Soundex Code Number

If the surname has different letters side-by-side that have the same number in the soundex coding guide, they should be treated as one letter. Examples:

- **Pfister** is coded as P-236 (P, F ignored, 2 for the S, 3 for the T, 6 for the R).
- **Tymczak** is coded as T-522 (T, 5 for the M, 2 for the C, Z ignored, 2 for the K). Since the vowel "A" separates the Z and K, the K is coded.

3. Names with Prefixes

If a surname has a prefix, such as Van, Con, De, Di, La, or Le, code both with and without the prefix because the surname might be listed under either code. Note, however, that Mc and Mac are **not** considered prefixes.

4. Consonant Separators

If a vowel (A, E, I, O, U) separates two consonants that have the same soundex code, the consonant to the right of the vowel is coded. Example:

If "H" or "W" separate two consonants that have the same soundex code, the consonant to the right of the vowel is **not** coded. Example:

- **Ashcraft** is coded A-261 (A, 2 for the S, C ignored, 6 for the R, 1 for the F). It is not coded A-226.

Soundex Coding Guide

Number	Represents the Letters
1	B, F, P, V
2	C, G, J, K, Q, S, X, Z
3	D, T
4	L
5	M, N
6	R

Disregard the letters A, E, I, O, U, H, W, and Y.

DNA – The Next Frontier

When you're exploring your list of DNA matches, look for these confidence scores and let them help you focus your research.

The amount of centimorgans you share with a match can also help you understand your relationship to them. For example, you'll usually share about 120 centimorgans with a 3rd cousin, but it's possible to share as few as 90 or as many as 200. Be aware that the precise amount of shared DNA can vary beyond the ranges shown in the table below.

Approximate amount of shared DNA (in centimorgans)	Possible relationship
3,475	Parent, child, or identical twin
2,400—2,800	Full sibling (including fraternal twins)
1,450—2,050	Grandparent, aunt, uncle, half—sibling
680—1,150	1st cousin, great—grandparent
200—620	2nd cousin
90—180	3rd cousin
20—85	4th cousin
6—20	Distant cousin: 5th cousin — 8th cousins