



Getting Started with Genealogical Research

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The Genealogical Research Process

Here are steps to help you get started on your adventures in genealogical research:

1. Identify what you know. Start with information about yourself – your birth, marriage, and other information.
2. Create a simple family tree with your immediate family.
3. Write down your parents' and grandparents' information. Include where they lived and/or grew up as well as birth, marriage, and death dates.
4. Find out more information about your close relatives and those on farther branches of the family tree.
5. Talk with older relatives. Record the interviews if they are comfortable with that.
6. Verify names and dates – was Aunt Betty's birth name Betsy, Elizabeth, or Bettie-Lou? Was she born in 1944 or 1934?
7. Look for family photos, Bibles, letters, and other documents that contain family history.

Resources to help you get started researching your family:

- Wake County Public Libraries – Genealogy information guide: <https://guides.wakegov.com/genealogy>
- National Archives Guide for Genealogists <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/catalog-guide>
- National Genealogical Society – Getting Started <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/getting-started/>
- State Library of North Carolina – Beginning Genealogy Resources <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.libguides.com/rootsmooc>
- Cyndi's List for Beginners <https://www.cyndislist.com/beginners/>
- Wake County Genealogical Society (no need to have Wake County ancestors) www.wakecogen.org