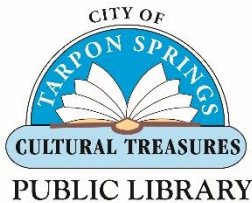


Introduction to  
**Family History Research**  
at the Tarpon Springs Public Library



138 E. Lemon Street • Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 • (727) 943-4922

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**You've always been  
curious about your  
family tree . . .**



**The Tarpon Springs Public Library has excellent genealogy resources. This short presentation will show you how to get started.**

The internet provides a huge resource for genealogists, but only a small percentage of the historical records available to genealogists are online. We'll look at both "high tech" and "no tech" methods here.

**Check out our "Introduction to Genealogy" video at  
[tarponlibrary.org/genealogy](http://tarponlibrary.org/genealogy)**

## Stay Organized:

A three-ring binder, with dividers to separate grandparents, is a good way to keep information within the correct branch of your family tree.



## Cite Your Sources:

In any research process it is very important to write down the source of the information you find. For example, when you find Great Grandpa Joe's birth date, record where you found that date - whether you found his birth certificate on a website or a family member told you the date.

You will find conflicting information along the way, and knowing the source of your info will be important. We have a great book in the library that explains proper source citation and how to analyze data, ***Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources From Artifacts to Cyberspace*** by Elizabeth Shown Mills.

## Organization:

Use two genealogy forms to record information:

## Pedigree Charts and Family Group Sheets.

*(Keep the samples provided with this packet to make additional copies.)*

**Pedigree Charts** illustrate your relationship to your direct ancestors. Work backwards from yourself. Don't skip generations. Record event dates like this: 15 Nov 1873 and refer to females by their maiden names.

### Pedigree Chart

No. 1 on this chart is the same person as no. \_\_\_\_\_ on pedigree chart no. \_\_\_\_\_.

1  
Name

Birth date:

Birth place:

#### Notes:

Record women using their maiden names.

#### Ahnentafel Numbering:

No. 1 can be male or female. After that, all even-numbered people are male and all odd-numbered people are female. Double any person's number and that's the number of his/her father. Double any person's number, and add one, and that's the number of his/her mother.

2  
Father (of no. 1)

Birth date:

Birth place:

3  
Mother (of no. 1)

Birth date:

Birth place:

4  
Father (of no. 2)

Birth date:

Birth place:

5  
Mother (of no. 2)

Birth date:

Birth place:

6  
Father (of no. 3)

Birth date:

Birth place:

7  
Mother (of no. 3)

Birth date:

Birth place:

8  
Father (of no. 4)

Birth date:

Birth place:

9  
Mother (of no. 4)

Birth date:

Birth place:

10  
Father (of no. 5)

Birth date:

Birth place:

11  
Mother (of no. 5)

Birth date:

Birth place:

12  
Father (of no. 6)

Birth date:

Birth place:

13  
Mother (of no. 6)

Birth date:

Birth place:

14  
Father (of no. 7)

Birth date:

Birth place:

15  
Mother (of no. 7)

Birth date:

Birth place:

**Family Group Sheets** detail information for individual families. Create one for each couple.

For example, if your dad has one sister, create two sheets: one for your dad, listing your mom, and you and your siblings; and one for your dad's sister's family. Your dad and his sister will also appear as children on their parents' Family Group Sheet.

In the case of a second marriage create a second sheet. Make a Family Group Sheet for someone who remains single or has no children too.

## Family Group Sheet

*Record women using their maiden names.*

<b>Full name of husband:</b>			
Birth date:	Birth place:	Death date:	Death place:
Marriage date:	Marriage place:	Husband's father:	Husband's mother:
Religious milestones, education, military service, and other notable events:			
Notes/Sources:			
<b>Full name of wife:</b>			
Birth date:	Birth place:	Death date:	Death place:
		Wife's father:	Wife's mother:
Religious milestones, education, military service, and other notable events:			
Notes/Sources:			
<b>Children of this marriage:</b>			
1 Name:	Birth date:	Birth place:	Notes/Sources:
	Death date:	Death place:	
2 Name:	Birth date:	Birth place:	Notes/Sources:
	Death date:	Death place:	
3 Name:	Birth date:	Birth place:	Notes/Sources:
	Death date:	Death place:	
4 Name:	Birth date:	Birth place:	Notes/Sources:
	Death date:	Death place:	
5 Name:	Birth date:	Birth place:	Notes/Sources:
	Death date:	Death place:	
6 Name:	Birth date:	Birth place:	Notes/Sources:
	Death date:	Death place:	

*Notes: Use more sheets for additional children. Create of new Family Group Sheet for additional marriages.*

### **Find Information in Your Home:**

Record the facts on Pedigree Charts and Family Group Sheets. Then gather old documents, photographs, or maybe the family bible you have at home. Write down everything you learn from these heirlooms. Use archival-safe sheet protectors for old documents, and place everything in your binder.

### **Contact your Oldest Family Members:**

Rather than saying, “Tell me all about the family,” ask specific questions like “What did your grandfather do for a living?” or “Did relatives come to visit when you were a child?” Siblings or cousins may remember stories you have forgotten.

### **Genealogy Software:**

You can build a family tree on sites like Ancestry.com, but a genealogy software program offers many more features. Programs such as ***Roots Magic, Legacy Family Tree, or Reunion for Mac*** are inexpensive and allow you to create a wide range of digital and printable reports.



The Tarpon Springs Public Library has many genealogy “how-to” books that can be checked out. Ask the Reference Department for help finding these titles.

familytree magazine

***Family Tree*** magazine contains articles on genealogical topics from around the world.

You can download ***Family Tree*** magazine free, in its entirety, through Libby - [tarponlibrary.org/emagazines/](https://tarponlibrary.org/emagazines/)

Additional genealogy and local history periodicals are available at the Library. Current issues must remain in the library, but past issues may be checked out.



**Online Research:** User-submitted family trees should be used for clues to find actual historic documents. Many user-submitted trees contain errors.

***Ancestry Library Edition*** contains digitized images of historic documents, vital records, census records, and much more. Subscription site for patron use in the library.

***American Ancestors*** provides access to nearly 3,000 genealogical and historical collections, focusing on (but not limited to) the New England area. Subscription site for patron use in the library.

***Fold 3*** offers military records, including the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served. Can be accessed from home with your PPLC library card.

***Heritage Hub*** through ***Newsbank*** is a huge collection of obituaries from all over the country. Can be accessed from home with your PPLC library card.

Access these sites and our favorite free sites  
at - [tarponlibrary.org/genealogy](http://tarponlibrary.org/genealogy)



### **Helpful Hints for Online Searches:**

Providing too much information results in too few hits, and too little yields unrelated hits. Results will differ depending on commonality of names and size of communities.

### **Remember to use spelling variations and date ranges.**

Database indexes contain errors - for several reasons. Many of our ancestors were illiterate, thus names were recorded as they sounded, resulting in many spelling variations.

Another illustration is the U.S. census in the 1800s. The census taker rode from home to home recording household members. If no one was home, the census taker obtained the family's info from a neighbor.

Most everything was handwritten. Now 21st century transcribers are deciphering the old handwriting, often from deteriorating pages.



**Most importantly, each time original info is interpreted human error can occur.**

## Old Newspapers:

Search newspapers from across the U.S. (1836-1926) free at ***chroniclingamerica.loc.gov***

Search the ***St. Petersburg Times*** (1901-2009), from home with your PPLC library card - ***tarponlibrary.org/genealogy***

For Tarpon Springs research, the ***Tarpon Leader***, (1916-1990) is digitized and available on disk at our Reference Department. City directories and high school yearbooks for several years are available in the Reference Department too, along with local history books.

## ***Google* is a great resource:**

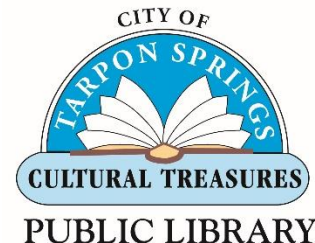
For more efficient searches, *Google* names and localities using quotes around terms, and + or – signs between terms. For example, type in: “Pinellas County” + “marriage records”



## Connect With Other Genealogists:

The Tarpon Library Genealogy Group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 6:30 pm.

We explore a new topic each month covering traditional family history research and DNA. The group is for beginning and advanced researchers.



**Volunteer genealogists** are available to assist library patrons. Email Denise at [dmanning@ctsfl.us](mailto:dmanning@ctsfl.us) to make an appointment.

The Largo Public Library is the genealogy hub for Pinellas County, housing the collection of the **Pinellas Genealogy Society (PGS)**.

Many classes are offered every month by PGS at the Largo library and all are hybrid (In-Person and via Zoom). Info: **[pinellaskenealogysociety.com](http://pinellaskenealogysociety.com)**

**This short introduction to family history research at the Tarpon Springs Public Library is meant only as a jumping off point. Genealogy is a rewarding hobby and many local resources are available. Ask us to help!**

**Enjoy growing your family tree.**

