

Beginning Genealogy



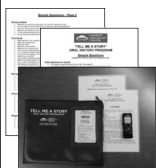
MIDWEST
GENEALOGY
CENTER

Getting Started

- Start with yourself and your immediate family, then push backwards through the generations
- Limit your focus to one line initially
- Collect names of family members and the dates and places of birth, marriage, and death
- Document (source) EVERYTHING!
- Gather information from family members

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Family Interviews: “Do It Now!”



- Plan ahead
 - Ask both factual questions and open-ended questions that encourage storytelling
 - Record your interviews (audio/video) for the future
- While you're there...
 - Arrange to view photos and other “treasures” while you're there for the interview
 - Ask your interviewee to help identify unknown photos or artifacts from your own collection



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Other Good Practices



- Embrace the challenges
 - Inconsistent dates, places, spelling
 - Bumps in the road - AKA “brick walls”



- Commit to good research practices
 - Start and stay organized – family history forms, genealogy software programs
 - Limit your use of sticky notes and other little pieces of paper that can get lost or misplaced
 - Cite your sources!

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Recordkeeping Basics: Names

- Names
 - First name, Middle name, LAST NAME (all caps)
 - List nicknames in quotes
 - Record women with their MAIDEN NAMES

EXAMPLE

Ethel “Etta” (HOUGHTON) PYE

When listing both maiden and married names, place the woman's maiden name in parentheses.

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Recordkeeping: Dates & Places

- Dates
 - Day, Month, Year = 12 Oct 1913
 - Avoids confusion
 - American-style dates (10-12-1913)
 - European-style dates (12-10-1913)
- Geographic locations
 - Independence, Jackson, MO (city, county, state)
 - Munich, Bavaria, Germany (city, state, country)

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Pedigree or Generation Chart

ANCESTOR CHART

Robert Allen TURNER

Father
 B 13 Apr 1875
 W Ohio Co., IN
 D 13 Sep 1952
 W Hopkins, Nodaway, MO
 M 6 Jun 1900
 W St. Joseph, Buchanan, MO

★

▶ Note format used for names, dates, & places

▶ Why Ohio Co, but not Nodaway or Buchanan Co.?

Family Unit Chart

FAMILY UNIT CHART

HUSBAND Robert Allen TURNER

Birth: 13 Apr 1875, Ohio Co., IN
 Marriage: 6 Jun 1900, St. Joseph, Buchanan, MO
 Death: 13 Sep 1952, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO
 Burial: 18 Sep 1952, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO

Wife: Mary Effie PROCTOR

Birth: 2 Oct 1877, Ravenwood, Nodaway, MO
 Death: 8 Mar 1941, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO
 Burial: 11 Mar 1941, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO

CHILDREN

- #1 Queen A: B 10 Oct 1901, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO; D 20 Aug 1924, St. Joseph, Buchanan, MO
- #2 William Edward: B 10 Jun 1904, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO; D 12 Jun 1925, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO
- #3 Anne Florine: B 30 Jun 1906, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO; D 10 May 1995, Detroit, Westland, MI
- #4 Donald Joseph: B 20 Mar 1908, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO; D 13 Jun 1981, Collinsville, Page, IA
- #5 Phyllis Margaret: B 24 Mar 1912, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO; D 20 Oct 1996, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO
- #6 Mary Louise: B 4 Dec 1919, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO; D 28 Sept 1940, Hopkins, Nodaway, MO

Husband/Father
His parents

Wife/Mother
Her parents

Each of the children
Their spouse(s)

Paper Files vs Digital Storage

Paper Options

- File folders in a file cabinet
- 3-ring binders
 - Group by family line
 - File alphabetically by individual and/or by surname

Digital Options

- Software programs such as
 - Family Tree Maker
 - Roots Magic
 - Legacy Family Tree
- Online tree options
 - Ancestry.com
 - FamilySearch.org
 - Findmypast
 - MyHeritage

Next Step: Extend Your Research

US Federal Census

- Decennial, years ending in "0" from 1790 – 1950
 - 1790 – 1840 heads only, 1890 destroyed by fire
- Maintained by National Archives and Records Administration
- Accessible in numerous publications and online databases

Check access for each US Federal Census at:
www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/census/online-resources

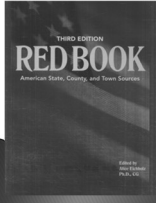
Online Census Search Tips

- Less can be more
- Be flexible
- Always take time to view the original document →
- Add/save, print, record census search on your research log
- No luck finding your person? Get creative!

After the US Federal Census



- State, county, and local records
 - Other censuses - state/territorial, Indian, federal non-population
 - Vital records - birth, marriage, death
 - Legal records - deeds, wills/probate, court docs
- Online background information
 - FamilySearch.org Research Wiki
 - *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources* edited by Alice Eichholz



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Newspapers & More

- Newspapers (obits, feature stories)
- Newspapers on microfilm
 - Online newspaper databases
 - ChroniclingAmerica (LOC)
 - Access NewspaperARCHIVE
 - Newspapers (.com/LE)

Other Records

- Military records
- City directories
- Church and cemetery records
- Immigration/naturalization docs
- Tax and property records

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Where to Look



- State, county, and local libraries and archives
- County courthouses
- Church archives
- Genealogical & historical societies
- College/university libraries
- Genealogy websites -- MGC & others (see back of handout)



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Share Your Information

- Why share?
 - Connect with others researching the same line
- Ways to share:
 - Message Boards - Roots Web, Ancestry.com
 - Social Media - Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, etc.
 - Create a website or blog
 - Family Reunions
 - Online Community Trees

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MGC Online Classes

MGC → Get Started → Online Learning

Online Learning	
<p>How to Use the MGC Website</p> <p>Learn how to use the MGC website to find records, contact staff, and more.</p>	<p>Midwest Genealogy Center Edition</p> <p>Learn how to use the MGC website to find records, contact staff, and more.</p>
<p>Introduction to Internet Genealogy</p> <p>Learn how to use the MGC website to find records, contact staff, and more.</p>	<p>Using Fold3</p> <p>Learn how to use the MGC website to find records, contact staff, and more.</p>
<p>Using HeritageQuest</p> <p>Learn how to use the MGC website to find records, contact staff, and more.</p>	<p>Weekly Website Wonders</p> <p>Learn how to use the MGC website to find records, contact staff, and more.</p>

Online at midwestgenealogycenter.org

- Beginning Ancestry Library Edition
- Beginning Genealogy
- Census Records Research
- Introduction to Internet Genealogy
- Tracing Immigrant Origins
- Using Fold3
- Using HeritageQuest
- Weekly Website Wonders

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MIDWEST GENEALOGY CENTER

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Beginning Genealogy: Online Sources

www.Midwestgenealogycenter.org

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816-252-7228

Getting Started

- MGC forms, go to <https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/resources/family-history-forms>

Extending Your Research

- U.S. Federal Census records
 - NARA – www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/census/online-resources
 - FamilySearch United States Census Research Wiki - https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Federal_Census
 - Cyndi's List - <https://www.cyndislist.com/us/census>
- State, county, and local records
 - USFC - https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/other_resources/state_censuses.html
 - Missouri Digital Heritage – <http://www.sos.mo.gov/mdh>
 - The FamilySearch.org Research Wiki for your country, state, county, and/or city
 - Eichholz's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources – access online at https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Red_Book:_American_State,_County,_and_Town_Sources
- Newspapers – obituaries, news articles, notices, advertisements
 - Library of Congress – <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
 - MGC Newspapers - <https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/resources/resources-for-genealogy>

Locating Resources

- Online
 - Internet Archive – <http://www.archive.org>
 - Cyndi's List – <http://www.cyndislist.com>
 - Family Search – <https://familysearch.org> or https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Online_Genealogy_Records_by_Location
 - Find a Grave – <http://www.findagrave.com>, BillionGraves – <https://billiongraves.com>
 - Joe Beine's Genealogy Branches – <https://www.genealogybranches.com/>
 - U.S. Genealogy Records Directory – <https://ldsgenealogy.com/dir/>
 - RootsWeb – <https://home.rootsweb.com/>
 - USGenWeb Project – <https://www.usgenweb.org/> – and other county genealogy websites
 - MGC – <https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/resources/resources-for-genealogy>

Next Steps through MGC

- Online Learning - <https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/get-started/online-learning>
- Classes/Events - <https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/events>