

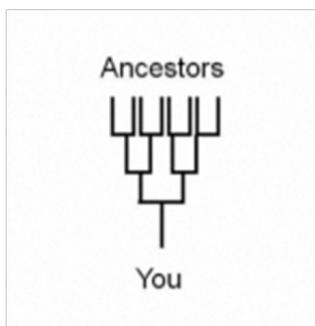
DESCENDANCY RESEARCH: ANOTHER PATHWAY TO GENEALOGY

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INTRODUCTION:

Breaking through the challenges of brick walls in genealogy has never been more rewarding.

Genealogists are often taught the way to doing research is to search backwards through time; going back as far as you can. This lecture assumes a new focus with conducting genealogical research by tracing all the descendants of an ancestral couple to present. This class examines the methodology and techniques to find living relations who may hold the key to your family history research. Focus is given to provide actual case studies of doing this kind of research.



Conducting Ancestral Research:

In (5) Generations- **32 Names**

In (6) Generations- **64 Names**

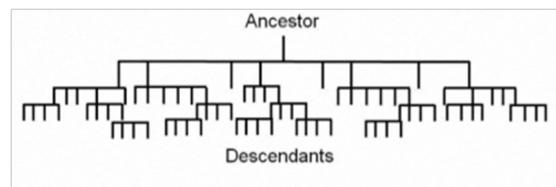
In (7) Generations- **128 Names**

In (8) Generations- **256 Names**

In (9) Generations- **512 Names**

In (10) Generations- **1024 Names**

The numbers above represent if every person on your genealogical chart has been located, filled out, and documented.



Conducting Descendants Research:

The potential to double or triple (dependant on the number of generations being researched) the number of names, which would equal the same numbers of generations from conducting ancestral line research.

This type of research allows for collateral lines to be accounted for and documented. Makes researching and including all the family members possible.

RESEARCH PROCESS:

The process of searching for the descendants of your ancestors is much the same as for finding direct-line ancestors.

Step 1: Choose a Family to Research

Step 2: Collect Previous Research

Step 3: Consult Additional Sources

Step 4: Compile/Share What was Learned

These steps can be repeated as often as needed-for each research project that you start with.

It is a never ending cycle of research.

STEP 1

CHOOSE A FAMILY TO RESEARCH

Begin your research with what you already know. At this point break out research what you don't know. This is done by choosing an "Ancestral Couple" to start with.

Begin with families alive around 1850

Record what you find on family group records.

Begin with real curiosity.

When beginning a research project and choosing an Ancestral Couple; The more recent the couple; The more records there are generally available to locate family members living today.

STEP 2

COLLECT PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Genealogy research has fast become one the most popular hobbies-Someone else could very well have already started gathering information about the very same ancestral couple and their descendents you are seeking.

Finding family records and documents
Finding family information from your relatives
Finding online information compiled by others

Additional Research Sources:

Diaries, Memoirs (Often Done Years Later)
Family Histories (Published)
County Histories (Geographical)
Family Trees (Compiled or on Internet)
Family Bibles (Consider Publication Date)

When using internet sources compiled by others, please check the sources used for obtaining the information- and try to obtain copies of primary documentation when looking at these records for your family.

STEP 3

CONSULT ADDITIONAL SOURCES

After having exhausted records already made available on the Ancestral Couple being researched-Many more genealogical sources could be waiting to be researched that hadn't been considered before. Some of these record types include the following;

Vital Records-This includes births, marriages, deaths, and divorce records and proceedings. Nearly every jurisdiction has some form of this set of records available to research.

State/Federal Census Records-This set of records record names, ages, relationships, and occupations of our ancestors and their descendants. (Available from 1790-1940-with statewide census exceptions).

Federal Court Records-This group of records are Federal in scope; and include; Naturalizations (Federal Court Only), Criminal, Equity, Bankruptcy, Admiralty, Tax Lists, Civil, Writs, Patents, Copyright, Trademarks, and Passports, The records are divided into District Courts, Circuit Courts, and Courts of Appeals. All of the above records are housed at the National Archives or in the regional branches.

Local Court Records-These records are available at the local level (and typically filmed at State Archives), and include; Probate, Administrations, Guardianships, Orphan Court Proceedings, Naturalizations, Deeds, Mortgages, Liens, Judgments, Criminal Dockets, Divorces, Road Dockets, Tax Lists, and Assessor Maps.

Church Records-These records are the real heart of your ancestors families. The records here follow very closely with Vital Records recorded in each state, but often are recorded many years earlier. Consult your local area for availability.

Military Records-This set of records include Compiled Service Records (CSR-Pre 1912), Official Military Personal Files (OMPF-Post 1912), Pensions, Payment Cards, Muster Rolls, Ships Logs, Rendezvous Reports, Hospital Records, and Prisoner of War Records. Documents are available at the National Archives and State Archives.

Obituaries/Newspaper Records-These records offer a great deal of genealogical details on families and their connections. Some newspapers were "Daily" while others published "Weekly" or even "Semi-Weekly" Consulting your local library, archives, or genealogical society to check for the availability of newspapers. Consider online newspaper sources.

This list is by no means exhaustive. Most every type of record that records genealogical data can be used to obtain details to further your research goals.

STEP 4

COMPILE/SHARE WHAT WAS LEARNED:

Once you have completed your research, share with others your findings. Consider putting your genealogical information into a computer database; or share the information online on any number of websites including Ancestry or Family Search. Several genealogical programs have been developed to aid and document your family members located doing descendents research.

Some of these programs include:

Family Tree Maker
Legacy Family Tree
Roots Magic

These are some of many programs available to aid in your genealogical research. Consult each for your individual needs and computer requirements.

BRICKWALL PROBLEMS DOING RESEARCH

Sometime when conducting Descendent research coming up against Brick Wall problems is something that will have to be addressed; Much like doing Ancestral research-the solution to overcome research road blocks is to first recognize the problem exists.

Some of the more prevalent "*Brick Wall*" problems include;

Changes of Surnames/Variations of Names

Records Don't Exist

Records Destroyed (Accidental, Act of Nature)

Records Not in the Area Your Searching

Burnt County Research (Deliberate)

Information is Incorrect

Information Not Accurate or Confusing

Community/Jurisdiction Changes

With each of the above problems simple, but effective genealogical methodology can be employed to overcome any road block to find the information that may have been unable to be located before.

Some of the Methodology used to solve Genealogical “Brick Wall” research can include the following;

Create a Genealogy Timeline-

"Plot an Ancestors Life" Its Easier to see holes

Gain an Understanding of Geography-

Follow Ancestors Movements & Broaden Searches

Find Every Possible Record

Due Diligence Genealogy Research

Understand How Records were Created

Tap into Local Resources-

Locals have more knowledge of their sources

Go in person if you can.

Don't rely strictly on the Internet

Use both Primary and Secondary Sources

Collaborate With Other Researchers

Including other Genealogists and Professionals

Conduct Personal Interviews with Family Members

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS/PICTURES:

When conducting any type of descendent research always try to obtain copies of photographs whenever and wherever possible. Each of the following types of images can be obtained doing research;

Daguerreotypes (Very popular from 1839-1860)

Ambrotypes (Produced between 1854-1881)

Tintypes (Widely used from 1856-into the 1920's)

Carte-De-Visite (CDV) (Used from 1858-1910)

Cabinet Cards (Popular from 1866-to the 1920's)

Post Cards (Available from 1893 to the present)

Other types of photographic imagery included Pannotypes, Colotypes', Talbotypes, Stereoviews, and Albumen Prints were used as well.

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NOTES:

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