

Your Family Tree Your Way: **An Introduction to New Ancestry Tools**

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Introduction

"Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can." — Unknown

From the toe-dipping granddaughter who is researching an ancestor for history class to the genealogist of decades, both come from a desire to know where they come from and how to tell the stories of the ancestors they meet on their family history journey. Yet, getting started can be rather intimidating especially given the cyclic nature of genealogy. It isn't a straight shot.

Doubts creep up between the cracks like weeds, obscuring what you know and don't know. Pressure mounts from above based on The Rules of Genealogy. But becoming a family historian means telling the story of your family tree in your own way. Tell the story that is meaningful for you.

Quick Refresher on Genealogical Proof Standard

Recommended Resources: Evidence Explained & Mastering Genealogical Proof

- A. Gathering Evidence
- B. Identifying Sources
- C. Correlating Findings
- D. Checking for discrepancies
- E. Writing the conclusion

Questions To Jumpstart Building Your Family History Craft

These questions are your lighthouses in the sea of family history. Ways that you can look up and regain hope in what you are doing.

1. What is driving you towards family history?
 - a. Are you going through a rough patch of your life?
2. What is it you want to know?
 - a. Are you wanting to know if your name is a family name? If so, from who?
 - b. How will you track this?
 - c. Identify your research questions
 - i. May vary per ancestor
 - ii. Write these down somewhere
3. What do you want to do with what you learn?
 - a. To simply know? Share? Preserve?

4. What are your key milestones? How are you going to make the most of the time you have?
 - a. Map it out
 - b. Time periods. Geography. Family lines.
5. How will you improve upon your skills?

Utilizing Ancestry Tools in Your Methodology

1. Identifying missing ancestors
 - a. New Person Hints
 - b. Common Ancestors of DNA Matches
 - c. Descendants
 - d. Targeted Ancestor Searching
2. Learning on the contextual history of your ancestor's life
 - a. DNA Story
 - b. Genetic Communities
 - c. Historical Insights
3. Identifying your plan/goals
 - a. Ancestor Notes
 - b. Timeline Events/Facts
 - c. DNA Matches Notes
4. Tracking/Organization
 - a. Tree Organizational Tool

Provide Marissa and the Ancestry Team feedback on today's session and the new tools revealed. The survey will be available starting February 28th– March 10th. Click [here](#) to begin.