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# Family History 101

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Note: URLs are valid as of 4 April 2022

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## Vital Records

- Birth Records: also Christening/Baptism Records
  - Marriage Records: also Civil License, Church Record, Bonds, Banns
  - Death & Burials: also Obituaries and Cemeteries
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## Standard Genealogical Forms

- Available from MANY web locations
    - Google “genealogical forms”
    - [familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Research\\_Forms](http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Research_Forms)
    - [www.cyndislist.com/free-stuff/printable-charts-and-forms/](http://www.cyndislist.com/free-stuff/printable-charts-and-forms/)
    - [TweedRiver.com/g/forms.html](http://TweedRiver.com/g/forms.html)
  - Often available in Word or PDF format
    - Look for PDF forms that have “fill-in” fields
  - Standardizes info gathered by various means
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## Folder Organizing Systems

- Methods
  - Piles of files ...
  - Binders
  - Manila Folders
  - Computer Folders
  - Is the Person or the Family your organizing Unit?
  - Find a method that is simple and that you can work with
    - By Last Name
    - By Family/ Marriage Number (MRIN)
    - Include Color ...
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## Downloadable Forms

- [TweedRiver.com/g/forms.html](http://TweedRiver.com/g/forms.html)
- [familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Research\\_Forms](http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Research_Forms)
- [www.cyndislist.com/free-stuff/printable-charts-and-forms/](http://www.cyndislist.com/free-stuff/printable-charts-and-forms/)
- [www.ancestry.com/cs/charts-and-forms](http://www.ancestry.com/cs/charts-and-forms) (subscription site, but forms area is free)
- [www.familytreemagazine.com/freeforms](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/freeforms)
- [www.genealogysearch.org/free/forms.html](http://www.genealogysearch.org/free/forms.html)
  
- Family Unit Chart (PDF)
  - [TweedRiver.com/pdf/Base\\_FAMILY%20Unit%20Chart.pdf](http://TweedRiver.com/pdf/Base_FAMILY%20Unit%20Chart.pdf)
- Pedigree Chart (PDF)
  - [TweedRiver.com/pdf/Base\\_INDIVIDUAL%20Pedigree%20Chart.pdf](http://TweedRiver.com/pdf/Base_INDIVIDUAL%20Pedigree%20Chart.pdf)

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## Research Websites

- [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)  
Free account required
- [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) (\$)
- [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)  
Crowd sourced
- [fold3.com](http://fold3.com)  
Military records

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## Research Locations

- Local Library
- Family History Center or FamilySearch Affiliate Library  
[www.familysearch.org/fhcenters/locations/](http://www.familysearch.org/fhcenters/locations/)
  
- County Courthouse
- NJ State Archives  
[www.nj.gov/state/archives/index.html](http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/index.html)
  
- Local Historical Society

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## Join a Society

- Genealogical Society of Bergen County  
Ridgewood Public Library  
[njgsbc.org](http://njgsbc.org)
- Passaic County Historical Society  
Lambert Castle / Clifton Public Library  
[lambertcastle.org](http://lambertcastle.org)
- Hudson County Genealogical & Historical Society Secaucus Public Library  
[hudsoncountynjgenealogy.org](http://hudsoncountynjgenealogy.org)

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## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. I am looking for a birth record in Germany around 1880. Will I find any civil records?  
  
A. Go to the Family Search Wiki page and enter “Germany genealogy”. The resulting page has links to MANY German genealogy resources.  
*familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main\_Page*
  
  - Q. My ancestors are from a small village in Europe. What are the chances that either civil or church records from there are available on the Family Search website?  
  
A. Go to the Family Search Catalog page and enter the name of the village to search by place. If there are records, they will be listed.  
*www.familysearch.org/search/catalog*
  
  - Q. I found the name of a location, but the location doesn't seem to exist anymore.  
  
A. Go to the Family Search Place page and enter the location name. Try “fort duquesne”.  
*www.familysearch.org/en/research/places*
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## Activities (optional)

1. Download a Family Unit Chart sheet. Make copies.
2. Fill out a Family Unit Chart with yourself as parent
3. Fill out a Family Unit Chart with yourself as child
4. Fill out a Family Unit Chart with your father as child
5. Fill out a Family Unit Chart with your mother as child
6. (Extra credit) Download a pedigree chart.  
Use the above information to fill in the chart with you as the starting person.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have just researched and compiled a 3 generation family tree.