

A Family Legacy: Documented Records that stand the “**Test of Time**”
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Genealogy - The word comes from two Greek words, one meaning “race” or “Family,” the other “theory” or “science.” Therefore, *genealogy is the science of tracing our ancestry*. Family history, stories about your ancestors, can help you research your genealogy, and your genealogy proves your family’s history.

The word **pedigree** comes from two Latin words: **pes** meaning “foot,” and **grus** meaning “crane.” The standard pedigree chart that has been used for years when tracing one’s genealogy resembles a crane’s foot. This form has become a well-known symbol and is synonymous with genealogy. A pedigree chart is like a family tree tipped on its side starting with you in the far left position.

Principles of Family History Research

1. **Golden Rule:** Go from the known to the unknown. Start with yourself and document identifying data as you go from step to step. Decide what you know and what you want to learn about. The more specific the goal, the more likely of achieving it.
2. **Identify** each individual by using a name, dates, places, and relationships. There are **ten source fields** used in identifying an individual: General, Birth, Christening, Death, Burial, Marriage and Divorce, and the LDS ordinances of Baptism, Endowments, Sealing-to-parents, and Sealing-to-spouse.
3. **Organize:** Use appropriate forms to record information. These include pedigree charts, family group records, personal and family history notes and research logs. A computer can be used to record and store information using software such as Personal Ancestral File (PAF) produced by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Notes can be used to record biographical and other information.
4. Be reliable. Family History Record keepers should:
 - **record the source** of information as they gather research data.
 - **seek original records**, or copied images of them as the basis for conclusions. Original records created near the time of an event are more reliable than biographies, indexes and abstracts.
 - identify other records because of their value as guides to locating original records.
 - avoid misleading other researchers by carelessly producing inaccurate information.
 - acknowledge all use of other researchers’ work.
 - be open to new evidence and sharing their work with others.