

TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

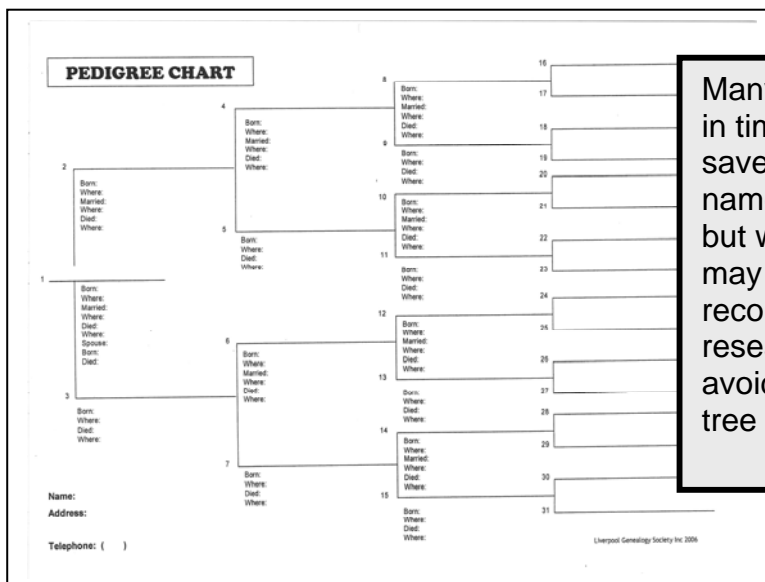
Beginning your research



The first and most important rule of genealogy is start with yourself and work backwards.

Starting With Yourself

You should always start your family history research by documenting your own life. Gather all available records of your birth, marriage, education, etc. and then do the same for your parents and grandparents. Gather together photographs, certificates, documents, Bibles, newspaper clippings, baby books and old letters. Look for items such as scrapbooks which may contain important genealogical details.



Many people get excited and jump back in time, skipping several generations to save time. You may already know the names of your great, great grandparents but without the proper groundwork you may have difficulty finding them in the records, or may even end up researching the wrong ancestor! To avoid this pitfall, approach your family tree research step-by-step.