

INTERVIEW FAMILY MEMBERS

DOCUMENT

Document everything. Keep records of your work to avoid duplicating searches.
Take pictures of family heirlooms: jewelry, furniture, clothes. These also tell a story.

JOIN

Surname groups, DNA projects, genealogy listservs, local historical societies and genealogy groups

SAVE & PRESERVE

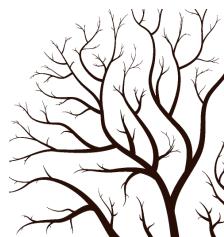
Back up your online files

DOCUMENTS TO OBTAIN

Military pension records, social security applications. Birth, marriage, and death certificates, passenger lists, census records (look at the neighbors too)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

There are many Genealogical blogs, podcasts, facebook groups, newsletters, and classes free online. Keep up on the new trends and strategies to help locate your most elusive ancestors.



ETIQUETTE

Be considerate of others' privacy-don't post living relatives' information online.

Treat people with respect.

Be kind, courteous, helpful and slow to take offense

Be willing to share information

Help others with their research

Have fun!

"Don't get discouraged, remember, we are trying to find out in a few hours what it took our ancestors years to hide." —Elwyn R. "Bim" Van Etten

SEARCH ONLINE

Completed family trees, online genealogy records. Many online databases charge fees. FamilySearch.org is free.

FREE TO STEELE MEMORIAL USERS:

Ancestry.com: through library computers

HeritageQuest: free through CCLD website with library card.

VERIFY

Not everything on the Internet is accurate. Verify eve-

VISIT

Steele Memorial: Genealogy Department

Genealogy databases (Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest), census records, newspapers, cemetery records, family histories, local history books, how-to genealogy books, city directories, yearbooks, other records (poorhouse, church), New York State Vital Statistics.

Library Programs (free and open to all):

Assorted Topics by Subject Experts (Offered online via ZOOM)

Intro to Genealogy: Offered in person at Steele and online via ZOOM semi-monthly

Intro to ancestry.com: Offered at Steele semi-monthly

Rent-a-Researcher individual or small group assistance: In-person or Online, by appt. Call (607) 733.9175

Brick Wall Busters: Tech lab sessions for intermediate to advanced researchers. Monthly.

Genealogy Club: Every 3rd Saturday 10am (Zoom)

CHECK THE CCLD EVENTS NEWSLETTER FOR DATES AND TIMES

Cemeteries

Take pictures of gravestones and record information found. Look at cemetery records. Bring flowers tagged with your email address to leave at the grave for relatives to find.

*Also look at records of funeral homes and churches.

Courthouse & County Clerks Office

Real estate records, marriage records, naturalization records, state census records, probate records (surrogate court), civil and criminal cases.

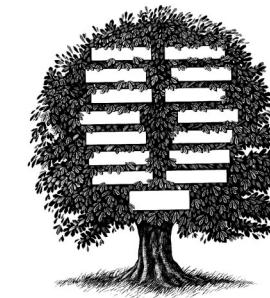
Also

Family History Centers (Horseheads, NY),
Historical Societies (Chemung Valley History Museum)

NY State Archives.



Tips to get started in Genealogy



FAMILY HISTORY GATHERING KIT
Pencils, Notebooks, Pedigree Charts, Copies of family photographs, Camera, Voice recorder

RECORD YOUR FAMILY TREE

Write down what you already know. Begin with yourself. Enter as much as you can. Write down names, birth dates, marriage and death dates, and more if you have it (Military service, graduations, places lived, family stories and anecdotes). Use ancestral charts, family tree software, or online databases to keep your information organized.

Look through everything you have, compile your information. Look for family papers, photographs, documents, heirlooms, Bibles, scrapbooks.

Talk to your relatives, ask for their important dates and life details, ask if anyone has done any genealogy, if they have any family documents and/or photos they'd be willing to share.. Share your information with them, ask open-ended questions and see if it jogs any memories.

Keep a tape recorder handy, write down everything they tell you and enter it into your family tree. Scan or take digital photographs of family documents and heirlooms.

Label photographs.

Ancestral Chart

No. 1 on this chart is
the same person as No. _____

On Chart No. _____

BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

NAME OF SPOUSE

BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
MARRIED
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

BORN
PLACE
DIED
PLACE

CONT. ON CHART _____

CONT. ON CHART _____