Welcome to genealogy research in the Walker Local and Family History Center

Your family history is built from collecting stories from your family as well as public records like: census, death certificates and military records. It is intensive but rewarding research.

Write It Down. The first step is to take out a piece of paper and write down everything you know about your parents, your grandparents, and your great-grandparents. Focus on the following key points of information for each generation:

- full name
- birth date and birth place
- marriage date and marriage place
- death date and death place

When recording the location of each birth, marriages, and death, identify the county as well as the city where each event occurred. County names are important because many documents (e.g., wills, vital records, etc.) are filed at county courthouses.

Look Around Your House. Look around your house for any documents or photographs that may be helpful. Important documents include:

- birth certificates
- baptismal certificates
- marriage licenses
- death certificates
- funeral programs
- family Bibles
- obituaries
- military records
- wedding announcements
- newspaper clippings

Contact Relatives. Contact your relatives to fill in any gaps in your information. If they have any of the documents above, ask them to send photocopies.

Complete Ancestor Charts. At this point, organize your information on one or more Ancestor Charts. The Ancestor Chart links four or five generations in a family tree and acts as a road map for your journey. When completing the chart, place the husband’s surname on the top line for each couple, and list the wife with her maiden name.

Check Out Books on Genealogy. Do some research on the principals of genealogical research.

- Black Roots: A Beginners Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree by Tony Burroughs. HISTORY Genealogy Bur
- How to Do Everything Genealogy by George C. Morgan. HISTORY Genealogy Mor
- Mastering Online Genealogy by W. Daniel Quillen. HISTORY Genealogy Qui