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|  | Beginning Your Genealogy Research Overview tutorials Online |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Afrigeneas: African American Genealogy: An Online Interactive Guide for Beginners](http://www.afrigeneas.com/guide/) | The Beginning Genealogist by Angela Y. Walton-Raji: [Welcome Aboard](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmh86z_Nf18) | | IAAM Center for Family History: [Finding and Telling the African American Family Story: Beginning the Genealogy Journey](https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/finding-and-telling-the-african-american-family-story-beginning-the-genealogy-journey/) by Angela Walton-Raji | IAAM Center for Family History: [Winning Gold When Beginning Genealogy](https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/winning-gold-when-starting-genealogy/) by Nicka Smith | | IAAM Center for Family History: [Where a Death Certificate Can Lead](https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/where-a-death-certificate-can-lead/) by Robin Foster | FamilySearch Wiki: [A Guide to Research](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/A_Guide_to_Research) | |
|  | Record What You Know: Genealogy Charts and Forms |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | Getting Started from FamilySearch: [Finding Easy Information: Memory, Home, Family](https://familysearch.org/ask/gettingStarted) | [Editable Family Group Sheet Form](http://www.mymcpl.org/_uploaded_resources/MGC-familyunitchart.pdf) from the Midwest Genealogy Center, a Family Group Sheet is used for recording couples and their children, with space to fill in dates and places that are important for researching each individual. You can edit this form and save it to your computer, or print it and fill it out by hand. | | [Free Genealogy Forms from Family Tree Magazine](http://familytreemagazine.com/freeforms) If you save these forms as text files you can edit them and save them to your desktop. If you save them as pdf files you can print them and fill them in by hand. | [Editable 6-Generation Pedigree Chart](http://misbach.org/download/pedigree_chart.pdf) use this chart to list names, dates and places for you, your parents, grandparents and great grandparents. You can edit this form and save it to your computer, or print it and fill it out by hand. | |
|  | Gather Family Oral History |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | The Beginning Genealogist by Angela Y. Walton-Raji: [Oral History](http://beginninggenealogist.com/oralhistory.html) | [Conducting Oral History Interviews with Family Members](http://www.library.ucla.edu/destination/center-oral-history-research/resources/conducting-oral-histories-family-members): UCLA Libraries | | FamilySearch Wiki: [Creating Oral Histories](http://www.library.ucla.edu/destination/center-oral-history-research/resources/conducting-oral-histories-family-members) | The Smithsonian [Folklife and Oral History Interviewing Guide](https://folklife.si.edu/the-smithsonian-folklife-and-oral-history-interviewing-guide/smithsonian) | | [Step by Step Guide to Oral History](http://dohistory.org/on_your_own/toolkit/oralHistory.html) by Judith Moyer | [Example Questions for Oral Histories](http://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/70_tipsoral.html): Fertilizing Your Family Tree with Conversation | |
|  | Choose Records to Search |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Records and the Information They Contain](https://www.familysearch.org/sites/all/themes/frankie/documents/Step-3-Records-and-the-info-they-contain.pdf) a quick reference chart from FamilySearch | [United States Record Selection Table](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/United_States_Record_Selection_Table) from the FamilySearch Wiki, a useful article to help you decide which records to search | | [Quick Guide to African American Records](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Quick_Guide_to_African_American_Records) from the FamilySearch Wiki | [Principles of Family History Research: Select Records to Search](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Select_Records_to_Search) from FamilySearch | | [Using the Census to Find Other Records About Ancestors](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Using_the_Census_to_find_other_records_about_ancestors) from the FamilySearch Wiki | [Cyndi’s List](http://www.cyndislist.com/) and [Linkpendium](http://www.linkpendium.com/): Comprehensive resources for identifying online records to search | | [Geni Podcast: How Do I Find and Use Records?](http://www.geni.com/blog/how-do-i-find-and-use-records-348281.html) from Thomas MacEntee |  | |
|  | Create a Research Plan |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | The Beginning Genealogist by Angela Y. Walton-Raji: [Plan Your Research Strategy](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8ScDPMU3m0&feature=related) | [Geni Podcast: Genealogy Research Logs](http://www.geni.com/blog/geni-podcast-genealogy-research-logs-369091.html) from Thomas MacEntee of Abundant Genealogy, this podcast looks in-depth at why you need a research log. | | [Editable Research Log](https://spreadsheets.google.com/spreadsheet/gform?hl=en_US&key=t7Ow9zqrIlWcykXDi2lRHfA&pli=1) from Thomas MacEntee of Abundant Genealogy |  | |

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|  | Avoid Common Mistakes |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Avoid Traps in African American Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/avoid-traps-in-african-american-genealogy/77) by Tony Burroughs: Archived Webinar on Ancestry.com | [Back to Basics: 10 Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them](http://www.vom.com/svcg/gen_mistakes.html)  from Sonoma Valley Computer Group | | [If Only I’d Known: Beginner Genealogy Mistakes](https://www.familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/if-i-8217-d-only-known/225) by Beth Foulk of the Midwest Genealogy Center | [Top 10 Genealogy Mistakes to Avoid](http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/ss/mistakes.htm) from About.com | |
|  | Tools For Compiling, Organizing and Backing Up Your Research |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Genealogy Software Review - From Top Ten Reviews](http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com/) A feature-by-feature comparison of leading genealogy software | [Cyndi’s List: Evernote for Every Genealogist](http://www.cyndislist.com/evernote/templates/) by Cyndi Ingle, a compendium of great Evernote templates for organizing your genealogy research | | [The Genealogy Cloud: Which Online Storage Program is Right for You?](https://familytreewebinars.com/pdf/webinar-6556.pdf) Thomas MacEntee of Abundant Genealogy | [The Best Online Backup Services of 2017](https://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2288745,00.asp) from PC Magazine, a feature by feature comparison. | |
|  | Begin Research, Compile As you Go |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [FamilySearch Learning and How-To's](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Document_AS_YOU_GO!)  Segment: [Document As You Go!](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Document_AS_YOU_GO!) | [How to Conduct a “Reasonably Exhaustive Search” for Relevant Records](https://michaelhait.wordpress.com/2011/11/21/reasonably-exhaustive-search/) by Michael Hait | | [Editable Research Checklist](http://www.mymcpl.org/_uploaded_resources/MGC-researchchecklist.pdf) from the Midwest Genealogy Center. This form is helpful for determining if you have checked all of the available resources for each of your ancestors. You can edit this form and save it to your computer, or print it and fill it out by hand. | [Solving Tough Research Problems – Overcoming Brick Walls](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Solving_Tough_Research_Problems%E2%80%94Overcoming_Brick_Walls) from FamilySearch | | IAAM Center for Family History: [Timelines Keep Your Genealogy Research Moving Forward](https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/timelines-keep-your-genealogy-research-moving-forward/) by Shelley Viola Murphy | [IAAM Center for Family History Blog](https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/blog/): genealogist Robin Foster teaches you step by step how to begin your search for African American ancestors | |
|  | Evaluate Findings, Form New Research Questions |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [FamilySearch Learning Center](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Use_the_Information)  Segment: [Principles of Family History Research: Use the Information](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Use_the_Information) | [Lowcountry Africana: Research Methods](https://www.lowcountryafricana.com/research-methods/) by Michael Hait:  Segments:  (1) [What is the Genealogical Proof Standard?](https://www.lowcountryafricana.com/what-is-the-genealogical-proof-standard-2/)  (2) [What Constitutes a Genealogy Source Record?](https://www.lowcountryafricana.com/what-constitutes-a-genealogical-source-record/)  (3) [Evaluating a Source Record](https://www.lowcountryafricana.com/evaluating-a-source-record/)  (4) [Evaluating a Record by Itself](https://www.lowcountryafricana.com/evaluating-a-record-by-itself/)  (5) [Corroborating Evidence](https://www.lowcountryafricana.com/corroborating-evidence/) | | [Evaluate the Evidence](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Evaluate_the_Evidence) from the FamilySearch Wiki | [Evidence Explained QuickLesson 17: The Evidence Analysis Process Map](https://www.evidenceexplained.com/content/quicklesson-17-evidence-analysis-process-map) by Elizabeth Shown Mills | | [Using the Census to Find Other Records About Ancestors](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Using_the_Census_to_find_other_records_about_ancestors) from the FamilySearch Wiki | [Principles of Family History Research: Restart the Research Process](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Restart_the_Research_Cycle) from FamilySearch | |

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# Connect With the Research Community

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|  | Share Your Family History |
|  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | FamilySearch Wiki: [Create a Family History](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Create_a_Family_History) | FamilySearch Wiki: [Writing Your Family and Personal History](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Writing_Your_Family_and_Personal_History) | | [Twenty Reasons Why You Should Write Your Family History](https://www.nypl.org/blog/2015/02/09/reasons-to-write-your-family-history) from the New York Public Library | [The Secret to Writing a Compelling Family History](http://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/74_sharon.html) by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, CG | | [Blogging Your Family History](http://www.archives.com/experts/macentee-thomas/blogging-your-family-history.html) by Thomas MacEntee of Abundant Genealogy | [How to Self-Publish your Family History Book](https://www.familytreemagazine.com/premium/publishing-your-family-history/) from Family Tree Magazine | |