

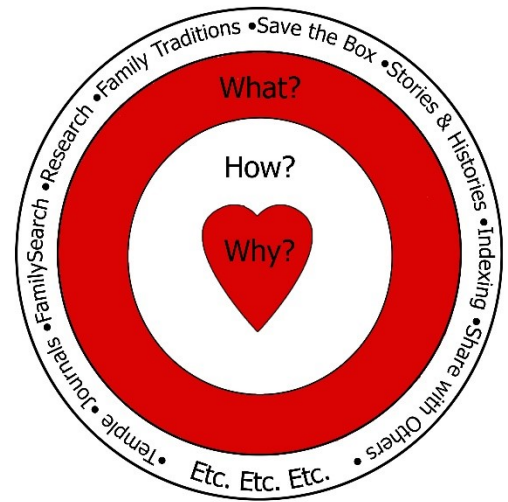
Before the Box or the Web—

Getting Started in Family History for True Beginners

WHY?

Mark all that apply

- ☐ Because I feel guilty
- ☐ Because the prophets have encouraged us to do family history
- ☐ Because I have piles of stuff that need to be taken care of
- ☐ Because I want the blessings promised for doing family history
- ☐ Because my ancestors are yelling at me
- ☐ Because I love my family and I want ALL of us to be sealed together for eternity
- ☐ Other:



WHAT?

There are Many Facets of Family History Work!

Temple related activities:

- **Attend the temple**
- **Take family names to the temple**
- **Share family temple names with others**
- **Watch Children** so others can attend the temple
- **Etc. Etc. Etc.....**



Personal Activities:

- Gather personal and family vital records
- Write in your journal
- Preserve your own personal memorabilia
- Write your own life history
- Learn the doctrine of temple and family history work
- Etc. Etc. Etc.....

What record will you leave of your time on earth?



Computer Based Activities:

On FamilySearch.org:

- Enter missing family information
- Clean up records
- Attach record hints
- Source individuals
- Merge duplicate records
- Participate in Indexing
- Reserve Family Temple Names

Other:

- Back up/ Organize digital family records
- Transcribe handwritten family records
- Etc. Etc. Etc.....



There are 2 kinds of hard drives—those that have crashed and those that will.





Research Activities:

- Research to find missing family members
- Do Descendancy Research
- Research to extend family lines
- Research to resolve discrepancies in information
- Research to supplement family histories
- Research family medical history
- Etc. Etc. Etc.....



Share and Teach Others:

- To Do Family History Work
- Share your family legacy with other family members
- Teach children and grandchildren about their ancestors and family—make it real and fun for them
- Share your love and testimony of the importance of the family
- Etc. Etc. Etc.....



Preserve your heritage:

- Hold family gatherings and reunions
- Protect and document family traditions
- Write family stories and ancestor histories
- Find living family members you haven't met
- Etc. Etc. Etc.....



5, #14, #15, & #20
of 20 Children

Preserve family memorabilia:

- Organize and Preserve family photos, letters and documents
- Interview (& record the interview) other family members about their lives and what they know about the family
- Digitally back-up family records
- Upload to Memories on FamilySearch.org
- Etc. Etc. Etc.....



Elder Boyd K. Packer from “The Holy Temple”

“If you can start with what you have and with what you know, it’s a little hard to find an excuse to delay. And it may be spiritually dangerous to delay it too long.

“Family history work has the power to do something for the dead. It has an equal power to do something to the living. Family history work of Church members has a refining, spiritualizing, tempering influence on those who are engaged in it.

“We gathered together everything we had, and in the course of a few weeks we were amazed at what we were able to accomplish. The thing that was most impressive, however, was the fact that we began to have experiences that told us somehow that we were being guided, that there were those beyond the veil who were interested in what we were doing...We began to learn by personal experience that this research into our families is an inspired work. We came to know that an inspiration will follow those who move into it. It is just a matter of getting started.

“Once we started, we found the time. Somehow we were able to carry on all of the other responsibilities. There seemed to be an increased inspiration in our lives because of this work.

“But the decision, the action, must begin with the individual. The Lord will not tamper with our agency. If we want a testimony of family history and temple work, we must do something about that work.”

How—Do I decide where to start???

Consider this first:

FAMILY HISTORY IS PERISHABLE

- **Memories fade**
- **Stories die with a family member**
- **Disaster/ time destroys documents**
- **Irreplaceable information is lost**



Things I feel I SHOULD do:	Things I would LIKE to do:
<i>Make your own list...</i>	<i>Write the items on index cards or post-it notes</i>
	<i>This will help during the evaluation process</i>

Evaluate your list with these questions:

- ? What perishable family history items do I have?
- ? What perishable family history items do others in my family have?
- ? What perishable family history knowledge do I or my living relatives have?
- ? Where do my talents lie?
- ? What is my comfort level with computers and technology?

Additional Considerations:

- ? How long will it take to complete each project?
- ? Is it a project only I can do? Do I have knowledge that no one else has or will preserve?
- ? Do I know how to do what needs to be done to complete the project?
- ? What is the volume of the “stuff” related to the project?
- ? Do other projects hinge on this project getting done?
- ? What can I do that no one else can or will do?

“Shuffle” your project cards as you evaluate using these questions. Likely one or two projects will stand out to you. Decide on a starting project. Does the Spirit confirm this as your best place to start?

My Activity that I am committed to do:

How do I find help?

- Ask a ward Temple and Family History Consultant for help.
- Come to the Mapleton Family History Center:
 - The center is located in the southwest corner of the Red Church at 1000 W. 1200 N., Mapleton. Regular hours at the center are: Monday: 10 AM- 1 PM; Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 10 AM-4 PM & 7-9 PM; Sunday 5-8 PM. Closed for General Conference and most holidays. Phone number: 801-489-2999. Use this number to schedule the high speed scanner. Questions contact fhcmpleton@gmail.com

Things I wish I had known when I started out:

- **Pick one project and stick to it until it is completed!**
- **Take organized notes from day one!**
- **Don't judge the value of memorabilia or information until you have more experience.**
- **If you have a question, ASK for help!**
- **READ EVERYTHING CAREFULLY!**
- **DON'T RELY ON YOUR MEMORY—TAKE OR COPY NOTES AND TRACK THE WORK YOU DO!**
- One spelling for a name is a "modern invention". Be open minded about the spelling of names. See the Ocupsyshun Census Taker handout <https://www.preservingtime.org/ocupsyshun-census-taker.html>
- **IN FACT, BE OPEN MINDED ABOUT ALMOST EVERYTHING IN OLD RECORDS!**
- **LOCATION** can often be more helpful in finding your family than dates. Adjust your search parameters to reflect different locations an individual or family lived in.
- Remember to search for a woman using both her married name(s) and maiden name. Also search for "Mrs. John Doe" using Mrs. + her husband's name.
- Expand the date range for a person's birth when searching. A person may have lied about their age or the information may have been given by someone else. If no results are found, expand the range even farther.
- Search a database with parents' names only to see if additional children are found in the records.
- Don't assume that two children with the same name in a family are the same child. If a child died, parents would often name a child that came later the same name.
- If a family appears at the top or bottom of a census page, always turn the page to see if additional family members are located on adjacent pages. Keep your eyes open for other members of your family. Until recently, families generally lived and moved together.
- When searching, make note of others in the record. Many times they will be family members, neighbors or associates (acronym: FANs). This information can help you locate additional information in other records.
- **ASK:** does this make sense? Children were not born before their parents or many years after their parents' death.
- **Promised Blessings for Doing Family History** handout and video link:
https://www.preservingtime.org/uploads/7/5/3/4/7534482/bboard-the_promised_blessings_of_family_history-2018-01-21_-_copy.pdf