



Family History Packet

Forms also available at www.floydlibrary.org/indiana-history-room/genforms

Beginning Genealogy



Start by writing down what you already know.

1. Names
2. Dates
3. Places

Talk to your living relatives. Find out the following:

1. Full names
2. Full dates - day, month and year
3. Births
4. Deaths
5. Marriages
6. Places of residence
7. Religion
8. Social customs
9. Occupations
10. Education

Find all work completed on your families.

1. Decide if the previous work is valid.
2. Check for sources.

Record all information.

1. Keep notes on the same size paper (loose leaf notebooks are good).
2. Write down where you get your information.
3. Write down those sources that don't help so you don't waste time on them again.
4. Record information from your notes on family group forms.

Study all areas that your ancestors lived in.

1. Histories
2. Social customs

Record all the information about all people with the same name living in the same locality.

Check all spellings of names you are researching.

1. Spelling sometimes has changed.
2. Errors are often made in recording the names (by the clerk, census taker, etc.) and in transcribing the names (which are often handwritten and difficult to read).

Check these sources:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. County histories | 6. Births, deaths & marriages |
| 2. Atlases & maps | 7. Bible & cemetery records |
| 3. City directories | 8. Wills & deeds |
| 4. Census records | 9. Church records |
| 5. Newspapers | 10. Military records |

Family History Research Online



Pick up some forms in the Stuart B. Wrege Indiana History Room, or print them from our website (www.floydlibrary.org/indiana-history-room/genforms). Once you have the forms you need...

www.familysearch.org is a good place to start. It's run by the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. They have the largest genealogical collection in the country because they have been collecting since at least 1400. Unfortunately, not all of the original images are archived online, but the Family History Center is in the process of digitizing all of their microfilm.

Example: This is what I found for Shirley Smith.

<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/V83T-KGN>

Name: Shirley Opal Smith

Event Type: Birth

Event Date: 29 Sep 1930

Event Place: Bexar, Texas

Gender: Female

Father: William Thomas Smith

Mother: Opal Beatrice Penington

Certificate Number:

Collection: Texas Birth Index, 1903-1997

With this information you can: request the Texas Birth Index, 1903-1997 at your local Family History Center; request a copy of the birth certificate from the Texas State Health Department in Dallas-Ft. Worth; and plug in William Thomas Smith or Opal Beatrice Penington on Ancestry and see what you come up with. Ancestry will often have images of the original or microfilm copies. They will not have anything for persons born after 1940, due to the Privacy Act, which requires that files be kept private for 72 years.

Note: The default search is for records, but you can also search trees, books and the catalog.

www.ancestry.com is another good place to start. Unfortunately, they are a subscription-based database. The Floyd County Library subscribes to Ancestry Library Edition, which we offer free to our patrons. You can come into the Indiana History Room (or any Library computer) and access it from there. Go to www.floydlibrary.org and click on IN Room on the menu bar. Scroll down and click on Ancestry Library Edition on the right side. This has the same records as regular Ancestry, you just can't create a tree here. On Ancestry, sometimes less is more. I would start with Opal Penington or Opal B. Penington instead of Opal Beatrice Penington because you never know how it appears on records.

Another database that the Floyd County Library subscribes to is HeritageQuest. You can access this from the Library, as with Ancestry, or you can access this one from home. Go to www.floydlibrary.org and click on IN Room on the menu bar. Scroll down and click on Family History at the bottom of the page. Then, click on HeritageQuest. Use your barcode #: 2311000***** and PIN: (usually the last four digits of your phone #) to log in, when prompted. Here, you can search through census records, books, Revolutionary War records, and more.

Another good source is the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana (www.genealogycenter.org). They are in the process of archiving genealogical records on their online database. Internet Archive is currently working with them. They have records from all over, not just Indiana. And, they are the second largest genealogical collection in the country.

Family History Research Online (cont.)

And, as we just mentioned, Internet Archive (www.archive.org) is another good place to start. They archive books, but this includes family histories and other genealogy books. You will want to check out the texts section here. Sometimes, you will be redirected to Open Library (openlibrary.org) so you might simply want to start there.

[http://usgenweb.org/](http://usgenweb.org) can be helpful. It varies from state to state and even county to county because people adopt a county and then upload information. Floyd County is currently mostly cemetery records. Just click on the state on the left and then click on county map or county table and select your county.

We Relate (http://www.werelate.org/wiki/Main_Page) works like Wikipedia. Just type in what you're looking for and it will pull up related trees and articles. It can be a bit confusing, so be prepared to work with it and take it slow.

<http://ellisland.org/> contains passenger lists, photographs, and a few other types of records. You have to pay a fee to get a copy of them, but you can view them for free.

Castle Garden (<http://castlegarden.org/>) was another point of arrival for immigrants. They also have passenger lists that can be useful.

If you can't find it on Ellis Island or at Castle Garden, maybe Steve Morse (<http://stevemorse.org/>) can help. He's collected links to masses of passenger lists.

<http://www.deathindexes.com/> collects links for websites that contain death indexes, obviously, as well as obituaries and other records.

While we're on the subject of death, you might want to try <http://mortalityschedules.com/>. Mortality schedules give an overview of the people who died in a given county and a given year. It will often tell you their occupation, cause of death, and sometimes who their parents were.

www.findagrave.com is a great site for cemetery information. You will often find photos of tombstones and obituaries along with the burial information you seek.

Now on to a few miscellaneous sites that you might find useful:

Wolfram|Alpha (<http://www.wolframalpha.com/examples/PeopleAndHistory.html>) has some useful conversions. Do you want to know what your mother's cousin's grandson is to you? He's your second cousin once removed. Do you need to know what \$10 in 1900 would be equivalent to now? The answer is \$282.03.

Birth Date Calendar (<http://www.progenealogists.com/birthfromdeath.htm>) can be useful if you know the date someone died and how old they were when they died. Plug in the numbers and the calculator will tell you when they were born.

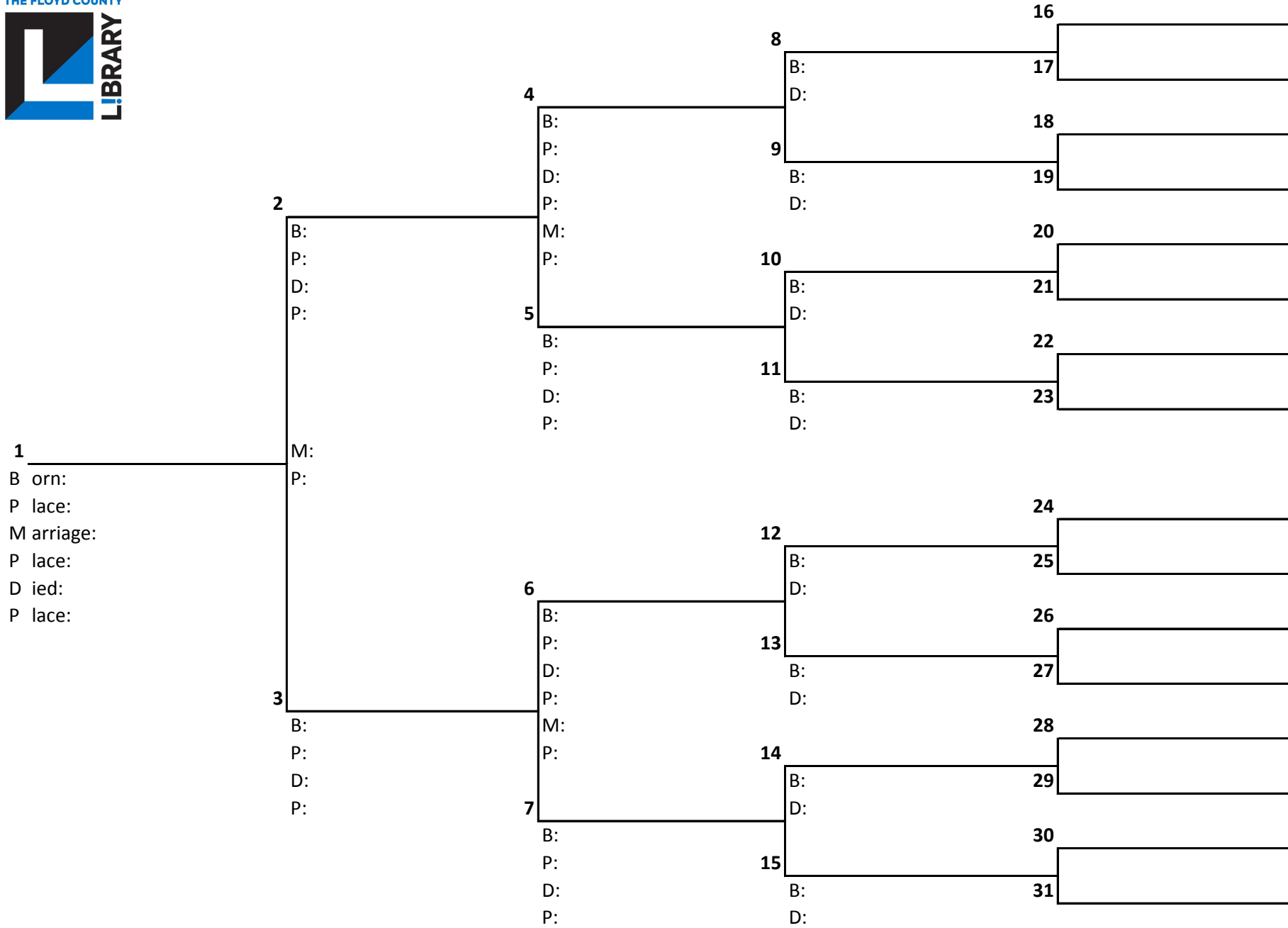
Time and Date (<http://timeanddate.com/calendar/>) is great if you need to know on what day of the week something happened. Let's say you need to know what day of the week Columbus left Spain. Look up August 3, 1492 and you find that it was a Friday. Did you know we lost 11 days in September of 1752? This is because we switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar at that time.

The Geographic Names Information System (<http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/>) can be helpful if you are searching for a town that has changed names over the years.

No. 1 on this chart is the same as # ___ on chart # ___.

Pedigree Chart

Chart # _____



Compiled by: _____

Date: _____

Family Group Worksheet



Compiled by _____

Date _____

DATE (day-mo-yr)

LOCATION (city / township, county, state)

HUSBAND		
Birth		
Marriage		
Death		
Burial		
His father's full name		
His mother's maiden name		
Other wives' names		

WIFE		
Birth		
Death		
Burial		
Her father's full name		
Her mother's maiden name		
Other husbands' names		

CHILDREN	DATE (day-mo-yr)	LOCATION (city / township, county, state)
#1	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#2	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#3	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#4	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#5	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#6	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	

Family Group Worksheet

#7	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#8	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#9	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#10	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#11	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	
#12	B	
	M	
	D	
	Spouse	

List sources here or use the Source Log.

Individual Worksheet



Full Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____

VITALS	Date	City	County	State	Notes
Birth					
Christening					
1st Marriage					
2nd Marriage					
Death					
Burial					

CENSUS (year)	Street	City	County	State	Notes

Immigration/Naturalization:

School:

Religion:

Occupation:

Military Service:

Research Checklist



Name: _____

U.S. Census Records:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1790 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1870 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1880 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1810 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1890 (mostly destroyed by fire) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1820 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1900 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1830 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1910 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1840 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1920 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1850 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1930 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1860 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1940 |
-
-

Birth Records:

- County Birth Record Books
- Birth Certificate
- Baptism/Christening
- Adoption
- Newspaper Announcement

Marriage Records:

- Marriage License
- Marriage Certificate
- Newspaper Marriage Announcement
- Divorce Petition
- Divorce Decree
- Newspaper Divorce Announcement

Military Records:

- Enlistment Card
- Draft Registration
- Pension Application
- Widow's Pension
- Rosters and Honor Rolls
- Report of the Adjutant General

Death Records:

- County Death Record Books
- Death Certificate
- Coroner's Inquests
- Obituary
- Cemetery Records
- Funeral Home Records
- Gravestone
- Social Security Death Index

Land Records:

- Deeds
- Abstracts
- Plat Map/County Map
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- Land Patents/Grants

Probate Records:

- Wills
- Bonds
- Probate Order Books
- Estate Sales

Other Records:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Lists | <input type="checkbox"/> Church Records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Bibles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalization | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Journals/Letters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Directories | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voting Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Histories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tax Lists | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Files |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indenture Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Vertical Files |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Home Records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asylum Records | <input type="checkbox"/> School Yearbooks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Court Records | <input type="checkbox"/> City/County Histories |