



Genealogy Merit Badge





Genealogy Requirements

1. Explain to your counselor what the words genealogy, ancestor, and descendant mean.
2. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Do a time line for yourself or for a relative. Then write a short biography based on that time line.
 - b. Keep a journal for 6 weeks. You must write in it at least once a week.
3. With your parent's help, choose a relative or a family acquaintance you can interview in person, by telephone, or by e-mail or letter. Record the information you collect so you do not forget it.





Genealogy Requirements

4. Do the following:
 - a. Name three types of genealogical resources and explain how these resources can help you chart your family tree.
 - b. Obtain at least one genealogical document that supports an event that is or can be recorded on your pedigree chart or family group record. The document could be found at home or at a government office, religious organization, archive, or library.
 - c. Tell how you would evaluate the genealogical information you found for requirement 4b.





Genealogy Requirements

5. Contact ONE of the following individuals or institutions. Ask what genealogical services, records, or activities this individual or institution provides, and report the results:
 - a. A genealogical or lineage society
 - b. A professional genealogist (someone who gets paid for doing genealogical research)
 - c. A surname organization, such as your family's organization
 - d. A genealogical education facility or institution.
 - e. A genealogical record repository of any type (courthouse, genealogical library, state or national archive, state library, etc.)





Genealogy Requirements

6. Begin your family tree by listing yourself and include at least two additional generations. You may complete this requirement by using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice.
7. Complete a family group record form, listing yourself and your brothers and sisters as the children. On another family group record form, show one of your parents and his or her brothers and sisters as the children. This requirement may be completed using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice.





Genealogy Requirements

8. Do the following:
 - a. Explain the effect computers and the Internet are having on the world of genealogy.
 - b. Explain how photography (including microfilming) has influenced genealogy.
9. Discuss what you have learned about your family and your family members through your genealogical research.



Requirement 1

- Genealogy is the study or investigation of ancestry and family histories.
 - Who were they?
 - Where did they live?
 - What were they like?
- Ancestor is one from whom a person is descended and who is usually more remote in the line of descent than a grandparent.
- Descendent is someone who is related to a person or group of people who lived in the past





Requirement 2

Do ONE of the following:

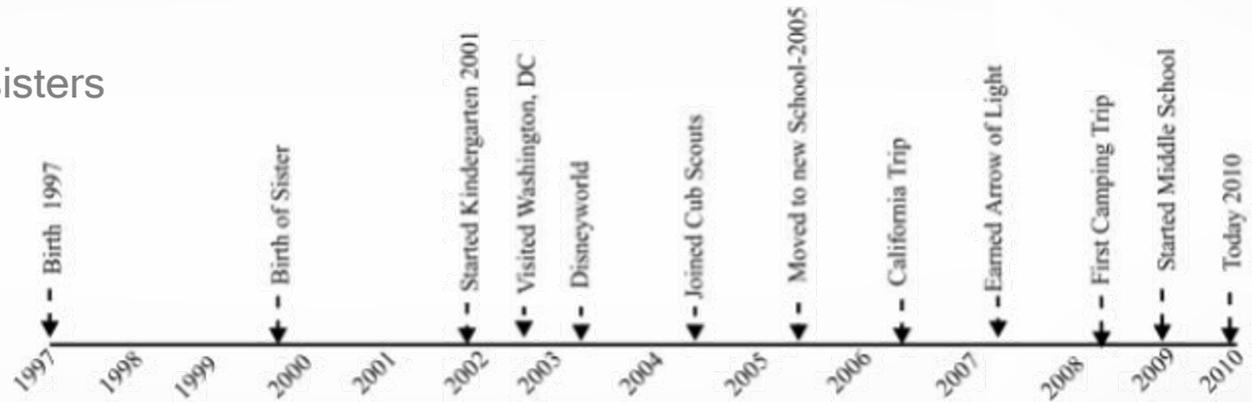
- a. Do a time line for yourself or for a relative. Then write a short biography based on that time line.
- b. Keep a journal for 6 weeks. You must write in it at least once a week.



Requirement 2a

- A timeline is a chart that shows the events in a person's life.
- Your timeline should include at least 10 items.
- You can make a timeline for yourself or for another relative.
- Show events that were important in your life or your relative's life.

- Your birth
- Births of brothers or sisters
- Starting school
- Sports
- Music
- Vacations
- Health problems
- Dates of community or world events



- Write a short biography based on your timeline.



Requirement 2b

- Writing a Journal
 - Write in your journal on a regular basis (at least once a week for six weeks).
 - It is a log of your activities, thoughts, and feelings and may include the following:
 - Where you live and the room you sleep in.
 - What you ate that day.
 - Your likes and dislikes
 - The people you live with.
 - Other relatives and friends.
 - What happened in school or with your friends
 - After-school and weekend activities
 - Your future plans
 - The journals of our ancestors can help us understand what their lives were really like.





Requirement 3

With your parent's help, choose a relative or a family acquaintance you can interview in person, by telephone, or by e-mail or letter. Record the information you collect so you do not forget it.



Requirement 3

Gathering information from a relative or family acquaintance.

- You might ask about the following:
 - Their full names.
 - What they do (or did) for a living.
 - The names of their parents, brothers, and sisters.
 - What their clothes, food, and homes were like when they were growing up.
 - Where they lived and what the community was like.
 - Community activities they were involved in.
 - Military service and what it was like.
 - Choices they made in life; such as whether or not to go to college or to take a certain job.
 - Stories of things that happened to them - the funniest one, the most embarrassing one, the one they learned the most from, or the one they feel is most important to share with you.
- Record the information.





Requirement 4

Do the following:

- a. Name three types of genealogical resources and explain how these resources can help you chart your family tree.
- b. Obtain at least one genealogical document that supports an event that is or can be recorded on your pedigree chart or family group record. The document could be found at home or at a government office, religious organization, archive, or library.
- c. Tell how you would evaluate the genealogical information you found for requirement 4b.



Requirement 4a

Genealogical Resources

- Family Sources

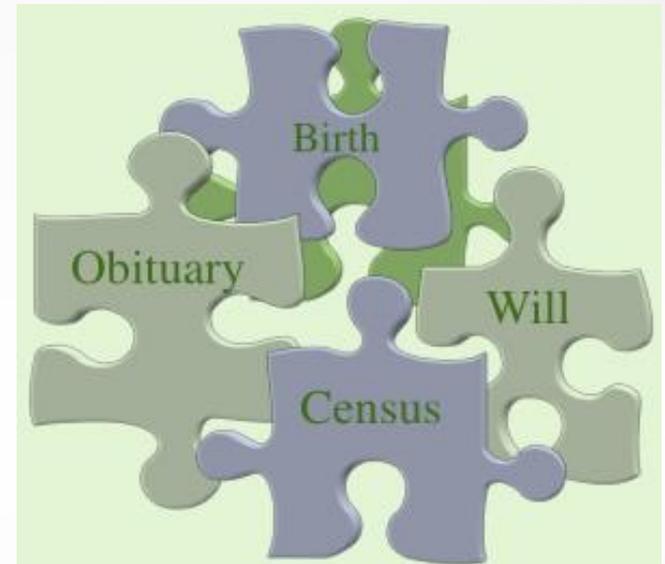
- Address books
- Adoption records
- Baby announcements
- Baby books
- Baptismal certificates
- Diaries or other ancestral writings
- Family Bibles
- Family correspondence or interviews
- Family pictures
- Letters, diaries and journals
- Living relatives
- Marriage certificates, wedding invitations, and marriage announcements
- Military documents
- Newspaper clippings
- Obituaries
- Oral histories
- Personal items and papers
- Photographs and photo albums
- School records
- Scrapbooks
- Wedding announcements
- Wills



Requirement 4a

Genealogical Resources

- Published Sources
 - Census records
 - Tax records
 - Land deeds
 - Books and microfilm resources in a library
 - Church histories
 - City/town histories
 - Fraternal organization publications
 - Genealogical periodicals
 - Histories of settlers in area
 - Local histories
 - Newspapers
 - State/local genealogy society



Requirement 4a

Genealogical Resources

- Vital Records
 - Birth records
 - Court papers
 - Death records
 - Marriage records
 - Probate Records
 - Wills

STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATION OF BIRTH

LOCAL FILE NUMBER _____ DATE RECORD FILED _____
 NAME _____ SEX: MALE _____
 DATE OF BIRTH _____
 PLACE OF BIRTH _____
 MOTHER'S NAME _____
 MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE: OHIO
 FATHER'S NAME _____

Maiden _____

This is a true certification of the name and birth facts as recorded in the Office of Vital Statistics. Witness my signature and seal of the Department of Health this 18 day of July, 2008.

Jessie M. Wilson
Local Registrar of Vital Statistics

VOID WITHOUT WATERMARK OR IF ALTERED OR ERASED

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
COLUMBUS

11688

Reg. Dist. No. 304 Serial File No. _____
 Primary Reg. Dist. No. 1370 Registrar's No. 294

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
Department of Commerce—Bureau of the Census

44-572

I. PLACE OF DEATH:
 (a) County Montgomery
 (b) Dartton
 (c) Name of hospital or institution Miami Valley Hospital
 (d) Length of stay: In hospital or institution 3 days
 In this community 76-4-11

II. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:
 (a) State Ohio (b) County Montgomery
 (c) City or village Calwood
 (d) Street No. Harmon & Park Avenues
 (e) If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.?

FULL NAME ORVILLE KNIGHT
 (a) If veteran, name was X (b) Social Security No. X
 4. Sex Male 5. Color or race Single 6. (a) Name of husband or wife _____
 6. (b) Age of husband or wife _____

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION
 20. Date of death: Month JANUARY day 30
 year 1948 hour 10 minutes 40 PM
 21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from Oct 10 to Jan 30 1948
 and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.

REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Marriage License.

The State of Ohio, Seneca County, ss.

To any Person Legally Authorized to Solemnize Marriages in the State of Ohio:

I, W. S. Wagner, Judge of the Probate Court within and for the County and State aforesaid, have Licensed, and do hereby

LICENSE AND AUTHORIZE
Mr. Jacob Schick _____ and
Miss Ella Maxwell _____
 to be joined in Marriage.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of said Court, at *Piffin*, this 24 day of December A. D. 1907

W. S. Wagner
Judge of the Probate Court.

By _____
Deputy Clerk.

N. B.—Unless the person solemnizing the marriage, return a certificate thereof to the Probate Court within thirty days after performing the ceremony, he is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof may be punished by a fine of Fifty (\$50) Dollars.

Johnson & Watson, Printers, Stationers and Legal Blank Publishers, Dayton, Ohio.

Requirement 4a

Genealogical Resources

- Other Genealogical Records
 - Cemetery records and tombstones
 - Emigration/Immigration records
 - Neighbors and friends
 - Veterans organizations
 - Voters' Registration



Requirement 4a

Deciding Which Records to Use

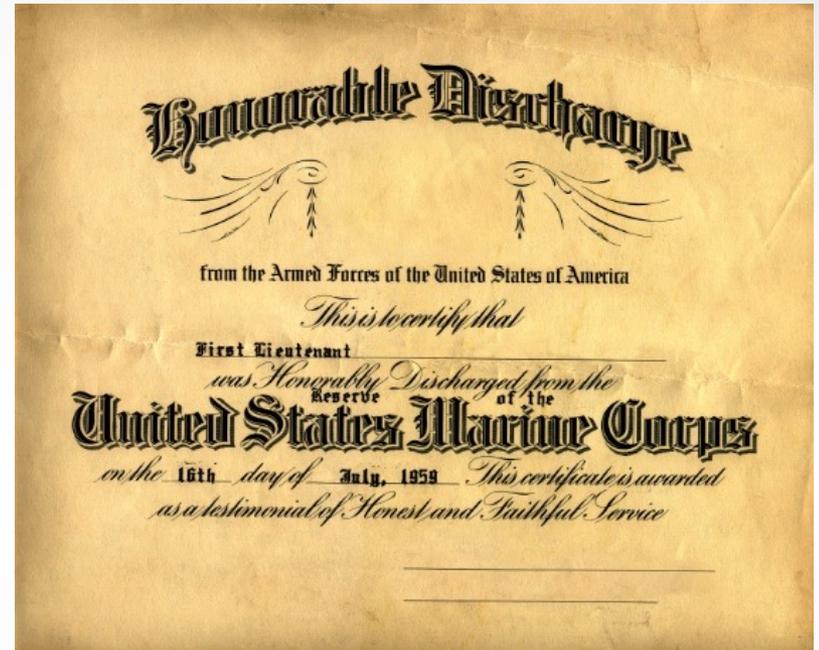
- Step 1 - Decide what you want to find out.
- Step 2 - Find out what kind of record will give you that information.
- Step 3 - Find out where the records you need can be found.
- New information enables you to ask new questions.



Requirement 4b

Genealogical Documents

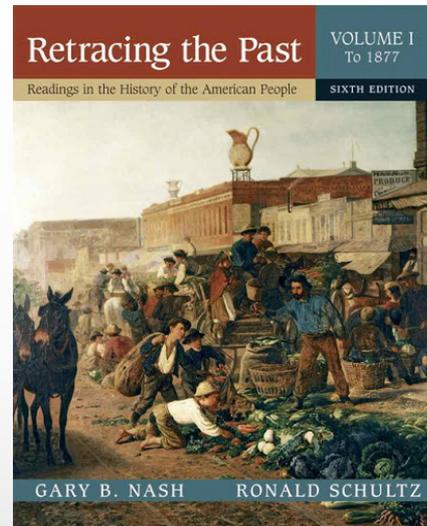
- The most important documents for genealogists are:
 - Vital records (birth, marriage, and death certificates)
 - Religious records.
 - Cemetery records.
 - Census forms.
 - Citizenship papers.
 - Military records.
 - Other records like school records, deeds, and wills.
- Ask your family if they have copies of any of the above.
- A great website to search for missing vital records, such as marriage records, birth records and death records in Ohio is the [Ohio Office of Vital Statistics](#).



Requirement 4c

Evaluating Genealogical Information

- A primary source is any record created during the time you are researching, i.e. an eyewitness account. Primary sources can take many forms, such as newspapers, letters, journals, tax lists, court documents, church records, or a census.
- Secondary sources are documents, oral accounts, and records that are created some length of time after the event or for which information is supplied by someone who wasn't an eyewitness to the event. A secondary source can also be a person who was an eyewitness to the event but recalls it after significant time passes.



Requirement 4c

Evaluating Genealogical Information

- Collecting records is not enough—you must be able to understand what the record says, how it relates to your research problem, and whether or not you should believe the information.
- Consider the following factors in evaluating the reliability of information:
 - **Examine the sources** attached to the information. Is there any bias that might have affected the account. Is it a primary or a secondary source. The further you get from the original record, the more likely errors have been introduced. Try to find primary sources for the information you've discovered.
 - **Determine the validity** of the source. Is it an original record, such as a passenger list? A transcription?
 - **Evaluate the time** between the event and when the source you've found was created. People relying on their memory of a date or place may not remember it accurately.





Requirement 5

Contact ONE of the following individuals or institutions. Ask what genealogical services, records, or activities this individual or institution provides, and report the results:

- a. A genealogical or lineage society
- b. A professional genealogist (someone who gets paid for doing genealogical research)
- c. A surname organization, such as your family's organization
- d. A genealogical education facility or institution.
- e. A genealogical record repository of any type (courthouse, genealogical library, state or national archive, state library, etc.)



Requirement 5a

Genealogical Societies

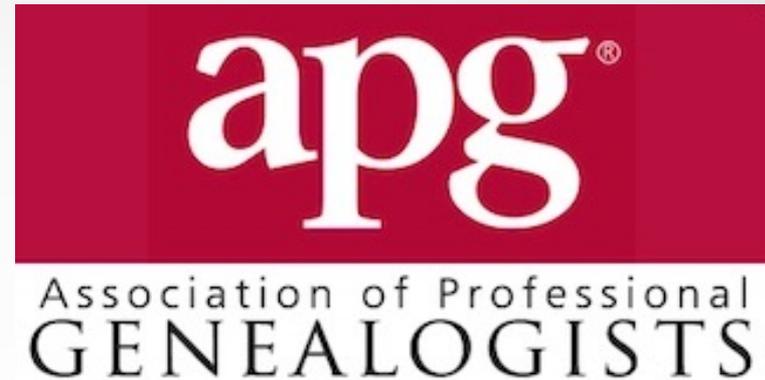
- The [Ohio Genealogical Society](#) can help you find the right material for your research, and help you discover more about your early Ohio ancestors and the contributions they made to their communities.
- [Wood County Genealogical Society](#) - assists individuals interested in genealogy in tracing their ancestors, with emphasis to Wood County. WCGS also receives, collects, purchases, and preserves manuscripts, books, records, and family histories and makes them available for use in genealogical research.



Requirement 5b

Professional Genealogists

- Trace ancestry
- Research descendants
- Search records
- To locate a Professional Genealogist, start with the website for the [Association of Professional Genealogists](#).
 - Here you can browse through either a list of genealogists by name, location, research specialty, or geographic specialty.



Requirement 5c

Surname Organization

- A family association or family organization formed by people who share a common ancestor or surname.



Requirement 5d

Genealogical Education Institution

- The [National Genealogical Society](#) is a genealogical interest group founded in 1903 in Washington, D.C.. Its headquarters are in Falls Church, Virginia.
- The goals of the organization are to promote genealogical skill development, establish high standards of genealogical research, and increase awareness of and interest in family history.



NATIONAL
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY®



Requirement 5e

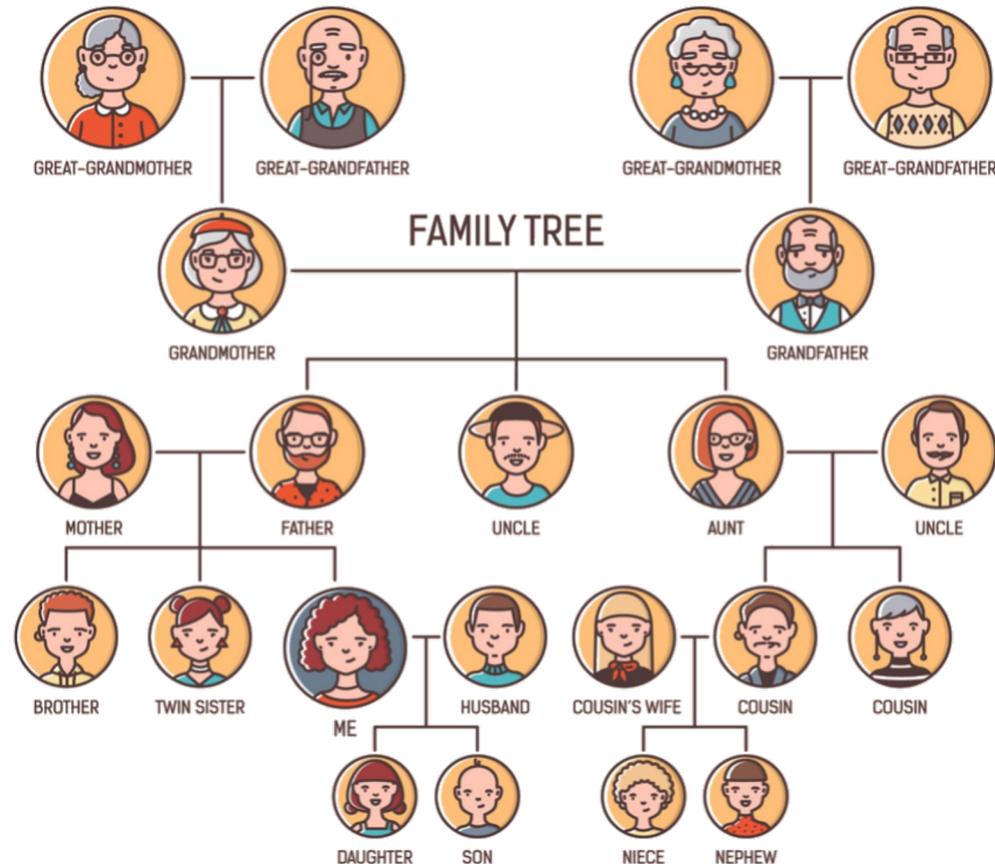
Genealogical Record Repository

- [Library of Congress](#)
- [National Archives and Records Administration](#)
- Your local public library
- University libraries
- County record offices
- Local genealogy societies
- The internet



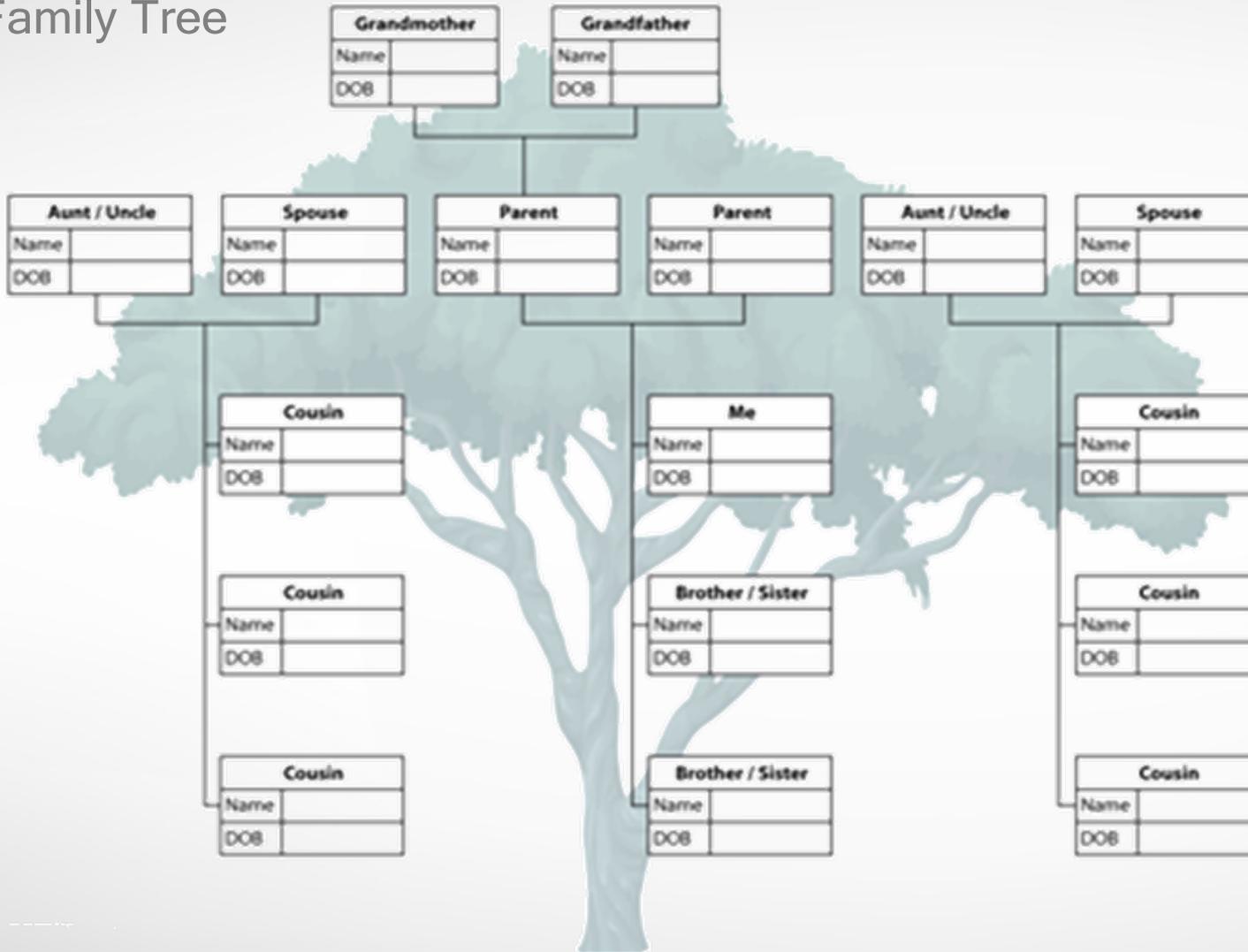
Requirement 6

Begin your family tree by listing yourself and include at least two additional generations. You may complete this requirement by using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice.



Requirement 6

Family Tree





Requirement 7

Complete a family group record form, listing yourself and your brothers and sisters as the children. On another family group record form, show one of your parents and his or her brothers and sisters as the children. This requirement may be completed using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice.



Requirement 7

Put your father's information here. Put your mother's information here.

Family Group Record Page ____ of ____

Husband's Name		Other marriages <input type="checkbox"/> See notes	
Born	Place		
Other information			
Died	Place		
Married	Place		
Husband's father Name			
Husband's mother Name			
Wife's Name		Other marriages <input type="checkbox"/> See notes	
Born	Place		
Other information			
Died	Place		
Wife's father Name			
Wife's mother Name			
Children (List them whether living or dead.)			
1 Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Name		Other marriages <input type="checkbox"/> See notes
	Born	Place	
	Other information		
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	Died		Place
	Spouse's name		
	Married	Place	
2 Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Name		Other marriages <input type="checkbox"/> See notes
	Born	Place	
	Other information		
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	Died		Place
	Spouse's name		
	Married	Place	

List your brothers and sisters and yourself in the places for children.
The oldest should be listed first and the youngest listed last.

- Write down where you found your information.
- Include a list of ideas about where to look for more information.





Requirement 8

Do the following:

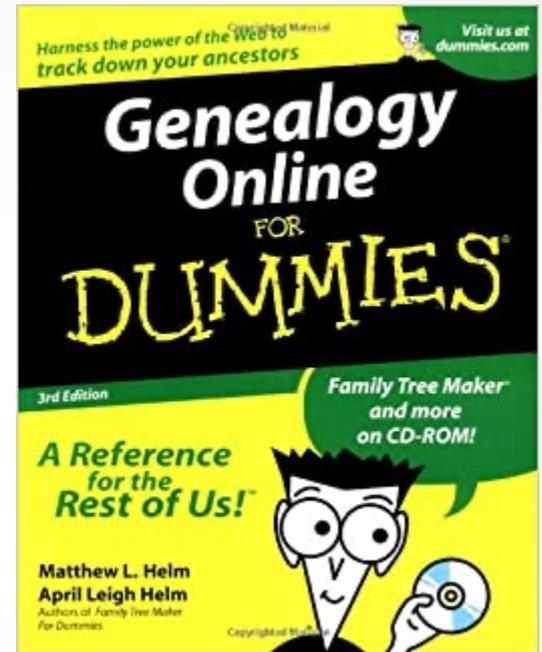
- a. Explain the effect computers and the Internet are having on the world of genealogy.
- b. Explain how photography (including microfilming) has influenced genealogy.



Requirement 8a

Computers, the Internet, and Genealogy

- Technology has given genealogists the means to conduct, compile and store information from the comfort of their own homes.
- Genealogists are now able to use scanners to scan old photographs, forever preserving them for future generations.
- Genealogical software allows researchers to compile information, ridding themselves of the many boxes and filing cabinets once necessary to organize this type of information.
- The internet has given researchers the ability to access information, formally available only at libraries and government offices.
- Researchers are now able to share information within seconds instead of waiting days or weeks for documents to travel through the postal system.



Requirement 8b

Photography and Genealogy

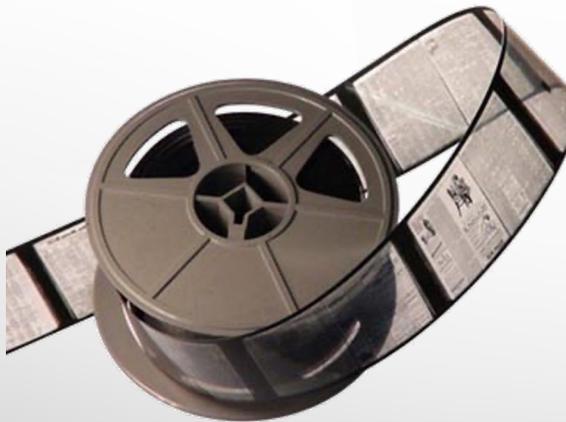
- In genealogical research, photography can be used for more than just showing what people looked like.
- Photographs may help you pinpoint family members at a specific place in time.
- Such photographs may also help to confirm the death of certain individuals and the presence of others that had not been previously known to exist.
- We need to identify our own photographs so that our history is not forgotten.



Requirement 8b

Microfilm and Genealogy

- Archives captured on microfilm and microfiche have done a remarkable job of preserving history.
- Records maintained on microfilm include: census records, immigration and military records, birth, marriage and death certificates, newspapers, magazines, etc.
- Many of these are available in local, state, and national archives.
- Microfilm is being phased out as it is digitized and posted on the internet.





Requirement 9

Discuss what you have learned about your family and your family members through your genealogical research.

