

GENEALOGY TIPS
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Note: websites listed below were checked in preparation for this handout, also check Google.

1. **6 Rs of Genealogy Research**--A short beginner's article on genealogy can be found online in the New Georgia Encyclopedia site via Galileo. Website: www.georgiaencyclopedia.org and search for "genealogy." The basic principles are:

request information

record the information

research further

read for background

review your findings at each level and repeat

and then decide on the **results** of your efforts: put it on a genealogy program, a website, have a family reunion, write a book, but preserve your information and share with others today as well as with future generations.

2. **Write Down Your Memories**--for your relatives. Your recollections of your "ancestors" or other kin will be an invaluable source for the future, because future generations won't know them other than a name in a record, such as the census, a tombstone, or an obituary.

3. **Biographical Sketch**--Use the form or some similar format to let your kin know what you have done in your lifetime, and what you think is important. Or write up an ancestor.

4. **Books**--one of the best, easiest to get and least expensive books to get started in genealogy is the Boy Scout Merit Badge booklet on Genealogy. This can be obtained at a Scout Shop, online 1-800-323-0736, or <http://scoutstuff.org>. Go to Literature and then "Merit Badge Pamphlets." Cost for eBook is \$4.99, plus shipping. (2023 verified) (Postage \$3.25, order in quantity best.)

To find books by nationally-recognized authors on research, or specific topics, especially ethnic research topics, check with the Genealogical Publishing Company in Baltimore, at www.genealogical.com. Then see if the local library has the book.

5. **Magazines/Journals**--*Family Tree Magazine*, found at chain bookstores and sometimes at the grocery store, is a great one to subscribe to or at least buy a few issues. You can get some info free online at www.familytreemagazine.com. They issue a list of the 101 Best Websites each year, but overall, their website has more information, links, and special offers, blogs, etc., than you can take advantage of. But there is a fee to get more out of the website. (Get subscription for birthday, etc.) They also publish a number of great genealogy how to books, charts, etc.

6. **Societies to Join**--There are many genealogical societies in Georgia. In the Atlanta area there are the Georgia Genealogical Society (GGS), genealogical societies for Cobb, Henry-Clayton, Rockdale, the Gwinnett Historical Society, all easy to find on the web about programming and

joining. There are many groups with a geographical focus, and no doubt one in or near where you might be from. There are also ethnic-based groups such as the Jewish Genealogical Society (www.jewishgen.org/jgsg/) which meets in Atlanta at the Breman Museum. The Metro-Atlanta Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society is very active and well worth joining. See their website www.aahgsatl.org.

Go to www.usgenweb.org to check the county you are interested in, as these free websites cover every county in the United States and usually have a link or contact information about the local genealogical society, local library, or people who will help you with research.

7. Education: Meetings and Training- to learn more about genealogy, there are often classes for beginning genealogy or even advanced topics offered, as well as monthly lectures by many of the Atlanta-Area genealogical societies or freelance genealogists. Many events are mentioned in my weekly genealogy column in the Sunday *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. The annual education series offered in the winter by the Cobb County Genealogical Society is well-worth attending.

WEBINARS are offered by the Georgia Genealogical Society, and many national groups (see LegacyFamilytree.com) and are low cost or free and one should really try them out.

8. Major Websites: Check the National Genealogical Society (NGS) www.ngsgenealogy.org for details of their publications and online classes. They also publish short but detailed state guides to genealogy research. Check the website for a listing.

The most important websites for sources of abstracted information are www.ancestry.com, a subscription site, and the Mormon www.familysearch.org, is a must and free.

9. Places to Go for Research- Georgia has a plethora of places to do research, once you finish your family interviews or research at the county courthouse, if you have local research. Remember that no matter where the library/archives is located, each facility has MORE than what they geographically identify with. Archives- Georgia State Archives and the National Archives at Atlanta are located in Morrow, GA, next door to each other. The public libraries with great genealogical collections in metro-Atlanta include Atlanta (central library (?) and Auburn Ave.), Marietta, and Smyrna; outside of Atlanta the best are in Athens, Columbus, Gainesville, Macon, Rome, and Savannah, with good collections in Homerville, Moultrie, Thomasville, and Vidalia. Don't overlook the private society collections at the Atlanta History Center (in Atlanta) and the Georgia Historical Society (in Savannah), or at Emory University. Check ahead for hours open, holiday closings. Everyone has a website.

Nearby there are great genealogical collections at the public libraries of Charlotte, Chattanooga, Birmingham, and Mobile that are worth the trip to visit.

The Mormon-sponsored Family Search Centers can be found all over the state, there are 45+ in Georgia. Check on www.familysearch.org to find a list of those in Georgia.

10. When in Doubt, Go to GOOGLE. A lot of genealogy material can be found via a Google search, including the portion Google Books. Search for your ancestor, or the family, your area of interest, a society, or whatever, and follow what turns up.