

## THE GENEALOGY CORNER

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Do you want to trace your family history? Do you want to find your ancestors but have no idea where to begin? Here are some answers.

The first step is to ask your older family relatives what they know or remember about your ancestors. The biggest thing here is to write everything down. This is very important. It is very helpful to include who told you what and the date.

What questions do you want to ask? The names of your grandparents and great grandparents. Dates and places where they were born and died. What cemetery they are buried in. What kind of work they did. What their lives were like and their schooling. Did they have brothers or sisters? Can they relate any anecdotes about them. Can they give or lend you a picture of the person, couple, and/or their home? Are there any written documents you can see (letters, diaries, artifacts)? Who else would know this person? If it is a small town, someone might remember.

If there is an old family bible, a lot of births, marriages, and death information were written down here. The town historian can be very helpful, as can the genealogy corner of our Museum.

For a fee, you can get copies of birth, marriage, and death records from the town clerk and land deeds from the county clerk office where your ancestors lived. More on this later . . .

If you have access to a computer, there are many places to look. My personal favorite is [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com), where you enter the name of your relative. The more information you have, the more the search will be narrowed down. You can also find the county and town websites and cemetery listings. I will have more websites for you to check out in another article.

Check our future newsletters for more advice on genealogy.

Good Luck!