

STARTING YOUR FAMILY TREE



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WHERE DO I BEGIN?

1. Start with yourself.
2. Gather as much family history as possible by interviewing your relatives. Write down their responses or if possible record their answers on a tape recorder. Better yet video them!



THERE IS NEVER ENOUGH INFORMATION

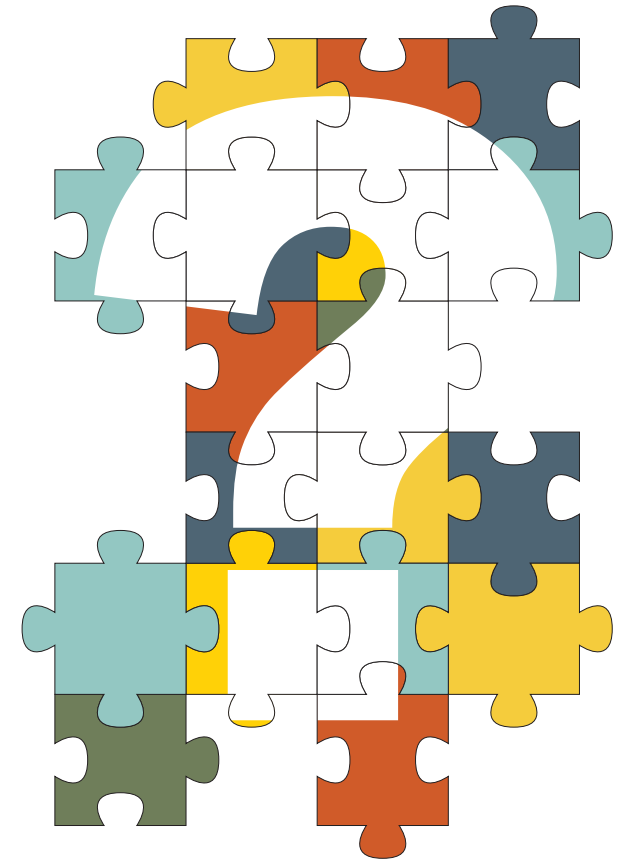
- Look for information such as immigration dates, naturalization dates, maiden names of women, church records, school records, health records, census records, newspaper announcements, military records, property records, tax assessments, cemetery records and burial documents.

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS TOO MUCH INFORMATION!

- Write down anything and everything you find out. Some of the information you gather you will find to be fact while other information maybe completely untrue. Be careful with information you collect from vital records and census, sometimes a date is incorrect or a name is changed or misspelled.

DO THE “DIRTY WORK!”

- Do the “dirty work!” Do not strictly rely on internet genealogical sites as your only source of information!
- Search libraries for newspaper articles, request microfilm from Family History centers immigration and vital record information.
- Visit cemeteries and take pictures or sketches of the tombstones.
- Contact churches for your ancestors marriage, birth, baptismal, death records.
- Request certified or genealogical copies of vital records from the state or county clerk’s office.



TREES, CHARTS, PEDIGREES?

- ❖ A **family tree** lists many members of one's family as you can find and goes back many generations.
- ❖ A **family group sheet** list all the members of one specific family including their name, date of birth, date of marriage and to whom, and date of death.
- ❖ A **pedigree chart** lists one family member but goes back four or more generations of parents, grandparents, and great grandparents.

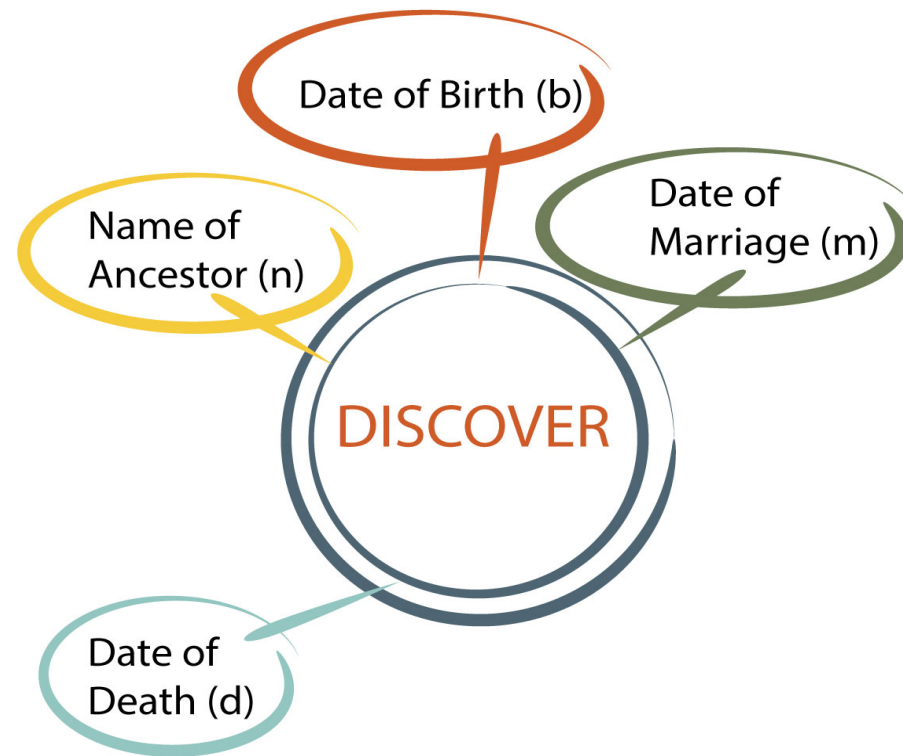


VITAL RECORDS

- Documenting vital records such as birth, death, and marriage records has not always been required. Many states starting requiring documentation of these records by the end of the nineteenth century. You usually must request a vital record from the county clerk's office. Most times there will be a small fee. Always send a SASE to expedite your request, unless you order online.

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO COLLECT?

There are four important facts you need to discover for almost everyone in your family.



MARRIAGE RECORDS

A marriage license provides you with the name of the bride and groom, the date of the marriage, the place where the marriage took place, and the person who performed the ceremony.

Pay particular attention to the woman's maiden name for that can help you locate her family. When requesting a copy of the marriage license ask for a copy of the application as well. It too can provide you with more information such as the names of the parents of the bride and the groom, the level of education each person has had, whether they were married before, any illnesses they may have had, etc.

Marriage License of Philip Hirschberg and Nettie Gillis, dated 1899,

MARRIAGE LICENSE 290693

STATE OF ILLINOIS, } ss. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
COOK COUNTY.

To any Person Legally Authorized to Solemnize Marriage, Breeing:

Marriage may be Celebrated between Mr. *Philip Hirschberg*
of Chicago, in the County of Cook and the State of Illinois, of the age of *28* years, and
Miss *Nettie Gillis* of Chicago, in the County of Cook
and State of Illinois, of the age of *18* years.

Witness, PHILIP KNOPF, County Clerk and Clerk of the County Court of said
Cook County, and the Seal thereof, at my office in Chicago this *25* day of
April A. D. 189*9* *Philip Knopf*
County Clerk and Clerk of the County Court.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, } ss. John G. Murphy Justice of the Peace.
COUNTY OF COOK, }
hereby certify that Mr. *Philip Hirschberg* and Miss *Nettie Gillis*
were united in Marriage by me at *Chicago* in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, on
the *25th* day of *April* 189*9* *John G. Murphy*
J.P.

70 321 20 Hatched 41-

BIRTH RECORDS

Birth records usually include:

- Name of child
- Race of child
- Gender of child
- Date and place of birth
- Mother's name
- Father's name



BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF ALMA BALL, 10-13-1886

117841

RETURN OF A BIRTH.

State of Illinois,
COOK COUNTY.

The Physician, Accoucheur or person in attendance should immediately return this Certificate, accurately filled out, to the County Clerk.
Penalty, \$10.00, if not so certified and returned within thirty days.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

1. *Full Name of Child (if any), Alma

2. Sex, Female Race or Color (if not of the white race), _____

3. Number of Child of this Mother, 1st

4. Date of this Birth, Oct. 13 86

5. †Place of Birth, No. 270 Seagram Street, _____ Ward, _____

6. Residence of Mother, " 270 Seagram " " "

7. Nationality: _____ Place of Birth: _____ Age of: _____

a. Father, German Prussia 29

b. Mother, " Baden 29

8. Full Name of Mother, Katharine Ball

9. Maiden Name of Mother, Katharine Seaman

10. Full Name of Father, Chas. Ball

11. Occupation of Father, male nurse (none at present)

12. Name and address of other Attendants, if any, _____

Dated, Oct. 1886. Returned by Marie J. Fungler } M. D.
Residence, 29 Traverly Place } Midwife.

* The given name of Child should be certified, if possible, when this Certificate is made, and should, in any case, be certified and registered within a year.
† City, number, street and ward; same in towns that have them; township or precinct.

Death Records

Death records usually include:

- Name
- Date of death
- Place of death

Death Certificate Of Maria Elizabeth Rusch Sommer, dated 1899

18433
25100

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: CITY OF CHICAGO: BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.
UNDERTAKER'S REPORT OF DEATH.

Permit for Burial will be issued only on this form of Report correctly filled out with Ink. Refer to back of Report for Instructions.

See "Instructions to Undertaker," on Back of Report.

1. Name of Deceased (in full) Elizabeth Sommer
2. Sex: F Color: W. 3. Place of Birth Germany
(State, or Country; if outside of Chicago.)
4. Age: 83 years months days. 5. Lived in Illinois 20 years.
6. Died on the 20 day of Dec 1899, at about 12 P. M.
7. ~~Single~~, Married, Widowed. Occupation: _____
8. Place of Death: 8942 Exchange Av Ward 33
See Instructions No. 8—to the Undertaker—on back of Report.
9. Place of Burial: Oakwood 10. Undertaker: Adam Griesel License No. 147
Date: Dec 31 1899 Address: 9126 Loan Av
Tel. No. 76

PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH.
[See "Suggestions as to the Certificate of Cause of Death," on Back of Report.]

I hereby Certify, That, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the cause of the death of the above named and described deceased was as hereunder written:

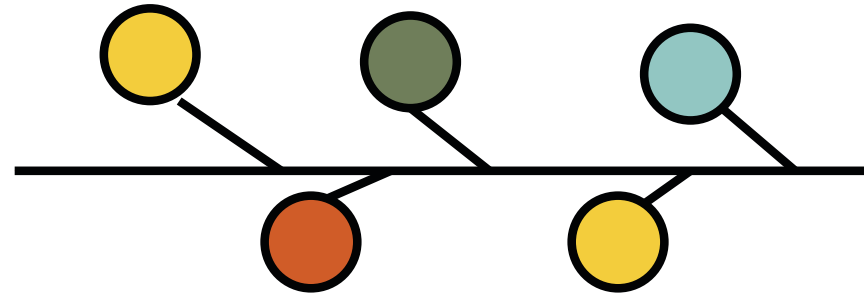
CAUSE OR CAUSES OF DEATH.		DURATION OF CAUSE OR CAUSES.			
Chief and Determining	Contributing and Consecutive Cause or Causes	Years.	Months.	Days.	Hours.
<u>Old age</u>	<u>15</u>				

Witness my hand, This 31st day of December 1899 } (Signature:) G. B. Kriger M. D.
Address: 9104 Commercial Ave Tel. No. _____

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DEATH NOTICE AND AN OBITUARY?

- A death notice is simply a publication of the deceased name, the date of death, and the funeral services. Sometimes it may list the cemetery.
- An obituary is far more detailed. It includes the deceased name, age, date of death, family members, funeral services, and cemetery. Many times it will also include the deceased's spiritual and professional associations, education, community involvement and employment.

Timelines



- ❖ Discovering the dates of an ancestors' birth, marriage and death are certainly important facts for your family history. What about the rest of your ancestor's life? Where did they live, go to school, work, etc.?
- ❖ Creating a timeline can help you understand the "who, what, where, when, and why" regarding your ancestor.
- ❖ Using a timeline fills in the blanks in your ancestors history. When did your ancestors come to America? Where did they meet their spouse? What did they do to make a living? Who were their parents and why did they come to America?

CREATE YOUR OWN TIMELINE

- A spreadsheet is the simplest form to use for a timeline. Whenever you discover a specific date and event in your ancestors life, insert it on your timeline. Remember to create a source citation for where you obtained that information.
- Suggestions for events to be included on timeline: first day of school, religious ceremonies, graduations, first job, date and name of high school and college, dates and place of homes, and important historical events.

KATHARINE SOMMER TIMELINE

- 1849 Year of birth , Neckargemund, Baden, Germany
- 1881 Year of immigration
- 1885 Married Charles J. Ball on April 22, 1885 at Central Christian Church located at 2936 Graceland Avenue, Chicago, (Marriage certificate)
- 1886 Haymarket Riots in Chicago, IL
- 1886 Birth of first child; Alma Marie Ball, born on October 13, 1886 at home in Chicago, Illinois (Birth cert.)
- 1889 Found living at 2358 Wentworth Avenue, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1892 Found living at 4524 Cottage Grove, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1893 Chicago's World Fair
- 1893 Found living at 479 W. Lake, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1894 Found living at 479 W. Lake, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1898 Found living at 9229 Houston Avenue, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1902 Found living at 9135 Houston Avenue, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1903 Found living at 9135 Houston Avenue, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1907 Listed as a widow of Charles. Found living at 5219 S. Wood, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1908 Listed as a widow of Charles. Found living at 1901 W. 47th, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1911 Listed as a widow of Chas. Found living at 6037 S. Lincoln, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1912 Listed as a nurse. Found living at 5631 S. Marshfield Avenue, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1913 Listed as a nurse. Found living at 5631 S. Marshfield Avenue, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1914 Found living at 2612 Orchard, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1917 Listed as a widow of Chas J. Found living at 3019 N. Michigan, Chicago, IL. (city directory)
- 1923 Died at Kankakee State Hospital in Kankakee, Illinois. Buried April 12, 1923 at Oakwood's Cemetery, Chgo. IL. (Death Cert.)

Census Records

- Census schedules can provide a person with a wealth of information regarding their ancestors. Dependent upon the census year, you can find out information such as the names of an entire family, their ages, place of birth, number of years of marriage, employment, year of immigration, year of naturalization, address and more!

NATURALIZATION RECORDS

- Naturalization records prior to 1904 contain only the name and signature of immigrant, country of birth, and names of witnesses.
- Please note prior to 1902 female ancestors didn't have to apply for citizenship (derivative citizenship).

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

- ❖ After 1904 immigrants filed a Declaration of Intention which included month, day, year of birth, locality and country of birth.
- ❖ Petition of Naturalization was filed a few years after the Declaration of Intention. It asked for specific birth date and birth place. It also asked for a list of the immigrants children and their date of birth and place of birth.

RELIGIOUS RECORDS

- Religious records are another important resource to use in discovering your family history. Marriages, birth announcements, baptisms, communions, confirmations, and funerals may be recorded.



CITY DIRECTORIES



- City directories are like phone books. Here in Chicago, city directories can be found as far back as 1839. These can be found at the Harold L. Washington Library Center, the Newberry Library, the Chicago Historical Society, and Richard J. Daley's Library. They are also available from Family History Centers for a fee.

1923 Chicago City Directory, Louis Sawicki

Am Med Assn	" Frank lab r3512 S Union av	" Bella (wid Cha
av	" Harry carp h4329 S Cal av	Evans av
ach h9348 Colfax	" Hy N chauf r2114 Canton	" Benj mach b1246
dfax av	" Jno craenpn h8248 South Shore dr	" Benj G clk h4617
r1603 Fullerton av	" Jno lab h rear 1836 Crittenden	SAWYER BISCUIT
1128 E 47th	" Jos lab h1321 Holt	Wolf Pres-Trens
-8048 Kimball av	" Jos lab h rear 3325 Mosspratt	orno V-Pres. Le
and bl	" Jos mach h3338 Rice	Sec. Mfrs of
Addison	" Josephine mlr r1752 Humb bl	1029-1049 W Ma
& CHEMICAL	" Kath (wid Matthew) tailoress	market 5160
V Sterba Mgr.	h1004 N Hayne av	" Brewer E pharm t
isted, Tel Hay-	" Louis auto mech h3521 S Western	" Brunetta r3529 V
Kinzie	" Louis carp h4951 Henderson	" Carl lab r538 E
N Albany av	" Louis lab h8710 Manistee av	" Carl A clk First
ampatis h4403 N	" Mary (wid Anthony) h3552 Burn-	N Robey
Wab av	ham av	" Carl W sch tchr
m	" Mary cash Providers Life Assur	" Carlos P lawyer
42 S Paulina	Co r2345 N Rockwell	R1001 h1353 Ac
	" Michl candymkr h rear 1828 Dick-	" Chas tailor h1111
	son	" Chas A (Natl Me
	" Mitchell F prmn Tribune r1007	

SCHOOL RECORDS

- Really look for “directory information”, which is the name, address, years attended, participation in sports, and other items of a biographical nature.



SOCIAL SECURITY APPLICATIONS

- The Social Security Act was signed in 1935. Regular ongoing monthly benefits started in 1940. Therefore, social security applications from our ancestors can also provide much information. However, because social security was originally a type of unemployment compensation many people would not apply for benefits.

WHAT NOT TO DO!

- ❑ Do not believe everything your family and relatives tell you. Document everything, but **always** cross check your information with other resources.
- ❑ Do not begin with the internet genealogical sites. Start with what you know and **work backwards**.
- ❑ Do not become too rigid. Sometimes names have different spellings, dates of births can be off by several years, children can be listed in the wrong order, places of birth can be incorrect, etc. Be flexible, and verify your information!



FAVORITE CHICAGO WEBSITES

- Illinois State Archives-
www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/archives.html
- South Suburban Genealogical Society
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ssghs/>
- Polish Genealogical Society of America
<http://www.pgsa.org/>
- Chicago Tribune
<http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/chicagotribune>
- Newberry Library (go to genealogy section)
www.newberry.org
- Chicago Genealogy
www.chicagogenealogy.com
- Cook County Genealogy records
www.cookcountygenealogy.com

*Finding Your Chicago Ancestors by Grace DuMuelle.

“Like branches on a tree, our lives may grow in many different directions yet our lives remain as one.”

Anonymous

