

# Genealogy Merit Badge

Troop 344 and 9344  
Pemberville, OH





# 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

Explain to your counselor what the words genealogy, ancestor, and descendant mean.



# 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:

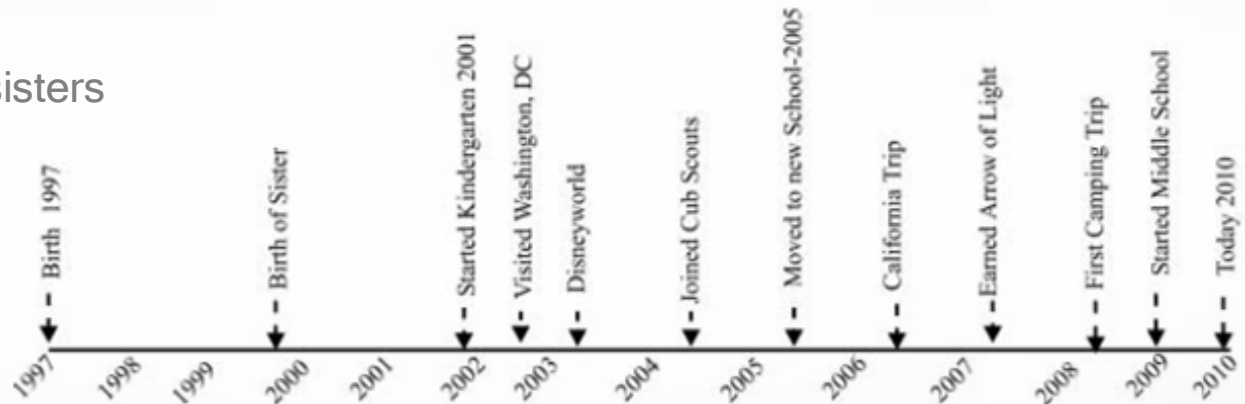
- a. Do a time line for yourself or for a relative. Then write a short biography based on that time line.
- b. Keep a journal for 6 weeks. You must write in it at least once a week.



# 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

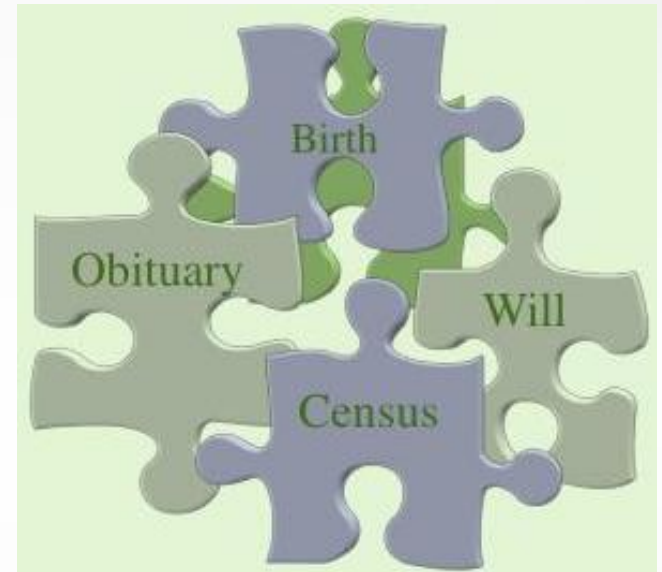
- Address books
- Adoption records
- Baby announcements
- Baby books
- Baptismal certificates
- Diaries or other ancestral writings
- Family Bibles
- Family correspondence or interviews
- Family pictures
- Letters, diaries and journals
- Living relatives
- Marriage certificates, wedding invitations, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ MARDEN \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER'S BIRTHPLACE: OHIO

FATHER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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. 904 State 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) Dorton

(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

A. Color or race Single B. (a) Single, widowed, married, divorced

4. Sex Male 5. (a) Name of husband or wife \_\_\_\_\_ 6. (a) 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.

**Marriage License.**

The State of Ohio, Seneca County, ss.

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

*S. 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 Seheck* 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

*S. 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

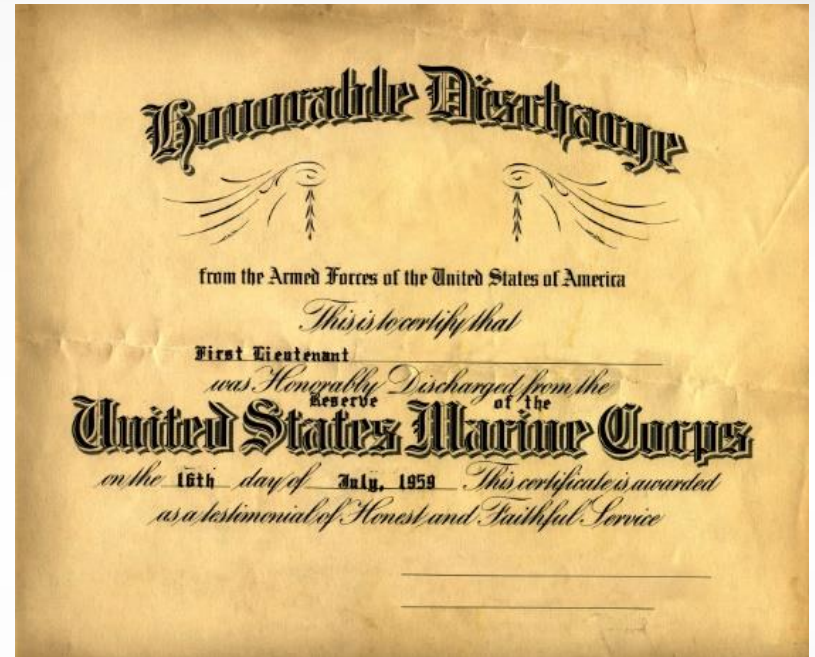
- Step 1 - Decide what you want to find out.
- Step 2 - Find out what kind of record will give you that information.
- Step 3 - Find out where the records you need can be found.
- New information enables you to ask new questions.



# 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](#).

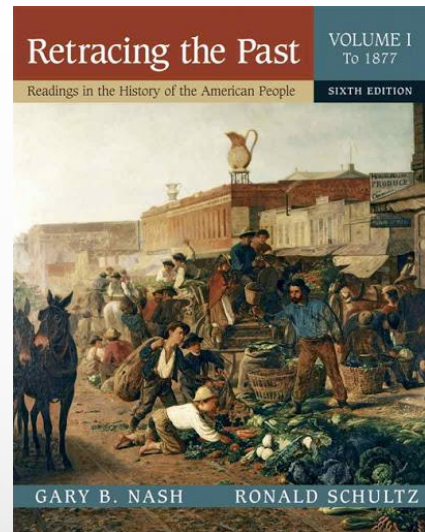




# Requirement 4c

## 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

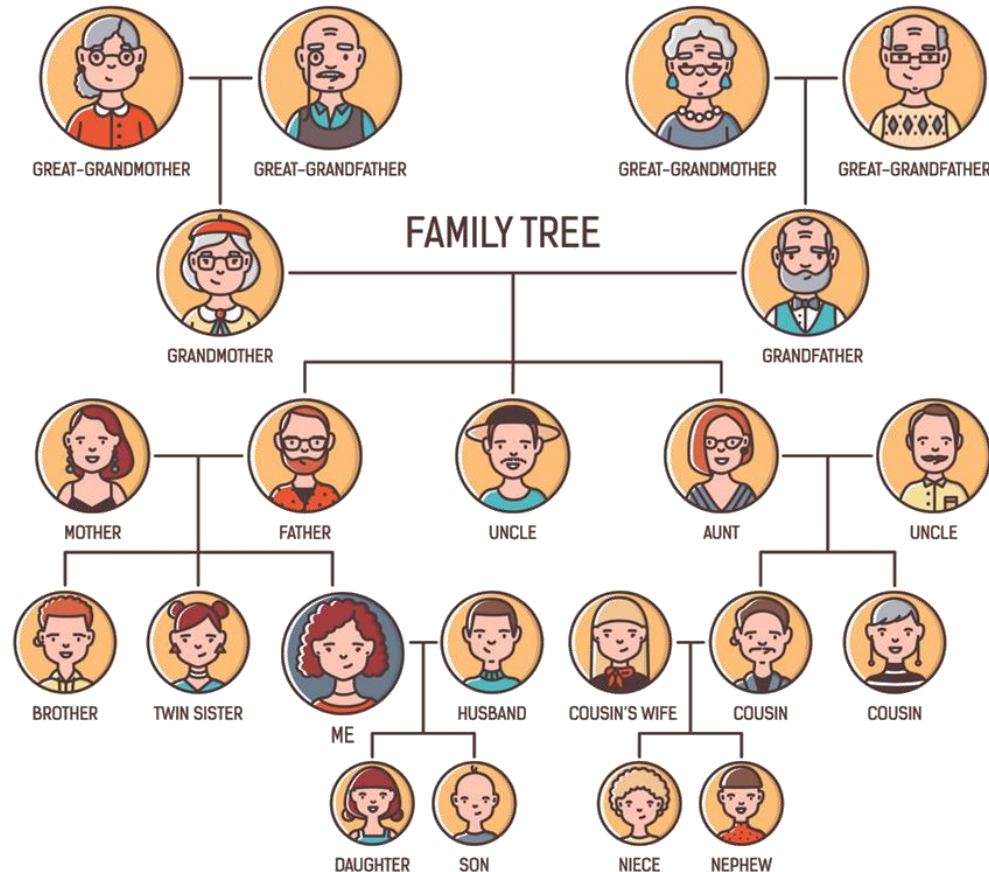
## Genealogical Record Repository

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



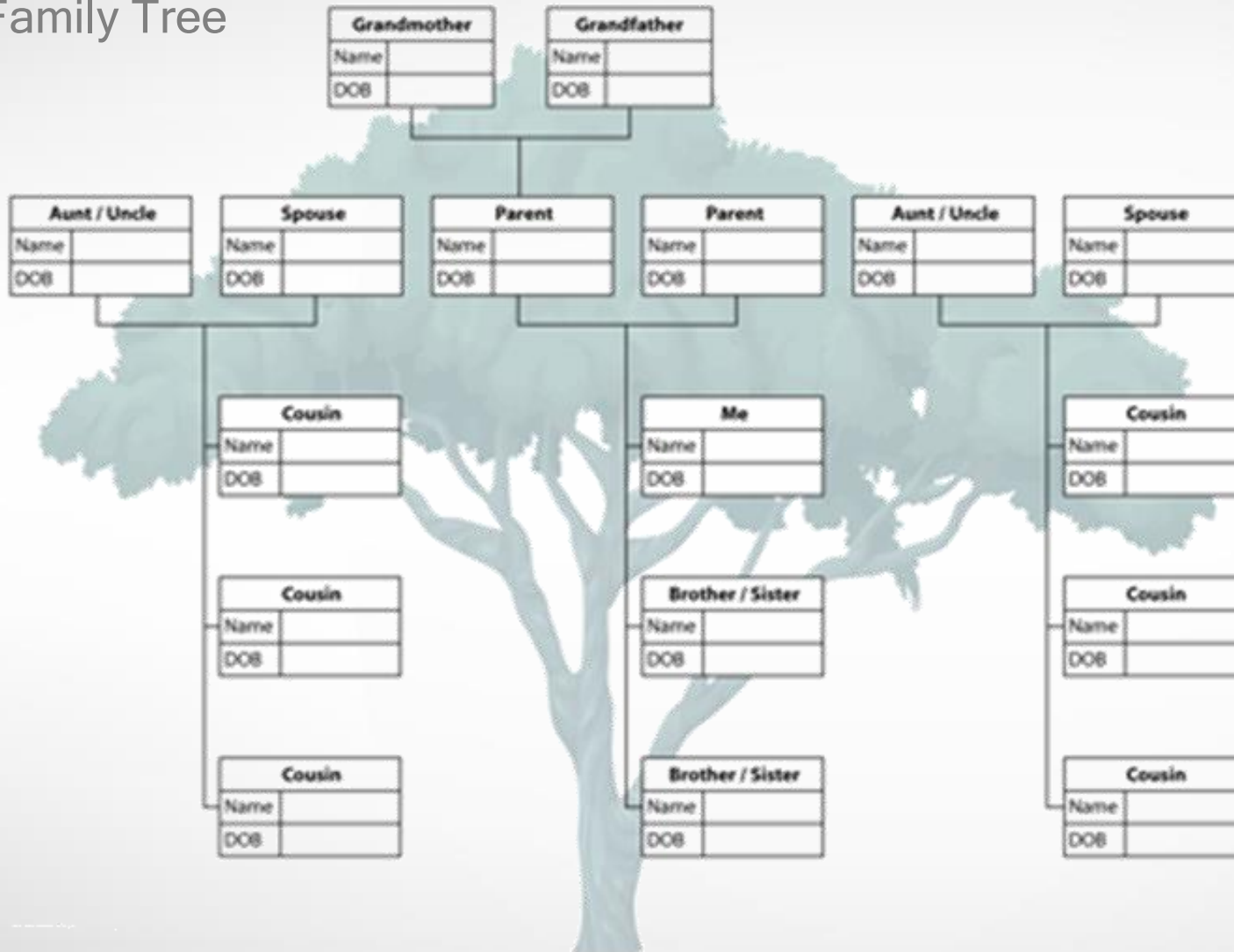
# Requirement 6

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 \_\_\_\_

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

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:

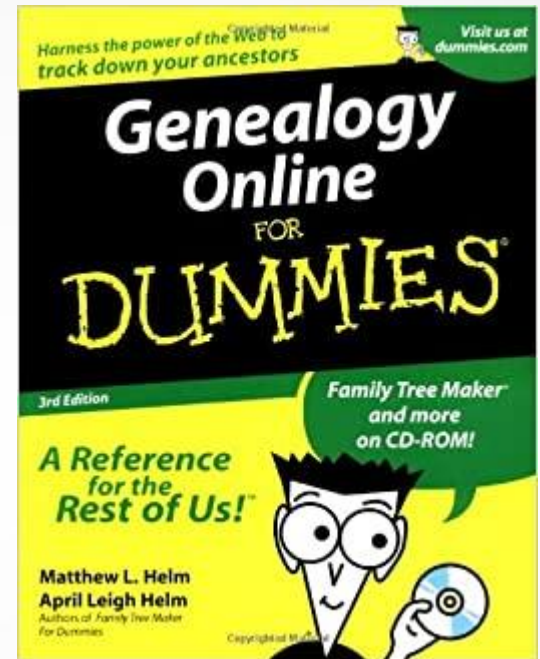
- a. Explain the effect computers and the Internet are having on the world of genealogy.
- b. Explain how photography (including microfilming) has influenced genealogy.



# 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.

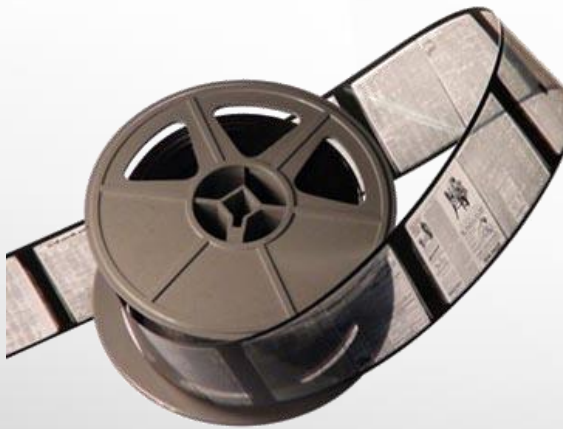




# Requirement 8b

## 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.

