

#YourHistoryStartsHere

The York County History Center's Library & Archives houses an extensive and varied collection covering a wide range of topics, including genealogy and family history, local history, decorative arts, community organizations and historic sites, arts and entertainment, and military history.

In our Reading Room, we offer extensive collections of family genealogies; books on local, state and regional history, with a focus on York County history; York City and County directories; York County high school yearbooks; historical atlases and maps; and local and regional periodicals and newsletters covering a wide range of topics.

All of these materials are accessible to the public through various catalogs and indexes located in the reference area. Trained volunteers, with the support of Library staff, are available to assist patrons in using the collection for their research.

The Library & Archives is located on the first floor rear of The Historical Society Museum at 250 East Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. We invite you to visit the History Center. We are open Tuesday through Saturday 9 am—5pm.



YORK COUNTY®
HISTORY
— CENTER —

**My Family Tree- A Starter Guide to
Documenting Your Family History**



York County History Center Library and Archives
250 East Market Street
York, PA 17403
www.yorkhistorycenter.org

WHAT IS GENEALOGY?

Genealogy is the study of a family's origins and history and is often referred to as a family history. The first known use was in the 14th century to display a pedigree of royal, aristocratic, or clerical blood lines as a means of gaining and commanding respect. Some family trees, like that of Confucius, have been found to list 80 generations dating back 2,500 years.



Initially passed down by word of mouth the family genealogy was later depicted in the form of stylish paintings and documents. It has currently gained international interest as access to more and more on-line records has resulted in significant advances in its documentation and display capabilities. As it was in the times of an ancient king's genealogy which showed his relationship to the gods, today's family histories continue to be a form of storytelling to preserve the past for future generations. In today's climate, the more accurately one can document the past the more likely it will survive through the ages.

Today's genealogy can take the form of simply collecting and preserving family information, all the way up to adding information to the "world tree". Where will your search take you? (familysearch.org)

NOW WHAT DO I DO?

Organize and Document Your New Information

As you learn new information about your relatives, write it down! **Take notes, make photocopies, and take photographs, and then create a system** (either paper or digital) for saving and documenting everything you find.

Keep a research log of what you've searched and what you have found (or not found) as you go.

You can conduct a great deal of research online, but at some point, you will want to **visit the place** where your ancestors lived. Take a trip to the cemetery where your ancestor is buried, the church he attended, and York County History Center to explore records left behind during his time in the community.

When you have researched that particular ancestor as far as you can go, or find yourself getting frustrated, step back and **take a break**. Remember, this is supposed to be fun! Once you're ready for more adventure, go back and choose a new ancestor to start searching for!

Share this information with your friends and family. It is up to you to keep history alive for future generations!

AND THERES MORE...

In addition to the York County History Center Library & Archives there are other historical and government records can help you trace your heritage. Use these resources online to research and build your family history:

National Archives and Records Administration

U.S. Census Bureau

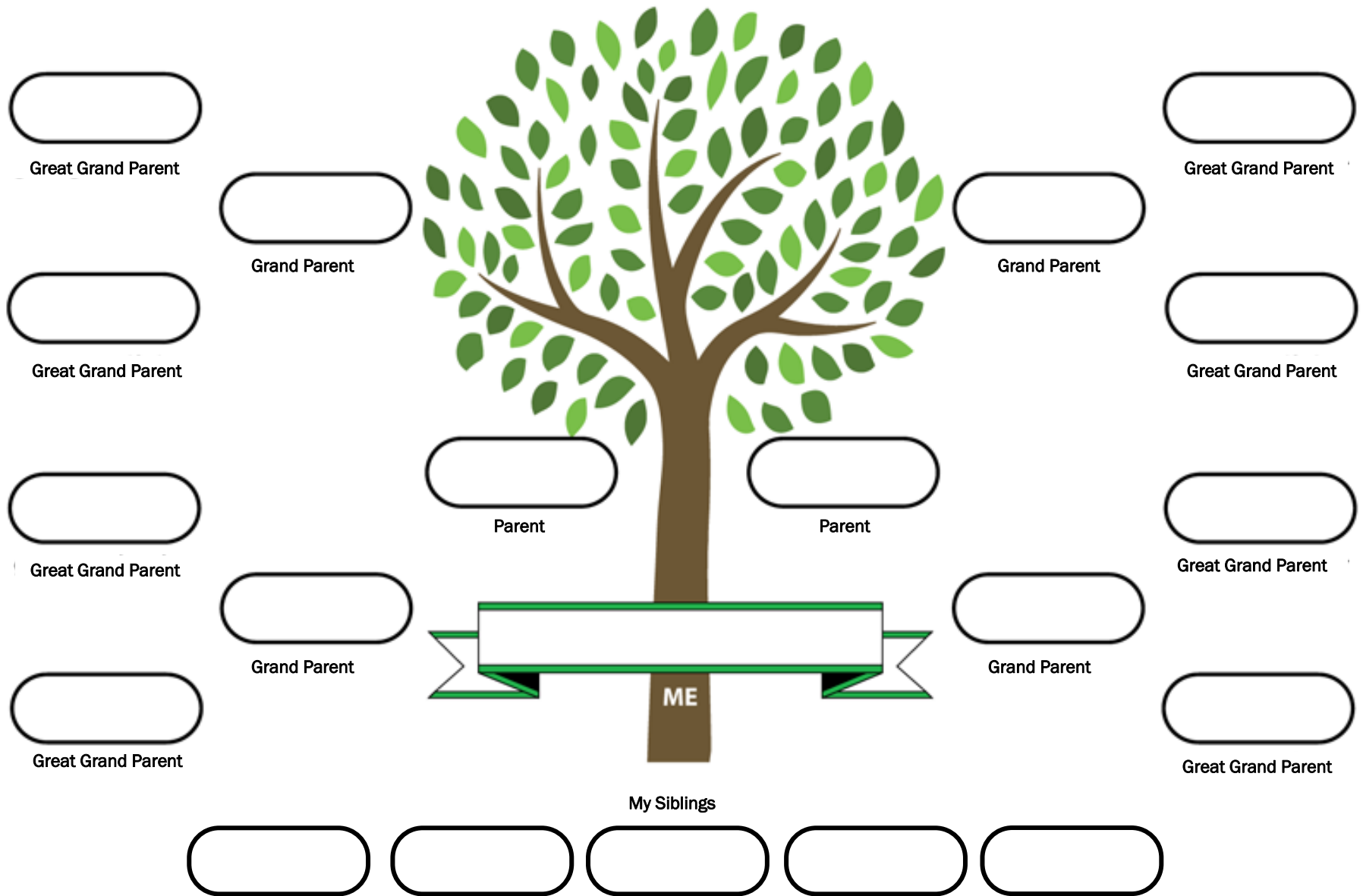
Nationwide Gravesite Locator can help you find burial locations of veterans.

Department of the Interior provides a guide to tracing your Native American heritage.

Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation has a database of passenger records. Search it to find family members who entered the United States through the famous port.

Library of Congress offers local history and genealogy reference services.

Family Tree



Family History Interview

Lets find out about your family. Ask each of your family members these questions:

Name:-----

- ★ When and where were you born?
- ★ Did you have chores growing up?
- ★ What was your schooling like?
- ★ What was your first job?
- ★ Where did you meet your spouse?
- ★ What is your favorite childhood memory?
- ★ How many places have you lived?
- ★ What is one piece of advice you would like to give me?

All About Me

Lets find out a little more about YOU.

My Name:-----

- ★ When and where were you born?
- ★ Where do you go to school?
- ★ Do you have any pets?
- ★ What is your favorite color?
- ★ What is your favorite activity?
- ★ How many places have you lived?
- ★ What do you want to do when you grow up?