

***Welcome to
Family History for Beginners***

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Topics for this session

- Definitions – Genealogy & Family History
- Starting off – steps to take (or retake)
- Online Tutorials - Pages, tutorials, guides
- Drawing your tree
- Organising your material

Definitions

- **Genealogy:**
 - Study of descendants of a person
 - Names, dates, places
 - The ‘bones’
- **Family History:**
 - Biographical research of ancestors
 - Genealogy in a social context
 - The ‘meat’ on those ‘bones’

Starting off

- **Step 1** - draw a rough tree of known facts
- **Step 2** - contact & interview all existing relatives
- **Step 3** - read a beginners book
- **Step 4** - join a group [Yay!! - you have!]

- **Read FH magazines** – online and print

Useful tutorial websites

- Genuki – ‘Newbies Guide to Genealogy & FH’
 - <http://www.genuki.org.uk/gs/Newbie.html>
- **BBC -**
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/get_started/
- **Find My Past.co.uk**
 - <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/content/getting-started>
- **Family Search.com**
 - <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/a-beginners-guide-to-searching-records/>

Drawing Your tree

- **Vertical** – generations on each line (Ancestry tree)
 - Ancestors are above you
 - Descendants below you
- **Horizontal** – generations in each column (Pedigree tree)
 - Ancestors to the right of you
 - Descendants to the left of you
 - Males at the top; females at the bottom

Organising your material

- You will collect lots of material:
 - useful and 'maybe useful in the future'
- This website has a guide on organising it:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Organize_Your_Genealogy

RootsChat forum - users explain their methods:

<http://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php/topic,158638.0.html>

- Try YouTube too for videos of how to organise your research