4 Generation Chart Handout

Family Group Record

Family Group Records (also called family group sheets) are forms with space to record information about the parents and children in one family. Good family group records show names, dates and places of births, marriages, and deaths (see the example to the right). You can enhance their value by citing the sources that document these events in the lives of family members. If you use computers to generate family group records, you also can easily display additional events such as censuses, change of residence, land purchases or sales, wills proved, and any other events in the family members' lives. The most useful family group records display as many events and sources as possible. Recently there has been a trend of amateur researchers creating photographic family group record templates which requires that source and possibly other information be transferred to the reverse of each group record to make room for small portraits of each family member. Family portraits are being incorporated into many form templates to help researchers increase the preservation efforts of priceless family images right alongside the key vital statistics of their ancestors and other relatives. Click on the link above to print or download a family group record.

Start with creating a well-documented **family group record**.

Start research on a new family by compiling a well-documented family group record. This will help you gather, correlate, and analyze information. A well source-footnoted family group record bristles with clues to help you find further sources. For a more detailed explanation of their value see [4]

You may need additional pages for large families. While modern family group records are usually letter size, other sizes such as legal size have been common in the past and can still be used. Family group records can be in either portrait or landscape page layout.

Create a family group record for each couple on your pedigree chart. A four-generation pedigree chart has eight couples, so you would make up to eight family group records for such a pedigree.

For a person who married more than once, make another family group record for each additional marriage, especially if the marriage produced children.

Pedigree Chart

Pedigree charts , sometimes called "Ancestor" or "Lineage" Charts, typically have space for four or five generations (parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.) There is space for full names, dates and places of birth, marriage, and death. See the example at the right. Ancestral lines can continue onto other charts. Some pedigree charts display fewer generations for simplicity and, in doing so, allow plenty of room to include whatever researchers may value most; ancestor portraits, ancestors' siblings in birth order, source information, or customized compiler comments to aid the other researchers in verification or overcoming their next brick wall relative. You may print or download a blank pedigree chart.

Prepare a Research Log

A research log (or calendar of searches) is a list of the source you searched, or plan to search for each objective, ancestor or family. It includes notes about what you found (and didn't find). Most logs are kept in the order that records are selected or searches are made [5]

You may have a research log for each objective, locality, ancestor, or family. Most researchers prefer to keep it simple with a set of research logs for each family they research. There are varying formats for research logs depending on what information is to be sought out. The Research Log can be printed from familysearch

A research log is crucial to successful research. It will help you:

- Keep your research organized.
- Keep your research focused on one objective for one individual at a time.
- Avoid duplicating searches of sources without good reason.
- Easily review and share search strategies with other interested searchers.
- Document the facts found during research.
- Record information about the records you searched in an orderly manner.
- Identify what is found or not found for each objective.
- Locate a record that was searched earlier if you need to check it again.

Effective research logs will include:

- Ancestor's name
- Research objective(s)
- Date of search
- Location and call number of the sources searched
- Description of the sources, including complete information on author, title, and year
- Comments, such as the purpose and results of the search and the years and names searched

You may also use your research log to identify:

- Your document number or reference to findings
- Quality of the source (if indexed, legible, language, etc.)
- The place where the person you are searching lived

You may purchase a basic log at the Family History Library, at Family History Centers, or at genealogical stores, or you may create your own. One research log may start with three areas for vital records for birth, death, and marriage and then have several areas for other common life research subjects such as education, employment, military service, photos, etc. For more details about research logs see the wiki article [6] and [7] in Step 2 of this article.

Suggestions for Recording Information

As you record information, be consistent in the way you write it. Someday, other researchers may use your information or notes as they continue research on your family. The following suggestions are practiced by most genealogists, and are easily understood by all researchers.

Names. Write names in the order they are spoken (first names, then middle name(s), then last name or surname.) You may want to capitalize the surname to identify it. Use maiden names for women.

Dates. Write the day, then the month, then the complete year (23 May 1891). Always write the month, or use an abbreviation. Never use numbers for months. Other researchers may not know if 6-8-50 means 6 August or 8 June, or 1750 or 1850.

Places. List all jurisdictions, in order from smallest to largest. Give the town (or parish or township); the county, province or district; then the state; and the nation last. For example:

Stephenstown, Renesselaer, New York, United States

Ansbach, Oberfranken, Bayern, Germany

Do not use abbreviations. They can be confusing. Take, for example, the abbreviation WA. To some, it means the state of Washington. To others, it means Western Australia.

Commonly, researchers use native spellings for all places or levels (jurisdictions) except for the nation. For example, the native name of Bayern is used instead of Bavaria. Always indicate the name of the country.

Sources. Be sure to fully identify the source of your information. If a person, give their full name. For a book or other document give the complete title and other information. For suggestions see [8].

References

1. ↑ Start Family History by Writing What is Known
2. ↑ Organize the New Records#Using_a_Computer_for_Genealogy
3. ↑ Not Sure Which Genealogy Management Software to Use?
4. ↑ Family group record: roadmap for researchers
5. ↑ Wiki Research Log.
6. ↑ Research Logs
7. ↑ Prepare a Research Log
8. ↑ Transfer the Information#Cite_Your_Sources

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Use_Appropriate_Forms#Family_Group_Record