

Brief Suggestions on *How to Get Started in Genealogy*

Warning: May be Addictive!

The program presents the basics of how to get started in researching your family history. The topics discussed include:

- 1. What is genealogy and why do it**
- 2. What to do first**
- 3. Where to look for information about your family**
- 4. Record keeping and organization**
- 5. Using computers and the internet**

- Start with what you know personally and go back one step at a time.
- Record information on a Pedigree Chart and Family Group Sheet or computer database program.
- Record dates/places of birth, marriage and death
- Make a note of the source of your information
- Interview older family relatives for stories, family information—in person or by telephone, postal mail or email.
- Use family Bibles, letters, journals, military records, financial records, that are in the home
- Has someone researched your family before?
- Internet is very helpful—huge amount of data is online
- Sources outside the home:
 1. Courthouse for legal records (wills, land records, taxes, trials)
 2. Libraries
 3. Cemeteries
 4. Census records
 5. Church records
 6. Military pensions
 7. Homestead land applications
 8. Immigration/naturalization records
- Visit local genealogy/historical societies for help (Pinellas Genealogy Society, for example).
- Family visits & reunions are a good place to gather information and share your findings with other family members
- Have fun!

The Pinellas Genealogy Society
Meeting at the Largo Library, 120 Central Park Drive, Largo, FL

Third Saturday of each month
General Meeting at 11:00-12:00
Computers in Genealogy Q & A Forum—9:45-10:45

Google “Pinellas Genealogy” for website with more info