

Below is the handout from the March 21st meeting on "Getting Started in Genealogy" by Jim Stuber. The notes contain both the talk outline and all the URL's discussed during the meeting.

### **Gather information**

- Interview
- Collect family records and stories
- What you get will be incomplete and sometimes inaccurate

### **Record information**

- Pedigree charts and family group sheets
- Note where a record came from
- Get it to paper? Will your media be accessible in 30 years?

### **Present information**

- Pedigree chart - <http://www.dar.org/sites/default/files/RGG-1003.pdf>
- Family group sheet - <http://www.mdgenweb.org/images/fgr.gif>
- Ancestral report – Realistically you need PC program to generate

### **Research ancestors**

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) – free at libraries and Family History Centers

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) – free from any PC

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com) – free from any PC – just links

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com) – free from any PC - names (s) in quotes + county/state. Use "CNTL f" to find names in text.

[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) – free from any PC

[www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx](http://www.phmc.pa.gov/Archives/Research-Online/Pages/Ancestry-PA.aspx) PA death certificates 1906 to 1963 – free from any PC in PA, or use [ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

More at Family History Centers – 44 School St, Green Tree, Tues 10:30 - 6:30, Thurs 10:00 - 8:00, Sat 10:00 - 1:00

### **Storing and sharing your family Tree**

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) - at some point you're going to pay

[wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com)

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) – no ability to keep other people from changing

**Software on your PC** – All will do the job, choice is a matter of taste. \$30 - \$40 (without add-ons). All have free trial editions. All transfer to each other and to online repositories. Some of the best known:

- [www.rootsmagic.com](http://www.rootsmagic.com) – integrates with ancestry.com and familysearch.org
- [www.familytreemaker.com](http://www.familytreemaker.com) – rights sold to another company, can't buy right now
- <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/>

### **Social Media to find information and connect with others and request help**

- [boards.rootsweb.com](http://boards.rootsweb.com) – places and last name
- [genealogy.com/forum](http://genealogy.com/forum) – places and last name
- Facebook – have to have a Facebook account, usually have to join, “Allegheny County PA Genealogy” has lots of very helpful people for local assistance

### **DNA 101**

- Three tests – Y-DNA – male line, mtDNA – female line (losing favor), Autosomal – looks across all lines for mutations, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> cousins max
- Three companies to test with
  - o [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) – largest database of possible matches to find cousins
  - o [www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com) – best at deep ancestry, 1,000 to 10,000 years ago = archeology, not genealogy, back doing genetic analysis
  - o [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com) – best if you want to do your own exploration of chromosomes, only one still doing mtDNA
- Good intermediate videos, each about an hour:
  - o [www.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_y1sZWRD34](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_y1sZWRD34) “Autosomal DNA: how to use it in practice”
  - o [www.youtube.com/watch?v=U\\_mPCIKX3ls](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_mPCIKX3ls) “Which DNA test is best for you?”

### **Further learning**

Google – search for “getting started in genealogy” – lots of good articles

Youtube – search for “getting started in genealogy” – lots of good videos

Wikipedias at ancestry and familysearch for researching particular places and topics

[https://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](https://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page)

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page)

**Genealogy Research Offer Still Available. Respond to our email if interested:**

Do internet based research on a pair of individuals, 1930's or earlier.

Results put in a binder with two (or more) pedigree charts showing the ancestors, plus paper copies of each record

A tax deductible donation to The Historical Society of Mt. Lebanon. If nothing, make no donation. If results, donate \$150. If ten or more ancestors, donate an additional \$100.