

Fundamentals in Family History

- A. **Select a filing system:**
 - 1. surname file
 - 2. color-coded file
 - 3. alphabetical file
- B. **Gather records:**
 - 1. Certificates of birth, marriage, and death.
 - 2. Obituaries
 - 3. Announcements of births and wedding
 - 4. Census
 - 5. IGI International Genealogical Index
 - 6. Wills and deeds
 - 7. Letters
 - 8. Photos
 - 9. Family bibles
 - 10. Journals and diaries
- C. **Copy, sort, categorize, and file**
- D. **Select a computer filing system** such as *PAF 5.2, Family Tree, etc.*
 - 1. If you choose Personal Ancestral File 5.2
 - a. Download PAF by going to familysearch.org—free
 - b. When downloaded, go to "help" and "Lesson"
 - c. Request an appointment with you ward family history consultant and ask for help in learning this program.
 - d. Visit the nearest family history center.
- E. **Get to know the geographic area** that your family came from.
 - 1. At home do a preliminary search of familysearch.org
 - 1. Look for Pedigree Resource Files
 - a. copy disk and pin numbers
 - 2. While visiting the family history center nearest you:
 - a. Print maps
 - b. Copy information about your state or locality from: *The Handybook for Genealogist, or Ancestry's Redbook.*
 - c. Search the Pedigree Resource File
 - d. Search the IGI
 - e. Search Ancestry.com
 - f. Histories