

6 STEPS TO DISCOVERING YOUR FAMILY STORY



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List your family names

Make a list with you, your parents, grandparents, and so on. Include birth dates or where they were born if you have the information. Include guesses or “thought I heard” because often those nuggets turn out to be true. Don’t feel that you need to list everyone. This is the starter list.



Gather physical items

Collect what you know you have tucked away that may give additional information. These would be pictures, letters, and diaries. Many clues to the family story are found here. Families often wrote additional information on pictures or letters to help remember who people were or where they lived.



Write the stories of family items

What items or artifacts have been passed down through the family? There are often stories attached to those items. These can be anything from jewelry, pictures, furniture, military medals. The list is endless.



Collect your family questions

What do you want to know? Did we come on the Mayflower? Did we come through Ellis Island? Were we Native American? Or is there a mystery you are trying to solve? Did your parents or grandparents not want to talk about a time in their lives and you wonder why?



Choose your people

Are you more interested in focusing on just one person and their life’s journey? Perhaps this is a person whose Oral History you are interested in capturing.



Check for trees

Have you subscribed to, or used, any genealogy sites like Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org, Findmypast.com or many other available sites? Have you or a family member created a family tree that you have access to?



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