

## Trace your family history!

WRHS Research Library

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### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING A FIVE-GENERATION PEDIGREE CHART

Approach researching and documenting your family's history systematically. Transcribe information about your family on the "five-generation" pedigree chart. This chart will help you organize any available information into a standardized format that will serve as a guide throughout your research. In addition, a pedigree chart will enable WRHS staff and volunteers to evaluate your data and to answer your questions more effectively.

Working in pencil, begin with your name at #1, your father's at #2, your mother's at #3, etc. Continue with this pattern (outlined on the chart) to the best of your ability. Please observe the following instructions as you do so:

1. The information gathered on each person includes:
  - b. = date of birth
  - w. = where/location of birth
  - m. = date of marriage
  - w. = where/location of marriage
  - d. = date of death
  - w. = where/location of death
2. Women should be listed by their maiden names. If the maiden name is unknown, leave a blank.
3. Dates should be written as follows: 21 June 1958 (rather than 6/21/58 or 6-21-58). If the exact date is unknown, try to approximate: ca. 1850 (ca. = "circa", Latin for "around" or "about").
4. Locations (w.) are as significant as dates. They can include a city, county, State and/or country.
5. Add other pertinent information concerning date of immigration and place of burial, etc., if significant.

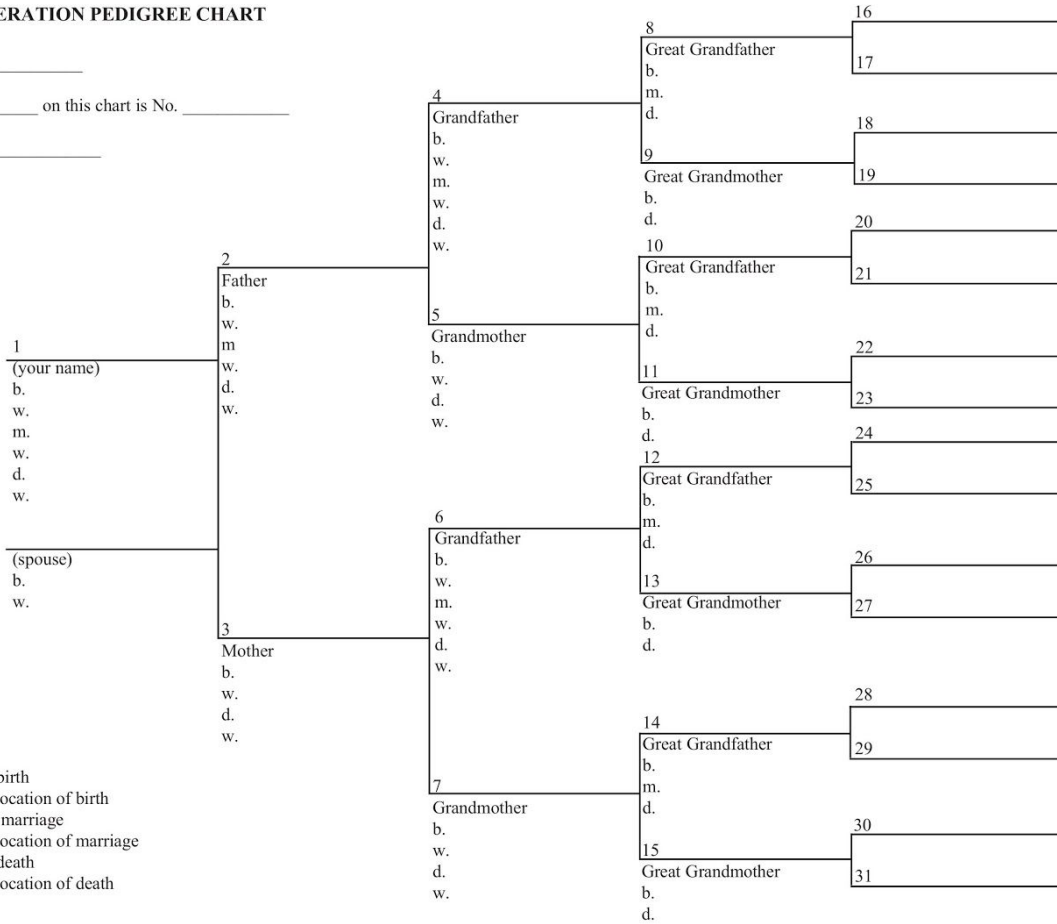
Once you have listed all the available vital statistics on your "five-generation chart" to the best of your ability, feel free to return to the Reference Desk. Discuss any questions you might have concerning your family history and develop a research strategy with a WRHS staff member or volunteer.

**FIVE GENERATION PEDIGREE CHART**

Chart No. \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ on this chart is No. \_\_\_\_\_

on chart No. \_\_\_\_\_



b = date of birth  
w = where/location of birth  
m = date of marriage  
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