

Saugatuck-Douglas District Library / Saugatuck-Douglas History Center

Family History Research 101 – October 8, 2024

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Web page with links - mysdhistory.org/fh101

Write down everything you know

Decide what you want to learn

Contact living relatives - and add what you learn to your notes

Find out what other family members have done

Be organized and record your sources

Verify what you have and add new information — based on evidence

General Advice

- Avoid copying from other people's trees without verifying the information yourself.
- Records may contain mistakes - find multiple records to corroborate.
- Names - watch out for variations
- Dates - search wide ranges - records may not be exact, correct, or consistent
- Locations - be careful with place names
- Learn about where your ancestors lived and the time they lived there.

Where to Find Records

- Saugatuck-Douglas History Center
- Saugatuck-Douglas District Library and other libraries
- Government offices, churches, cemeteries

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List 3 ancestors and 1 thing you know about each, beyond names and dates: where they lived, what college they attended, military service, which church they went to...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Draft a family history goal you might like to achieve.

Give your best guess at the name and location of your oldest living relative.

Name someone who might already be working on your family history.

List one vital record (BMD) that someone in your family might have for an ancestor.

List one surname (last name) spelling variation from your family tree

Name one ancestor who had a nickname or went by a middle name.

Name a place where many of your ancestors lived, that you'd like to learn more about.

List a physical space and a website where you'd like to look for family history info.

Building -

Website -

Name a book or video you might explore as a way to learn more about genealogy.