

Getting Started in Family History

Start at home:

- ❖ Talk to your oldest living relatives and ask about names of parents, siblings, grandparents, and more.
- ❖ Explore or inquire about family Bibles, photo albums, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks can also yield interesting information.

Stay organized:

- ❖ Use a pedigree chart, family group sheets and timeline to record facts. (Example on back)
- ❖ Use a research log to keep track of sources reviewed.
- ❖ Always cite the source of information and proof of relationships and dates.
- ❖ Use a software or online program to keep track and print out research.
- ❖ View our MOOC for examples and printable charts:

<https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl/genealogy/roots-mooc>

Things to know:

- ❖ Always start with self and work backwards in time, death to birth.
- ❖ Research the FAN (Friends/Family, Associates, and Neighbors) club to find missing information.
- ❖ Locations are important for finding records on city, county, and state level. Remember boundary lines can change putting a place in different counties through time, refer to a Gazeteer for the geographical history of an area.
- ❖ Note historical events that occurred during the ancestor's lifetime.
- ❖ Check sources for all spelling variations. Examples: *Smith, Smithe, Smyth, Smythe*

Begin your search:

- ❖ Federal and State Censuses
- ❖ Vital Records – NC births and deaths after October 1913, marriages
- ❖ Court Records – minutes, wills, estates
- ❖ Transactions – grants, deeds, taxes
- ❖ Military Service – militia lists, service records, pensions

How the Government and Heritage Library can help:

Resources

- ❖ Catalog: ghl.nccardinal.org
- ❖ Published family histories and family files
- ❖ Indexes and Abstracts of original records (Not just NC)
- ❖ State and County histories
- ❖ North Carolina Newspapers
- ❖ Databases
- ❖ NC Legal History

Services

- ❖ Knowledgeable staff
- ❖ Book a Librarian - One on one assistance by appointment, call or go online to book.
- ❖ Borrow materials
- ❖ Remote assistance
 - Chat: statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl
 - Text: 919-887-9495
 - Email: slnc.reference@ncdcr.gov

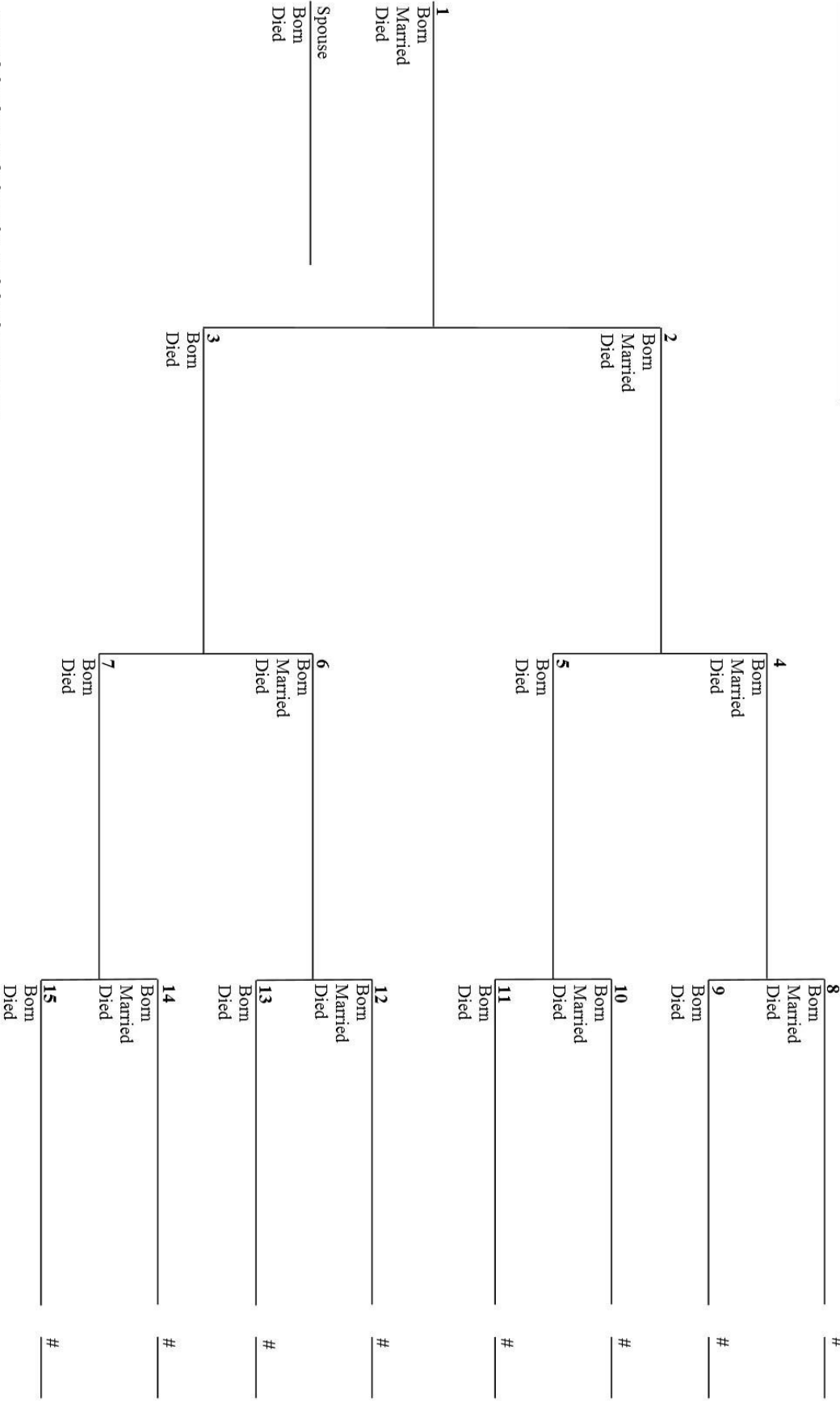
Please feel free to ask for help at any time.

We will be happy to point you in the right direction!



Getting Started in Family History

Ancestor Chart # _____
 Compiled by: _____
 Address: _____



Continued
on Chart

Sources of Information
 Write a description of each record (or name
 and address of each person) that provided
 information for this chart.

*Record the date and place for each birth, marriage,
 and death known. Use ink for information that is
 proved by a document or documents. Use pencil for
 what you believe to be true but is not yet proved.*