

Instructions for Basic Genealogy Forms



The Pedigree Chart and Family Group Sheet

The Pedigree Chart and Family Group Sheet are the two basic forms used for organizing genealogy research. After filling them with the information that you know, the next step is research to verify your information and find missing relatives and events. Eventually, you will have a complete family tree. Along the way, be sure to document sources for all the entries in the forms. Remember —

Genealogy without Documentation is Mythology

NAMES

- Always spell out complete names of people & places. Only use commonly recognized abbreviations for space reasons.
- Enter full given names, with surnames in capital letters, if space allows.
- Example: John Stephen TEMPLEMAN
- Always enter full <u>MAIDEN</u> names for women.
- Nicknames in quotes or parentheses, e.g., John Stephen "Tex" TEMPLEMAN

DATES

- Date Format: dd-mmm-yyyy 2 digits for the day of month, first 3 letters of the month, and 4 digits for the year. By using this format, dates are not confusing.
- Example: 05-Jan-1919 or 05 Jan 1919
- Examples for incomplete dates: About 1930;
 00-May-1952 or ??-May-195?; Before 1942.

PLACE NAMES

- Format: smallest to largest jurisdiction, e.g.,
 City, County, State, Country
- Example: Bend, Deschutes, Oregon, USA

FIRST PEDIGREE CHART - YOUR FAMILY

You are Person #1 on Pedigree Chart No. 1, regardless of whether you are a man or a woman.

Numbers on the Pedigree Chart are important.
 Other than #1, who can be either gender, all men have even numbers. The wives are one digit higher than the husbands, so all women are odd numbers above one.

- Your Father is Person #2. His family is recorded in the top half of the Chart.
- Your Mother is Person #3. Her family is recorded in the bottom half of the Chart.
- To continue a family line on another Pedigree Chart, assign Chart No. 2 to Person #8, Chart No. 3 to Person #9, etc.

FAMILY GROUP SHEET (FGS)

- The 1st Family Group Sheet is your family.
 Enter vital information about your mother and father. Numbering is NOT used on the FGS.
- You and your siblings are entered in <u>BIRTH</u>
 <u>ORDER</u> (oldest is #1) on the FGS with your
 parents. The field to identify gender (M or F) is
 right under the birth order number.
- Compile a FGS for every even-numbered person on your Pedigree Chart.
- Use the back of the FGS to document information sources.

FORM ABBREVIATIONS

- b. = Date of Birth
- m. = Date of Marriage
- d. = Date of Death
- pl. = Place of one of the above events

BGS Fill-In Forms

The computer versions of the BGS forms are fill-in Adobe® forms. You can type in and save family information when the form is opened in the free Adobe® Reader.

Use "Save As" a PDF in the Reader program to have multiple forms on your computer. Choose file names that make sense to you and make it easy to find particular forms for updating.