

To summarize our last week's discussion of what genealogy is, the Board of Certified Genealogists® gives this comprehensive and thought provoking answer:

**Question:** *What is genealogy, exactly? What tools or materials do genealogists use?*

**Answer:** *Genealogy is the study of families in genetic and historical context. Within that framework, it is the study of the people who compose a family and the relationships among them. At the individual level, it is biography, because we must reconstruct each individual life in order to separate each person's identity from that of others bearing the same name. Beyond this many researchers also find that genealogy is a study of communities because kinship networks have long been the threads that create the fabric of each community's social life, politics and economy.*

*Good genealogists use every resource and tool available, emphasizing original records created by informants with firsthand information. Genealogists have long studied economics, geography, law, politics, religion, and society in order to properly interpret records, identify individuals and relationships correctly, and place their families in historical context. The modern field of genetics has added another valuable tool to their intellectual toolbox.*

<http://www.bcgcertification.org/certification/faq.html#5>

### Starting your research with FREE resources

1. **Find out what's already been done even though "paper will record any nonsense any fool writes down." Text recorded on silicone is even less reliable.**
  - a. **Roots Web:** [www.RootsWeb.com](http://www.RootsWeb.com)
  - b. **Family Search (LDS):** [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org)
    - i. Search: click on "Search"
    - ii. Family Tree: click on "Family Tree"  
<http://broadcast.lds.org/eLearning/fhd/Community/en/FamilySearch/FamilyTree/pdf/familyTreeUserGuide.pdf>
    - iii. Family History Center Library Catalog
      1. New resources from Family Search:  
<http://wiki.familysearch.org/>
      2. Tennessee Vital Records:  
[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Tennessee\\_Vital\\_Records\\_Index\\_\(FamilySearch\\_Historical\\_Records\)](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Tennessee_Vital_Records_Index_(FamilySearch_Historical_Records))
  - c. **Nashville Public Library Online:**  
[http://www.library.nashville.org/research/res\\_databases.asp#genealogy](http://www.library.nashville.org/research/res_databases.asp#genealogy)
    1. **HeritageQuest**
      - a. eBooks
      - b. **PERSI (Genealogy journals and newsletters indexed)**
    2. **Ancestry** (in Library use only)
  - d. **Metropolitan Archives of Nashville and Davidson County:** (Thanks Sarah)  
<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nashvillearchives/>
  - e. **Free Ancestry:** <http://www.searchforancestors.com/ancestryfreebies.html>



This page is also online @ <http://www.ddowell.com/class> for your clicking pleasure

- f. **Google Book Search:** [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) [click the “More” on the dropdown menu in upper left of screen. Then select “Book”]
  - g. **Tennessee State Library:** <http://www.tn.gov/tsla/resources/index.htm> Choose “Digital Collections”
  - h. **Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL):** <http://tntel.tnsos.org/>
  - i. **Most Library Catalogs Nationwide:** [www.WorldCat.org](http://www.WorldCat.org)
  - j. **Library of Congress:** <http://catalog.loc.gov/>
  - k. **Family History Archive-BYU:** <http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc>
  - l. **Free fold3:** <http://www.fold3.com/free.php/>
2. **Who else is researching my lines?**
- a. **Roots Web:** <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi>
  - b. **Genealogy Forum:** [www.genforum.com](http://www.genforum.com)
  - c. **MyFamily:**  
<http://www.myfamily.com/isapi.dll?c=home&htx=SiteIndex&siteid=tbc>
3. **Mega list of genealogy sources**
- a. *Cyndi’s List:* [WWW.CyndisList.com](http://WWW.CyndisList.com)
  - b. *About.com:* <http://genealogy.about.com>
  - c. *Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogical Newsletter:* [www.eogn.com](http://www.eogn.com)
  - d. **Genealogy Sleuth:** <http://www.progenealogists.com/genealogysleuthb.htm>
  - e. **Family Tree Magazine:**
    - i. **Free forms:** <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/FREEFORMS>
    - ii. **101 Best Websites:** <http://familytreemagazine.com/article/101-Best-Websites-2013>
4. **Current/Recent People:**
- a. **Pipl:** [www.pipl.com](http://www.pipl.com)
  - b. **Zaba Search:** [www.ZabaSearch.com/](http://www.ZabaSearch.com/)
  - c. **People Finders:** <http://www.peoplefinders.com>
  - d. **USA-People Search:** <http://www.usa-people-search.com>
  - e. **Intellius:** [www.intellius.com](http://www.intellius.com)
  - f. **Switchboard** (phone numbers): [www.switchboard.com](http://www.switchboard.com)
  - g. **Deaths**
    - i. **Tennessee Deaths:** <http://www.deathindexes.com/tennessee/index.html>
    - ii. **Obituaries:** [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)
    - iii. **Social Security Death Index, 1962-2 months ago**  
[not up to date recently]  
[http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset\\_search.asp?PAGE=ssdi/search\\_ssdi.asp&clear\\_form=true](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp?PAGE=ssdi/search_ssdi.asp&clear_form=true)
5. **Historic U.S. County Maps:** <http://www.genealogyinc.com/tennessee/maps/>  
**Location in place + Location in time -> Location of records**

