





Golden Rules of Genealogy: Genealogy Starts with You!

-  Start with yourself and work backwards in time.
-  Start with what you know and then move into the unknown.
-  Connect each generation to the previous one to make certain you are claiming the correct ancestors.
-  Contact as many living relatives as possible.
-  Secure vital statistical information.
-  Gather information from a number of sources (b/c your goal is to get the best possible information).
-  Cite/document your sources as you record information.
-  Stay organized from the beginning.
-  Think LOCAL, LOCAL, LOCAL
-  Keep an open mind.
-  While conducting research at or corresponding with other relatives, government institutions, archives, libraries, museums and so forth...remember to:
 - Make responding easy.
 - Not ask for too much at once.
 - Ask for specific information on specific people.
-  Don't lose sight of the big picture and the supreme values of genealogy.
-  Be careful not to become territorial about the subject or your research.
-  Be in tune with coincidences, synchronicities, and serendipitous occurrences.
-  Remember, anything worth it many times takes a lot of effort.
-  You will never be finished with your genealogy; genealogy can be a lifelong endeavor.