Family Research Group

Instructions for Pedigree Charts and Family Record Sheets

A Pedigree Chart starts with an individual and runs backward through time, tracing a series of direct ancestors or lineages. Only one child is shown for each set of parents; that being the child linking to the next generation in the lineage. Everyone has a maternal and paternal lineage, or line; and the number of lines doubles with each generation. At ten generations, there are 512 possible lines of ancestors; at generation 20 there are 524,288 possible lineages to research.

The Pedigree Chart provided by Family Research has room for 3 generations of information and room for the names for a fourth generation, continuing to a new pedigree chart. Start by numbering the first Pedigree Chart **#1** in the upper right-hand corner; each person is already pre-numbered 1 – 15, left to right and top to bottom. Males are even numbered and on the top of each pairing; females are odd numbered and on the bottom.

- **Generation 1:** The Person #1 on Chart #1 will generally be <u>yourself</u>, or the beginning descendant of the study.
- **Generation 2:** Persons 2 and 3 will be the parents of person 1
- **Generation 3:** Persons 4 and 5 will be the paternal grandparents of #1; persons 6 and 7 are the maternal grandparents.
- **Generation 4:** Persons 8 - 15 contain room for the names of the fourth generation (the four sets of great-grandparents of Person #1). Each of these 8 individuals will become #1 on a new Pedigree Chart, and under the name of person 8 you should enter "Continued on Chart 2;" person 9 will become #1 on Chart 3; person 10 will appear on Chart 4, and so on. Don't forget to number each chart as you go along.

In the upper left-hand corner you will see: "Number 1 on this chart is the same person as number ___ on Chart Number ___. As explained above, person 8 becomes person 1 on Chart 2. So on Chart 2 this would read "Number 1 on this chart is the same person as number <u>8</u> on Chart Number <u>1</u>;" Chart 3 would be "number <u>9</u> on Chart Number <u>1</u>, etc. So if you had entries on every line of Chart 1, you would end up with a total of 9 Pedigree Charts to begin generation 5 (the original plus one each for persons 8 – 15), and they would be numbered charts 2 – 9.

When filling in the Pedigree Chart, the blanks for Born, Married, and Died are for the dates of those occurrences; under Place, write the name of where it happened. Please enter all dates in the format of DD MMM YYYY, i.e. 12 Aug 1842. The reason is a date written 8/12/1842 can be meaningless as in the United States this would read as August 12, 1842 (MM/DD/YYYY) but in most of the world it would be 8 December 1842 (DD/MM/YYYY).

The Family Record Sheet, also known as a Family Group Sheet, contains the details of each set of parents that you entered on the Pedigree Chart plus the other members of their family group. A blank is located at the top right to enter the Pedigree Chart number on which the family appears. In front of the Husband and Wife is a blank to enter the Person # from that Pedigree Chart. So with these two numbers, you can precisely identify to whom each chart is referring.

The birth, marriage, and death information (often referred to as BMD) is identical to that of the Pedigree Chart. But the Family Record Sheet contains more detailed information about each individual as well as the family. You should enter as much information as you have available. You can use abbreviations such as abt. (about), bef. (before), aft. (after), prob. (probably) and ca. (circa) to save space. If you are unsure about an entry, add a (?) next to it. If you don't know, leave the space blank. Place an asterisk (*) next to the child that appears on the Pedigree Chart (this will be your direct lineage ancestor).

Information is only as good as its source, so on the back of the Family Record Sheet is a source sheet for each person and BMD fact. Please remember that the reason for citing your sources is so anyone can easily locate the same evidence and duplicate the fact circumstance.

You may make additional copies of these forms only for your own use, or download them from http://familyresearchlibrary.com/resources.htm.