

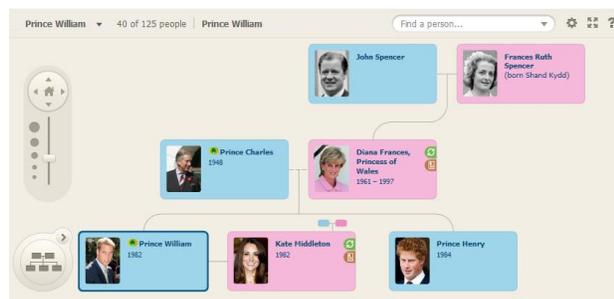
Basic steps for genealogy research

By: Daniel Horowitz - Daniel@Genealogy.org.il - Tweeter: [@MyHChiefGen](https://twitter.com/MyHChiefGen)

Whenever a person is interested to start their family history research the first step must be to build a family tree with the information he knows up to know. Today the best way to do this is using the technology (website or software) available for this.

If you chose to do this in a website like MyHeritage, you will find a very easy form to fill in the basic details. They are going to guide you to complete up to 3 generations, and give you Instant Discoveries with their great database.

The family tree will give us a very clear perspective of what we know, who is a relative of mine and what details I'm missing for each individual. If we can place images (pictures) of the people in the tree, then it will be easier to identify all the relatives.



We should start with the basic details: Names, Dates and Places; and slowly collect more in detailed histories, anecdotes and tales from each individual. Normally we should go from me -> parents -> grandparents -> great-grandparents and so on, going back in time and in generations. Of course that the farthest we get the more difficult may be.

The best source to start researching are my relatives, and I need to interview them, asking key questions to obtain all the information I need. I should start with the oldest one, as he is the person that should have more information and also the one with more chances to die soon.



It's always recommended to record in video or audio, the interview; so we can have save this for latter and have the ability to go over it whenever we want.

Photos and documents are another resource we must use. Here we will find more details of my family's actions. We call them facts and every person generates these with every step of his life: Birth, School, Marriage, Census, Electoral Roles, Newspapers and up till the Death; each document should be treated with respect to extract the most of it, but we also must take in consideration that not necessarily all what is there is true.

A visit to the cemetery can provide more than spiritual peace. Tombstones hold a lot of information about the dead person and the people that survive him. The "neighbors" may also be family members, so be sure to explore the surroundings.