



GENEALOGY: Twelve Step Program

1. Gather together as much information about your family as you can: marriage, birth and death certificates, photos, letters & postcards, Family Bible and heirlooms.
2. Start making a family tree.
3. Use library databases to help you find census records. Ancestry Library Edition, Fold3, Heritage Quest and MyHeritage Library Edition all contain census records that may include names of family members, occupations and addresses.

Ancestry is only available at the library – you can access Heritage Quest, Fold3, MyHeritage Library Edition and other library databases from home with your DPPL library card.

4. Interview relatives you know. Ask them for names of other relatives and items listed in #1. Transcribe their stories as well as dates and facts.
5. Find relatives you haven't met on ReferenceUSA (library database), Facebook or geni.com.
6. Check the Social Security Death Index in Ancestry Library Edition to find birth and death dates and last addresses. It will also generate a request letter for an original Social Security application that includes even more information! Click on the "write letter" link available with all search results in Ancestry's SSDI. The SSDI is also available in MyHeritage Library Edition.
7. Look for obituaries in these library databases:
 - Chicago Tribune – Current & Historical
 - Newspapers.com

8. Look for stories about Chicago area ancestors in the Historical Chicago Tribune 1849-1994 library database. You can also check the Illinois Newspaper Project, www.library.illinois.edu/inp for newspaper holdings throughout the state.
9. Check passenger lists to find out when your ancestors came to the U.S. at <http://stevemorse.org>.
10. Visit a local history center. For example, the Wilmette Family History Center allows anyone to use their databases and other research tools. The Center is a branch of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.
11. Go to Cyndi's List, cyndislist.com to see what you may have missed. It's a comprehensive list of genealogy Web sites with lots of sites from other countries.
12. Check out the Newberry Library's resources for genealogists, including a comprehensive list of useful Web sites at <http://newberry.org/>

Scan this QR code with your phone to go to the library's databases for Genealogy:

