

Family History Book

Tips for Getting Started



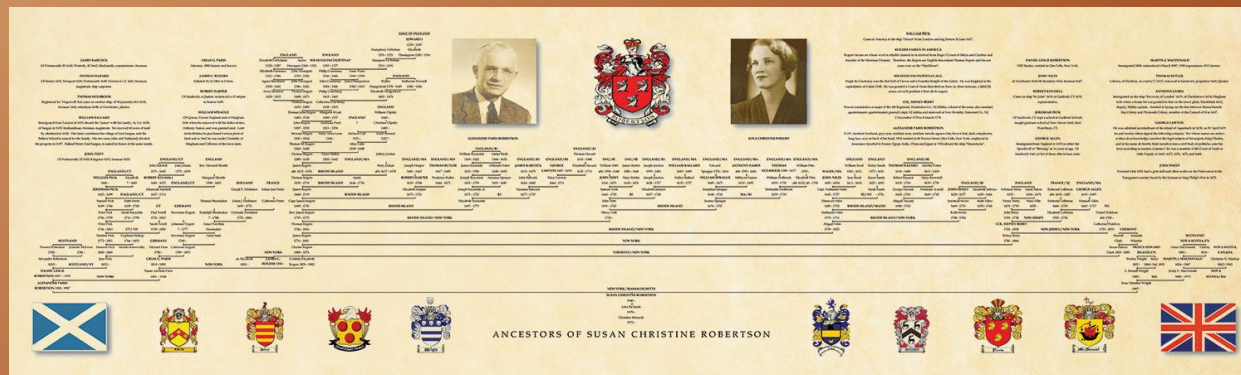
Format

- **Choose a Format for Your Family History**
 - **Memoir/Narrative**
 - **Cookbook**
 - **Scrapbook or Album**
 - **Electronic**



Scope

- Define the Scope of Your Family History
 - Single Line of Descent
 - All Descendants Of...
 - The Grandparents



Plot

- **Choose a Plot & Themes**
 - Immigration/Migration
 - Rags to Riches
 - Pioneer or Farm Life
 - Rising Out of Slavery
 - War Survival



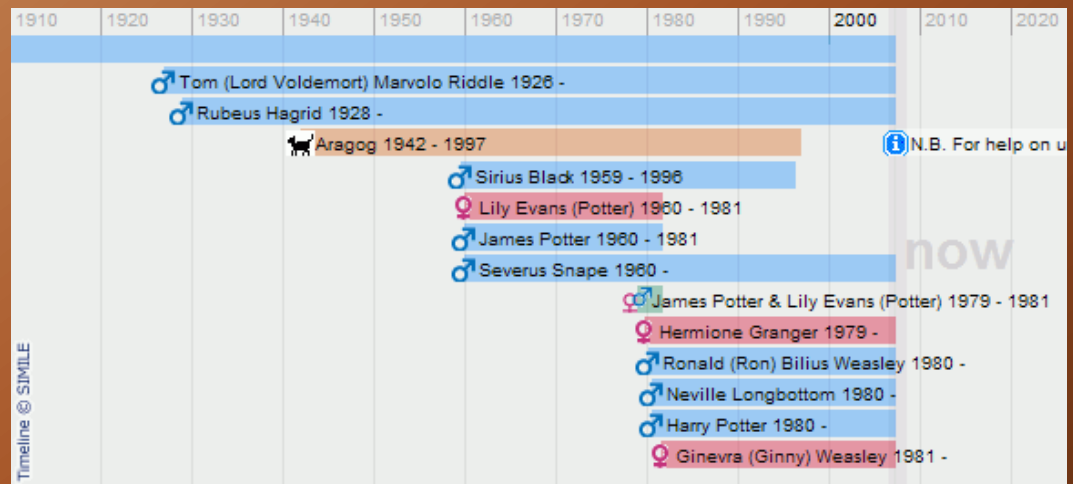
Background

- **Do Your Background Research**
 - Social histories
 - Local city/town histories
 - Timelines
 - Occupations
 - Family Stories



Organization

- **Organize Your Research**
 - Create a timeline
 - Locate records and photos
 - Develop an outline
 - Order by:
 - Chromatically
 - Geographically
 - Character
 - Theme



Beginning

- **Choose a Starting Point**
 - Interesting/unusual occupation
 - Famous ancestor
 - War hero
 - Old country
 - Use flashbacks



Personalize

- **Make it Personal**
 - Facts are dry
 - Stories of individuals
 - Use stories for chapter introductions
 - Make up stories where none are available
 - Records
 - Historical events
 - Photographs



Must Haves

- **Include an Index**
- **Site your sources**
- **Recognize contributors**



Sources and Links

- **10 Steps to Writing Your Family History**
http://genealogy.about.com/od/writing_family_history/a/write.htm
- **How to Choose Your Family Book's Focus**
http://genealogy.about.com/gi/o.htm?zi=1/XJ&zTi=1&sdn=genealogy&cdn=parenting&tm=23&gps=112_194_988_567&f=11&tt=14&bt=1&bts=1&zu=http%3A//www.genealogy.com/21_neill.html
- **How to read an unreadable headstone**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVBMNVqGhck> –
- **Briscoe Center for American History** <http://www.cah.utexas.edu/> and
- http://www.cah.utexas.edu/services/history_online.php
- **Library of Congress - Prints & Photographs Online Catalog**
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/>
- **Alabama Historical Slavery Plantations**
http://genealogytrails.com/ala/slave_plantations.html
- **SMU Digital Collections - Lawrence T. Jones III Texas Photographs, DeGolyer Library**
<http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/cul/jtx/>
- **Garrett Family Book Online** <http://www.garrettfamily.info/>