

Family Life ~

## Grow Your Family Tree



Take a journey into the past.  
Put your ancestry questions to rest at last.  
If you know very little about your family  
history,  
Become a genealogy detective and uncover  
the mysteries.



Open the brochure, a family tree you will find.  
Follow the instructions and make it come alive.  
The sky is the limit; be creative and unique.  
Dig into the past it's not as hard as you think.



Whether part of a single parent or merged family,  
or a family made from choice,  
design a tree that reflects your love;  
find what you can gather and rejoice.  
Truth be told,  
this is a prize that is far more precious than  
silver or gold.

For after all of the hard work is done,

**A FAMILY HISTORY is yours -- for years to come.**

# Grow A Family Tree

**SUPPLIES** : pencil, pen, eraser, ruler, tape, large sheets of paper and index cards.

## 1. Find out about your family ~ Dig, dig, dig, plant your roots

**Here's your chance to play detective. Do your research and find out as much information about your family as possible.**

- **Talk to family-** Interview relatives with a tape recorder. Start with the oldest family members first. Ask them about your ancestors, and where they came from. Talk to them about their childhood, school days, celebrations, games, and all mischief they got into. Use the five W's – Who, What, When, Where, and Why.
- **Look at photo albums** – Ask about the people in the photos and what they are doing.
- **Explore your grandparents' attic/basement** – Great-grandparents and grandparents hold onto so many precious treasures. You might find an heirloom or memento that sparks a story or memory which will reveal an important part of your family history.
- **Visit your library** – The library is full of resources that may help you in your quest to trace your family roots. Access old newspapers using the microfilm reader, focus on death notices, and marriage announcements. For early Bermuda records see the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Church Registers of Bermuda and the Bermuda Index.
- **Documents** – Ask to see wills, deeds, birth/marriage certificates and letters.



## 2. Organise with index cards ~ Grooming the Trunk, Branches, and Leaves

**Be creative, organise and arrange your tree any way you want.**

What do you want your tree to look like? It is totally up to you. For ideas refer to the examples on the following pages. The idea is to be as original, unique, and creative as possible. Don't worry if you don't have a huge family or you don't know much about them, find creative ways to make your Family Tree and stand out from the rest.

Now that you have this information, get some index cards and write down:  
 Full name (First, middle and last), Date of Birth, Biographical Information (nickname,  
 place of birth, hobby, job, physical appearance),

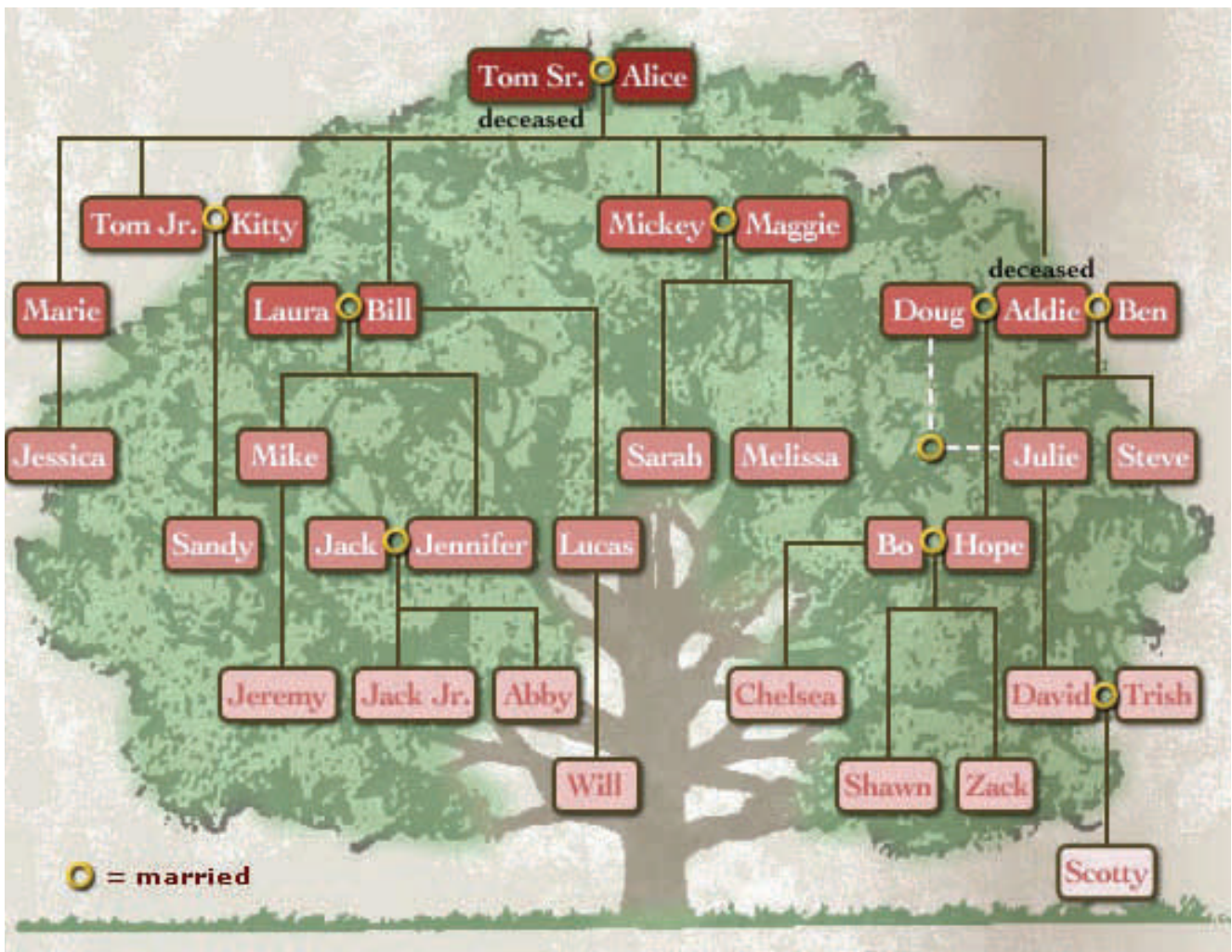
e.g.,

Mary-Ann Librarian – born Mary-Ann Read, Aug. 13, 1937

Nickname: Annie      Place of Birth: at home in Smith’s Parish  
 Bermuda.

Hobby: Playing piano      Job: used to work at the Bank of Bermuda.

Annie is short – only 5 foot 1 inch tall - has brown eyes and always  
 wears her silver hair up.



Go online to [http://pbskids.org/wayback/family/tree/tree\\_tips.html](http://pbskids.org/wayback/family/tree/tree_tips.html)  
 for more information and “trees” that you can download or print.

If your family tree reflects your biological family, it may be interesting to ask about physical appearance and medical history. Even though half of your genes come from mom and half come from dad, your biological makeup is a mixture of genes from a long line of relatives. Maybe you inherited your hazel eyes from great grandma Sue, or you have red hair like your grandfather's brother, Uncle Johnny. You may not look like mom or dad but you resemble your grandmother's sister.

Is there asthma, high blood pressure, or diabetes in your family? Talk to relatives about their medical health. These are important questions to ask. Some illness can be prevented with knowledge of your family medical history.

On another card you can write events that connect people (weddings, adoptions, births) OPTIONAL

e.g., 

Mary-Ann Read	James Librarian
Married Dec 3, 1920	

Find a large working space. Lay out the cards with family details based on how you want your tree to look. If you want to connect people add the event card between them. Draw your branches based on where your family members are located.

### 3. Nurture and Care for it

#### **Share your tree with your family and keep it strong and healthy.**

If you have reached this section of this project, you have used the tools that you were given to unlock the mystery of your ancestry. You have taken a journey into the past and learned about the values, hard-work and sacrifice of those that lived before you. Take pride in knowing that you did not just write down a bunch of names of people that you did not know. These people paved the way for you to live life as you do today. Share them with those that will come after you and tell their stories of love, life and family.

#### **Family History Activities**

##### **Create a Back-into-Time Capsule/Treasure Chest**

This project is a wonderful way to keep your ancestors' memories alive for generations to come. Each decade, encourage family members to place objects of importance that reflect what life was during that time. Think about pictures of transportation, clothing, occupations, and cost of living (e.g., bus fare, grocery price list, etc.). As the years go by, open the capsule

or cedar chest, take a blast in the past and share special memories with your children and grandchildren. Share laughs about old times; see how things have evolved from generation to generation. Birth/marriage certificates, recipes, pictures, diaries, coins, videos, and family heirlooms are examples of family treasures.

### **Old School/New School Party**

How many times have you heard your parents say, “You all don’t know what good music is until you hear the music from back in my day?” Does the music that you grew up listening to still get your hips moving head bopping and toe tapping? Get great uncle Earl out of that rocking chair and on the floor dancing to *The Twist*, and Aunt Marie doing *The Hustle*. *Electric Slide* with Suzie and *Walk It Out* with Keisha. Don’t forget the *Soul Train Line*, it’s a must have at any party. Music has always been a great way to bring people together to celebrate and have fun. Trust me, by the end of the night your stomach will ache and tears will be flowing because you were laughing so much.



### **Have a Family Reunion and Create a Video**

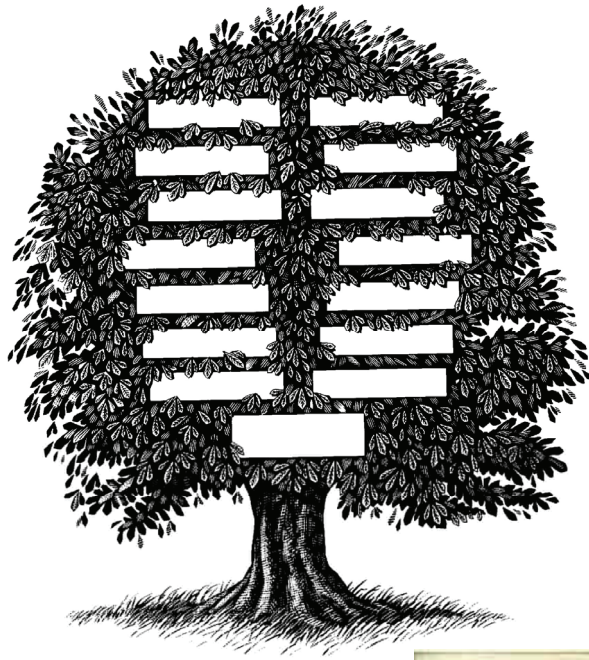
One of the best ways to embrace, and hold on to the past, is to speak to relatives at family reunions. Gain information about your heritage and history while celebrating life. Why wait? Important family history may be lost forever with the passing of a great aunt, or great grandfather.

Get your children, nieces and nephews involved. Give them a stronger appreciation for family by encouraging them to speak with family members, especially elders. Make them your videographers for part of the day. With everyone at the same place, it is much easier to interview several relatives in one day. Story time is a must. Gather all the families together, find a special place for the elders of the family to sit side by side, and put the children in the front row. Let the elders speak about their childhood, family life, discipline, transportation, school, etc.

Ask questions that are important to you. Who were your ancestors and where did they come from? They hold the key to uncovering the past. The video you create will allow the family of the present and the future to cherish them now and forever.

# Some ideas for your family tree

Image from:  
[media.ourstory.com/80/00/00/7037df42226c005020](https://media.ourstory.com/80/00/00/7037df42226c005020)



**Your tree can be very simple ~ or very detailed ~ it is up to you!**

## Advantages to Exploring Genealogy with Your Family

- ☺ make connections and spend time with your loved ones
- ☺ make history come alive
- ☺ teaches problem-solving, research and presentation skills
- ☺ helps develop interviewing skills
- ☺ gives you an appreciation of who you are and where you came from
- ☺ leaves a legacy for future generations



Image from:  
[www.wilsonsalmanac.com/book/may24.html](http://www.wilsonsalmanac.com/book/may24.html)

GENEALOGICAL TREE OF THE QUEEN AND HER DESCENDANTS

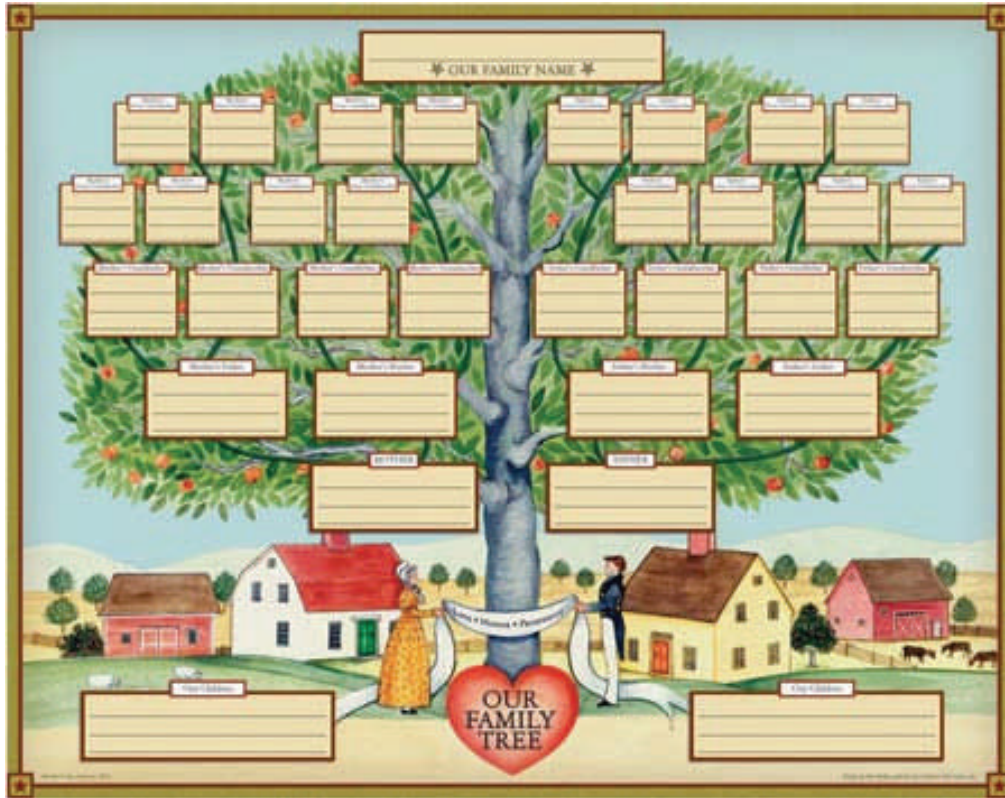
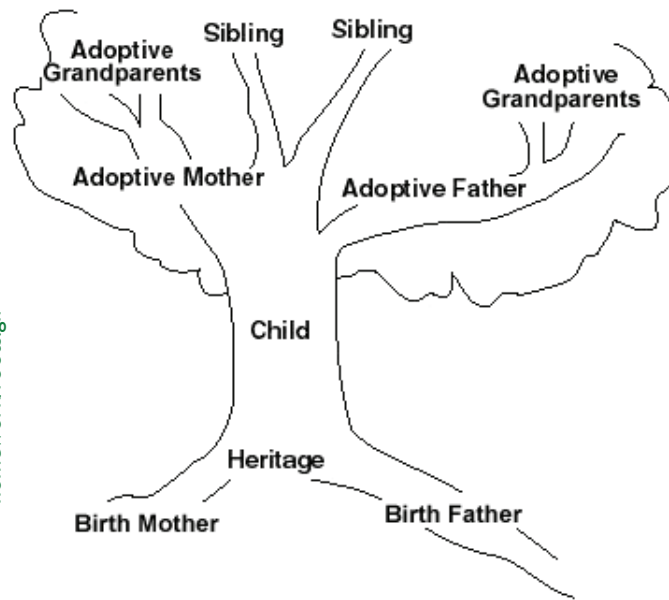


Image from: [http://www.affordablehousinginstitute.org/blogs/us/family\\_tree\\_small.jpg](http://www.affordablehousinginstitute.org/blogs/us/family_tree_small.jpg)

Image from: [www.adoptionclubhouse.org/.../homework/roots.gif](http://www.adoptionclubhouse.org/.../homework/roots.gif)



**“I feel empowered to say, this is who you are, this is where you’ve come from. You’ve come from strength and power and endurance and pain and suffering and triumph. You’ve come from all of that. And so imagine how much more you can be.”**

Oprah Winfrey from *Finding Oprah’s roots : finding your own* by Henry Louis Gates Jr.

Ask an older family member if they know what these are ~

- Another name for soda
- What is a zundapp?
- A refrigerator was called an \_\_\_\_\_.
- Granny's version of "time out" back in the day.
- Taxi driver's sported these on the top of their taxis.
- We hung these outside the door to tell us what daily forecast.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ tree was planted by newly weds.
- Children used a \_\_\_\_\_ instead of a knapsack to carry their books.
- Granny would put this leaf on a sprain.
- Sweet potato pudding was eaten on \_\_\_\_\_.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ had to be put in the meter if you wanted electricity.



## REFERENCES IN THE LIBRARY

### At the Youth Library:

929.1/D Douglas, Ann. *The family tree detective : cracking the case of your family's story*. 1999  
PT/309.8/K Kuklin, Susan. *Families*. 2006.



### At the Adult Library:

#### Circulating Collection

929.1 G Galford, Ellen. *The essential guide to genealogy*. 2001.  
929.1072 G Gates, Henry Louis. *Finding Oprah's roots : finding your own*. 2007.

#### Bermudiana Collection



649.132 B Butler, Dale. *Successfully raising Bermuda boys*. 2004.  
779.997299 B *Bermuda : our people, our story*. Vols. I, II, and III.  
929.37299 H Hallett, Archibald Cameron Hollis. *19<sup>th</sup> century church registers of Bermuda*. 2005.  
929.37299 H Hallett, C. F. E. *Bermuda index 1784-1914 : an index of births, marriages, deaths, as recorded in Bermuda newspapers*. 1989.  
972.99 J Jones, Rosemary. *Bermuda : five centuries*. 2004.

## SOME ONLINE SOURCES TO TRY

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/oct01/kidsprojects.html> Genealogy activities – Family tree magazine.  
[http://genealogy.allinfoabout.com/features/kids\\_genealogy.html](http://genealogy.allinfoabout.com/features/kids_genealogy.html) All information about genealogy - genealogy for children checklist.  
<http://genealogy.about.com/od/children/a/detective.htm> Children and genealogy - teaching your children to be ancestor detectives.



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA  
Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs  
**Bermuda National Library**  
Technical Services

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