



## Unit 1 - Lesson 2 - First Steps ~ The Family Group Sheet

The first thing most beginning genealogists ask themselves is, "Where do I start?" The pat answer to this question is, you always start with yourself and work back from there one generation at a time. This is correct and very good advice; it is also an incomplete answer. You not only need to start with yourself, you need to ask yourself what it is you are looking for. Is it simply the names, dates and locations of your ancestors, or do you also want to know what their occupations were and whether or not they could read and write?

A genealogy search marks the beginning of a private adventure into your own history. You'll find delightful surprises and maybe even some family secrets. The treasures you uncover will be enjoyed by the generations who follow. In this lesson, we will talk to you about gathering your information and writing down everything you know about your immediate family on a family group sheet.

This is your tree and after you've gathered your initial information, you can focus on one ancestor at a time; this way you will be more successful and get less discouraged. Ready? Let's get started!

Family group sheet: [http://www.genealogybeginner.com/wp-content/docs/GenealogyBeginner\\_FamilyGroupSheet.pdf](http://www.genealogybeginner.com/wp-content/docs/GenealogyBeginner_FamilyGroupSheet.pdf)

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## Start With Yourself

Starting with yourself often means including your immediate family; for this you will need to gather some information for the following family members.

Yourself

Your spouse

Your Children

Your Mother

Your Father

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*It is good to have a hard copy of any birth, baptism, marriage or death certificates if at all possible.*

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The information you will need for each individual are **date and place of birth**; **date and place of marriage**; and **date, place and cause of death** if the person is deceased.

The next logical step is to determine where you can get this information. At this point in your research, you should concentrate on the information you have on hand or can easily access.

Family Bibles, old photographs and old diaries may be in the possession of a relative if not in your immediate family. These records are among the best resources for the beginning genealogist.