



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

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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

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

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.

If you decide you want to take a Family History approach, including the following information will help you along that path.

- **What school(s) you attended**
- **Your occupation(s)**
- **Religious practices**
- **Special family celebrations**

Once you have gathered this information, it is time to roll up your sleeves and get started.

Filling out the Family Group Sheet

Next let's look at the family group sheet.

Husband (full name):		Family Group #:	
Day / Month / Year	City/Town	County/Parish	State/Province, Country
Born:			
Christened:			
Married:			
Death:			
Burial:			
Residence(s):		Occupation(s):	
Father:		Mother (maiden name):	
Other Marriages (family group #):			
Wife (full name):			
Day / Month / Year	City/Town	County/Parish	State/Province, Country
Born:			
Christened:			
Married:			
Death:			
Burial:			
Residence(s):		Occupation(s):	
Father:		Mother (maiden name):	
Other Marriages (family group #):			
Child 1 (full name):		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Day / Month / Year	City/Town	County/Parish	State/Province, Country
Born:			
Christened:			
Married:			Spouse:
Death:			
Burial:			
Child 2 (full name):		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Day / Month / Year	City/Town	County/Parish	State/Province, Country
Born:			
Christened:			
Married:			Spouse:
Death:			
Burial:			
Child 3 (full name):		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Day / Month / Year	City/Town	County/Parish	State/Province, Country
Born:			
Christened:			
Married:			Spouse:
Death:			
Burial:			

Additional Children of:			
Day / Month / Year	City/Town	County/Parish	State/Province, Country
Child 4 (full name):		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Day / Month / Year	City/Town	County/Parish	State/Province, Country
Born:			
Christened:			
Married:			Spouse:
Death:			
Burial:			
Child 5 (full name):		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Day / Month / Year	City/Town	County/Parish	State/Province, Country
Born:			
Christened:			
Married:			Spouse:
Death:			
Burial:			
Child 6 (full name):		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Day / Month / Year	City/Town	County/Parish	State/Province, Country
Born:			
Christened:			
Married:			Spouse:
Death:			
Burial:			
Child 7 (full name):		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Day / Month / Year	City/Town	County/Parish	State/Province, Country
Born:			
Christened:			
Married:			Spouse:
Death:			
Burial:			
Child 8 (full name):		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Day / Month / Year	City/Town	County/Parish	State/Province, Country
Born:			
Christened:			
Married:			Spouse:
Death:			
Burial:			
Notes/Sources			

Family Group #: 1	
Country	Notes/Sources
	birth certificate
	family Bible
	wedding certificate

In the upper right hand corner, you will see a section that states: "Family Group #:" Label your immediate family group as #1.

Below that is a "Notes/Sources" area where you will cite your sources where you obtained the information. See the example to the left.

There is an additional "Notes/Sources" section located at the bottom of the second page if needed.

Husband & Wife

The next section is for you and your spouse; let's look at the example to see how these are filled out starting with the "Husband" section.

Husband (full name): <i>Joseph Albert Smith</i>				Family Group #:		
	<i>Day / Month / Year</i>	<i>City/Town,</i>	<i>County/Parish,</i>	<i>State/Province,</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Notes/Sources</i>
Born:	<i>4 10 1965</i>	<i>Anywhere Montana</i>		<i>USA</i>	<i>birth certificate</i>	
Christened:	<i>6 11 1965</i>				<i>family Bible</i>	
Married:	<i>11 12 1986</i>				<i>wedding certificate</i>	
Death:						
Burial:						
Residence(s): <i>Main St. Kalispel, Kelowna Okanagan BC Canada</i>				Occupation(s): <i>Heavy Duty Mechanic</i>		
Father: <i>Moe Smith</i>			Mother (maiden name): <i>Jeanie Ologie</i>			
Other Marriages (family group #): <i>n/a</i>						

Practice

Fill out the wife's section of the Family Group Sheet:

	<i>Day / Month / Year</i>	<i>City/Town,</i>	<i>County/Parish,</i>	<i>State/Province,</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Notes/Sources</i>
Wife (full name):						
Born:						
Christened:						
Married:						
Death:						
Burial:						
Residence(s):				Occupation(s):		
Father:			Mother (maiden name):			
Other Marriages (family group #):						

Children

Below the section for you and your spouse you will see where to fill out the information for your children.

	<i>Day / Month / Year</i>	<i>City/Town,</i>	<i>County/Parish,</i>	<i>State/Province,</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Notes/Sources</i>
Child 1 (full name): <i>Jeanie Smith</i>						<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female
Born:	<i>5 6 1988</i>	<i>Kalispel</i>	<i>Montana</i>	<i>USA</i>		
Christened:	<i>12 8 1988</i>	<i>Kalispel</i>	<i>Montana</i>	<i>USA</i>		
Married:					Spouse:	
Death:						
Burial:						

Practice

Fill out the Child's section of the Family Group Sheet:

Day / Month / Year City/Town, County/Parish, State/Province, Country Notes/Sources

Child 2 (full name):			<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Born:			
Christened:			
Married:			Spouse:
Death:			
Burial:			

In the "Notes/Sources" section you can include the name of the hospital where your child was born and the name of the church where services took place.

Wrap-up

In this lesson, we have covered how to correctly fill out a Family Group Sheet. Now that you have had some practice, go ahead and fill out a Family Group Sheet for yourself, your spouse, your mother and your father. If you have any questions or need any help, we can work together on the Beginning Genealogy Forums Unit 1 message board.

<http://www.genealogybeginner.com/community/recording-your-family-tree-first-steps-lesson-2/>

In the next lesson, we will talk about setting up your system for organizing your research.

Have fun and see you in the next lesson.

Articles: <http://www.genealogybeginner.com/category/lesson-2-articles>

Glossary: <http://www.genealogybeginner.com/category/glossary>

Forum: <http://www.genealogybeginner.com/community/recording-your-family-tree-first-steps-lesson-2/>

Family group sheet: http://www.genealogybeginner.com/wp-content/docs/GenealogyBeginner_FamilyGroupSheet.pdf