

*Introduction
to Family
History
Research*

Introduction

Family tree research can be

- ❖ interesting, addictive, rewarding
- ❖ knowing where to begin can be daunting
- ❖ key is to follow a process
- ❖ basics only today

Where do I start?

- ❖ your family
- ❖ create recording system
 - pen/paper ; spreadsheet ; genealogy software
- ❖ ask questions
- ❖ record details
- ❖ begin your search

Basic terminology

BMD - birth, marriage, death	LAC - Library and Archives Canada
Vital statistics - civil records (govt - BMD, census etc)	GRO - General Register Office (UK)
GEDCOM - Genealogical Data Communication (developed by LDS Church)	NARA - National Archives Records Administration (USA)
First cousin - your parent's sibling's child (shared ancestor = grandparent)	LDS Church - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon Church)
Second cousin - your parent's cousin's child (shared ancestor = great-grandparent)	SSDI - Social Security Death Index
Cousin once removed - your cousin's child (shared ancestor = great-grandparent)	PERSI - Periodical Source Index (available at FindMyPast.com)

Records

❖ types of records

- civil – birth, adoption, marriage, divorce, death, census, voter lists
- religious – baptism, circumcision, marriage banns, marriage, annulment burial
- court – probate, divorce, civil and criminal litigation, corporate, inheritance, insurance
- land records – differs by jurisdiction
- immigration records
- apprenticeship/guild/private society rolls etc.

Finding records

- ❖ start with free sites from home
- ❖ visit a library to use paid sites
- ❖ country-specific resources available on FamilySearch wiki
- ❖ when entering search terms, less can be more
- ❖ vary spelling
- ❖ transcribers can make mistakes
- ❖ search more than one site
- ❖ on-site research

Assessing records

- ❖ not every search result is the correct one
- ❖ don't rely on transcription - view image whenever possible
- ❖ cross-reference with what you know and with other sources
- ❖ beware hints and proposed matches
- ❖ beware other people's trees - check sources
- ❖ consider the Genealogical Proof Standard

Genealogical Proof Standard

- ❖ Reasonably exhaustive research has been conducted.
- ❖ Each statement of fact has a complete and accurate source citation.
- ❖ The evidence is reliable and has been skillfully correlated and interpreted.
- ❖ Any contradictory evidence has been resolved.
- ❖ The conclusion has been soundly reasoned and coherently written.

n.a. "The Genealogical Proof Standard." Board for Certification of Genealogists ®. (2015). [online] Available at: <http://www.bccertification.org/resources/standard.html> [Accessed 19 Mar. 2017].

Citing records

- ❖ source only as good as included documentation
- ❖ establish procedure for noting source information
- ❖ must be enough for someone else to find the same record
- ❖ guides available, including Evidence Explained
- ❖ some sites provide citations you can use
- ❖ most genealogy software has source templates

Downloading records

- ❖ some record sites allow downloading
- ❖ Ancestry (Save to this computer)
- ❖ FamilySearch/FMP (Download)
- ❖ .jpg or .pdf formats
- ❖ screen capture is another option
- ❖ Ancestry Library Edition gives option to Save to this Computer OR send yourself a link

Ordering records

- ❖ research
- ❖ email or write to repository
- ❖ payment amount will vary
- ❖ receive via email, pick up in person, or snail mail
- ❖ complications when dealing with foreign archives and payment methods
- ❖ worth the effort

Scanning documents

- ❖ scan documents you own or buy
- ❖ vital records / travel docs = irreplaceable
- ❖ family photos
- ❖ scanners range from \$70-\$1000+
- ❖ phone/tablet with app another option
- ❖ .tiff format the best for long-term storage
- ❖ convert .jpg to .tiff before editing
- ❖ back up everything to at least two external sources
(hard drive / cloud)

Organizing your research

- ❖ records most useful when organized
- ❖ no "correct" way
- ❖ store electronic files in Family History folder
- ❖ store paper files in binders or file folders
- ❖ organize by name and document type OR by document type and name
- ❖ be consistent
- ❖ if starting out - set up system first
- ❖ organize documents you already have
- ❖ back them up!
- ❖ clip to Evernote or Google Keep while doing research

Building a tree

- ❖ pencil + paper + ruler
- ❖ free online tree builder (Ancestry/FMP/MH)
- ❖ paid online tree builder (Ancestry/FMP/MH)
- ❖ free family tree software
- ❖ paid family tree software
- ❖ advantages and disadvantages to all methods
- ❖ best bet is software + online
- ❖ **BACK UP**, no matter which method you choose
- ❖ How to Choose the Best Genealogy Software
<http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/2017/03/17/choose-best-genealogy-software>

RootsMagic 7 - [C:\Users\Teresa\Documents\Roots Magic\AncestryTreeBackup27Feb17.rmgc]

File Edit Lists Add View Search Reports Tools Internet Window Help

Jane Keel Spong
 Spouses: 0
 Parents: 1
 d: abt 1845 (age 19)

Pedigree Family Descendants People WebSearch Timeline

Father: George Keel Spong
 b: 22 Apr 1801, Preston near Wingham Kent England
 m: 12 Oct 1822, Preston near Wingham Kent England
 d: 4 Jun 1873, Stourmouth Kent England

Mother: Sarah White
 b: 23 Sep 1801, Parish Ash, Nr Sandwich, Kent.
 d: Apr 1887, Kingston, Surrey, England

Father's Parents: James Spong, Mary Keel

Mother's Parents: + Click to add father, + Click to add mother

Children	Sex	Born	Birth Place	Died	Death Place	Relation
1 George Spong	M	1824	Kent, England			birth
2 James Spong	M	1825	Stourmouth, Kent, England			birth
3 Jane Keel Spong	F	1826	Preston-by-Wingham, Kent, England	abt 1845	(bu) Stourmouth, Kent, England	birth
4 William Spong	M	1828	Stourmouth, Kent, England	28 Mar 1905	Surrey, England	birth
5 Daniel Spong	M	1 Jan 1828	Stourmouth, Kent, England	Mar 1918	Yarmouth, Norfolk, England	birth
6 John Spong	M	abt 1830	Stourmouth, Kent, England			birth
7 Eliza Spong	F	1835	Stourmouth, Kent, England			birth
8 Charles Spong	M	1837	Stourmouth, Kent, England	Jun 1837	Stourmouth, Kent, England	birth
9 Mary Keel Spong	F	Jun 1838	Stourmouth, Kent, England	early July 1838	Eastry, Kent	birth
10 Sarah Maria Spong	F	Oct 1841	Stourmouth, Kent, England			birth
11 Alfred Spong	M	abt 1844	Stourmouth, Kent, England	Jan 1885	Marylebone, London	birth

+ Click to add a child

Legacy Family Tree

RootsMagic

System File Edit Add View Reports Tools Search Internet My Toolbar Options Help

Startup Back Name Marriage Add Search Search Report Last Merge Family Ancestry.com Internet Legacy Map Create Census Research Exit
 Family List List Person * Results Menu Report Last Report Merge Family Search

Shantui Toolbar

Legacy Home Family Pedigree Descendant Chronology Index

Parents James SPONG + Mary KEEL +

Parents Click to Add Father, Click to Add Mother

Husband George Keel SPONG
 Born Apr 22, 1801, Preston near Wingham Kent England
 Chr
 Died Jun 4, 1873, Stourmouth Kent England
 Buried
 DthCau

Wife Sarah WHITE
 Born Sep 23, 1801, Parish Ash, Nr Sandwich, Kent
 Chr
 Died Apr 1887, Kingston, Surrey, England
 Buried Apr 12, 1887, Kingston-On-Thames
 DthCau

Marriage Oct 12, 1822 - Preston near Wingham Kent England

Children

1 George SPONG (1824-)	6 John SPONG (Abt 1830-)	11 Alfred SPONG (Abt 1844-1885)
2 James SPONG (1825-)+	7 Eliza SPONG (1835-)	Click to Add a Child
3 Jane Keel SPONG (1826-Abt 1845)	8 Charles SPONG (1837-1837)	
4 William SPONG (1828-1905)+	9 Mary Keel SPONG (1838-1838)	
5 Daniel SPONG (1828-1918)+	10 Sarah Maria SPONG (1841-)+	

1 Right-click to set a bookmark 2 Right-click to set a bookmark 3 Right-click to set a bookmark 2:47 H72 M11 W71

File Edit View Add Publish Tools Internet Window Help

Save Home Focus Media

George Keel SPONG [72]
1801-1873
Great(x3) grandfather of Teresa BASINSKI ECKFORD

Spouses & Children Parents & Siblings Ancestors Descendants

James SPONG [85] Mary KEEL [84]
bap. 1799 bap. 1799

George Keel SPONG [72] Sarah WHITE [71]
Born: Apr 22, 1801 in Preston near Wingham Kent Engl. Died: Jun 4, 1873 (aged 72) in Stourmouth Kent England
Born: Sep 23, 1801 in Parrah Ash, Nr Sandwich, Kent. Died: Apr. 1887 (aged 85) in Kingston, Surrey, England

Married: October 12, 1822 (ages: 21 & 21) in Preston near Wingham Kent England

Children: 11	Sex	Birth	Death	Rel.
George SPONG [75]	M	1824		
James SPONG [76]	M	1825		
Jane Keel SPONG [78]	F	1826	c. 1845 (aged 18-19)	
William SPONG [77]	M	1828	Mar 28, 1905 (aged 76-77)	
Daniel SPONG [37]	M	Jan 1, 1828	Mar. 1918 (aged 90)	
John SPONG [80]	M	c. 1830		
Eliza SPONG [86]	F	1835		
Charles SPONG [79]	M	1837	Jun. 1837 (aged 0)	
Mary Keel SPONG [81]	F	Jun. 1838	"early July 1838"	
Sarah Maria SPONG [83]	F	Oct. 1841		

Individual: George Keel SPONG [72]

Main Facts

Name: George Keel Spong
Sex: Male
Born: Apr 22, 1801
Died: Jun 4, 1873
Note:
Spouse: Sarah

Name: Sarah White
Born: Sep 23, 1801
Died: Apr. 1887
Marr: Oct 12, 1822
Status:

Chil. Sex B. Rel.

George	M	18:	
James	M	18:	
Jane K	F	18:	
William	M	18:	
Daniel	M	18:	
John S	M	c.	
Eliza S	F	18:	

Sources For: Birth*

Source

- 1841 England Cer
- England & Wales
- England & Wales
- 1851 England Cer
- 1861 England Cer
- 1871 England Cer

Entry Date:
Assessment:
Where within Source:
Class: HO107, Piece: 470, Book:
Text From Source:
Note:

Ancestral Quest

Family Historian

File Add Edit View Search Tools Internet Collaborate FamilySearch Help

Pedigree Family Name List Individual Timeline English (Default)

George Keel SPONG-73
B: 22 Apr 1801 - Preston near Wingham Kent England
M: 12 Oct 1822 - Preston near Wingham Kent (Age 21)
D: 4 Jun 1873 - Stourmouth Kent England (Age 72)

James SPONG-90
Other Parents/Rel. Marriage (MRIN: 59)

George Keel SPONG-73
Marriage (MRIN: 30)

Mary KEEL-89

Spouse Marriage Date
Sarah WHITE-74 12 Oct 1822

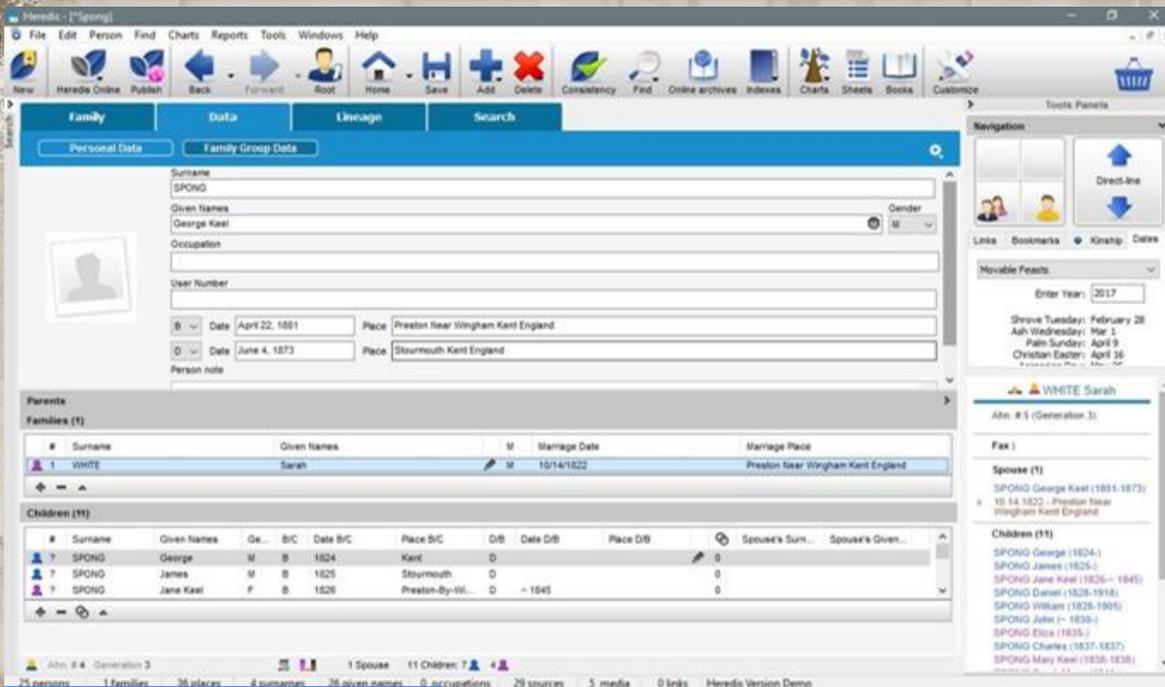
Order Add Spouse

Children Birth/*BR Date

1. George SPONG-79	1823
2. James SPONG-80	1825
3. Jane Keel SPONG-82	1826
4. Daniel SPONG-37	Dec 1827
5. William SPONG-81	Dec 1827
6. John SPONG-85	Abt 1830
7. Frederick SPONG-86	1834
8. Eliza SPONG-91	1835
9. Charles SPONG-83	1837
10. Mary Keel SPONG-87	Jun 1838

Order Add Child

For Help, press F1 P:\Teresa\AQBasEcktest.aq IM: 1 C:12 NUM



Hereditis - [Spong]

File Edit Person Find Charts Reports Tools Windows Help

Family Data Lineage Search

Personal Data Family Group Data

Surname: SPONG
 Given Names: George Keel
 Occupation: [empty]
 User Number: [empty]
 B: Date: April 22, 1801 Place: Preston near Wingham Kent England
 D: Date: June 4, 1873 Place: Stourmouth Kent England

Parents Families (1)

#	Surname	Given Names	M	Marriage Date	Marriage Place
1	WHITE	Sarah	M	10/14/1822	Preston near Wingham Kent England

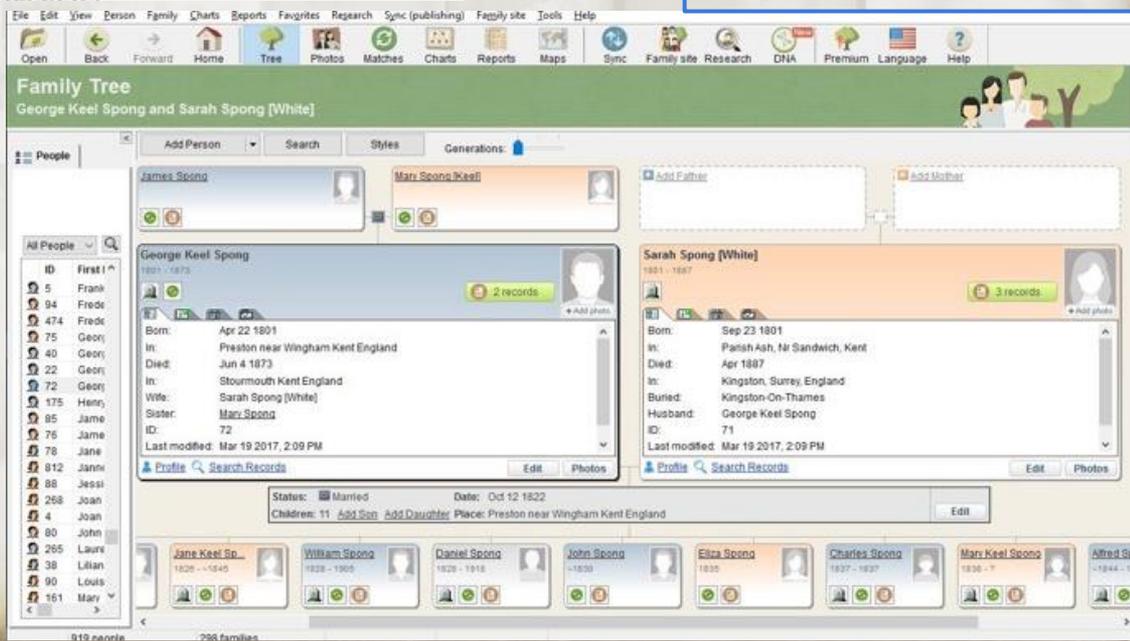
Children (11)

#	Surname	Given Names	Ge.	B/C	Date B/C	Place B/C	D/B	Date D/B	Place D/B	Spouse's Surn...	Spouse's Given...
7	SPONG	George	M	B	1824	Kent	D				
7	SPONG	James	M	B	1825	Stourmouth	D				
7	SPONG	Jane Keel	F	B	1828	Preston-By-W...	D	~1845			

Abn. #4 Generation 3
 24 persons 1 families 36 places 4 summaries 36 given names 6 occupations 29 sources 5 media 0 links Hereditis Version Demo

Family Tree Builder

Hereditis



File Edit View Person Family Charts Reports Favorites Research Sync (publishing) Family site Tools Help

Open Back Forward Home Tree Photos Matches Charts Reports Maps Sync Family site Research DNA Premium Language Help

Family Tree
 George Keel Spong and Sarah Spong [White]

People Add Person Search Styles Generations

All People

ID	First
5	Frank
94	Fred
474	Fred
75	Georj
40	Georj
22	Georj
72	Georj
175	Hens
85	Jame
76	Jame
78	Jane
812	Janne
88	Jessi
268	Joan
4	Joan
80	John
265	Laur
38	Lilan
90	Louis
161	Mary

James Spong Marj Spong Keel

George Keel Spong (1801-1873)
 Born: Apr 22 1801
 In: Preston near Wingham Kent England
 Died: Jun 4 1873
 In: Stourmouth Kent England
 Wife: Sarah Spong [White]
 Sister: Marj Spong
 ID: 72
 Last modified: Mar 19 2017, 2:09 PM

Sarah Spong [White] (1801-1887)
 Born: Sep 23 1801
 In: Parish Ash, Nr Sandwich, Kent
 Died: Apr 1887
 In: Kingston, Surrey, England
 Buried: Kingston-On-Thames
 Husband: George Keel Spong
 ID: 71
 Last modified: Mar 19 2017, 2:09 PM

Status: Married Date: Oct 12 1822
 Children: 11 Add Son Add Daughter Place: Preston near Wingham Kent England

Jane Keel Sp... William Spong Daniel Spong John Spong Eliza Spong Charles Spong Marj Keel Spong Alfred Sp...

Edit View Individual Tools Help
 Home Trees Treeviews Lists Charts Reports Maps Research Print Help Sync

Fulltree Family Hourglass Ancestors Descendants Relationship Full Fan Ord

George Keel Spong
 Birth: 22 Apr 1801, Preston near Wingham Kent England
 Death: 04 Jun 1873, Stoumouath Kent England

Sarah White
 Birth: 23 Sep 1801, Parish Ash, Nr Sandwich, Kent
 Death: Apr 1867, Kingston, Surrey, England

Children Events

Name	Birth	Death	Relation
George Spong	1824		birth
James Spong	1825		birth
Jane Keel Spong	1826	abt 1845	birth
William Spong	1828	28 Mar 1905	birth
Daniel Spong	01 Jan 1828	Mar 1918	birth
John Spong	abt 1830		birth
Eliza Spong	1835		birth
Charles Spong	1837	Jun 1837	birth
Mary Keel Spong	Jun 1838	early July 1838	birth
Sarah Maria Spong	Oct 1841		birth
Alfred Spong	abt 1844	Jan 1885	birth

James Spong

Mary Keel

• Add Father

• Add Mother

Brother's Keeper

Tree View

File View

George Keel Spong #72
 22 Apr 1801 Preston near Wingham Kent England
 4 Jun 1873 Stoumouath Kent England

Married:
 12 Oct 1822 Preston near Wingham Kent England

Sarah White #71
 23 Sep 1801 Parish Ash, Nr Sandwich, Kent
 April 1867 Kingston, Surrey, England

Children

- George Spong #75 1824 -
- James Spong #76 1825 -
- Jane Keel Spong #78 1826 - abt 1845
- William Spong #77 1828 - 28 Mar 1905
- Daniel Spong #87 1 Jan 1828 - Mar 1918
- John Spong #80 abt 1830 -
- Eliza Spong #86 1835 -
- Charles Spong #79 1837 - Jun 1837
- Mary Keel Spong #81 Jun 1838 - early July 1838
- Sarah Maria Spong #83 October 1841 -
- Alfred Spong #82 abt 1844 - January 1885

James Spong #85

Mary Keel #84

Networking and sharing

❖ Networking

- family history groups, professional associations, online listservs/boards, Facebook groups
- inspirational and rewarding
- get/provide help

❖ Sharing

- it's fun to share
- meet new family
- be careful - don't share indiscriminately
- be cautious sharing info about living family

Going further

- ❖ Family history writing
 - character sketches / blog / book
- ❖ Scrapbooking
 - templates / software
 - begin from scratch
 - use copies, not originals
- ❖ DNA testing
 - pros and cons
 - consider your family's feelings as well
 - most results in online database

Other resources

- ❖ Books
- ❖ Magazines
- ❖ Family history societies
- ❖ Facebook discussion groups
- ❖ Museums and archives
- ❖ Internet

Useful software

Paid Software

Ancestral Quest
(Win/Mac)
Brother's Keeper (trial version) (Win)
Family Historian (30 day free trial)
(Win/Mac)
Family Tree Heritage (Win/Mac)
Family Tree Maker (Win/Mac)
Heredis (trial version - limited to 50
people) (Win/Mac)
Legacy Family Tree Deluxe (Win/Mac
with Windows installed under
Bootcamp, Parallel, or Fusion/Linux
with Windows Emulator)
Roots Magic (Win/Mac)
TreeView (Win/Mac)

Free Software

Ancestral Quest Basics
FamilyTree Builder (Win/Mac - owned
by MyHeritage - requires free MH
account)
GRAMPS (Win/Mac/Linux)
Legacy Family Tree Standard (Win/Mac
with Windows installed under
Bootcamp, Parallel, or Fusion/Linux
with Win Emulator)
RootsMagic Essentials (Win/Mac)
TreeView (Win/Mac)

REVIEWS: <https://bit.ly/2HeWCfZ>

There is other free software out there if you want to explore further options.

Available in the app store (Apple)

- ❖ MacFamilyTree 8 (84.99)
- ❖ FamilyTree (6.99) – not great reviews. Reviewers said support was unhelpful.
- ❖ Family Tree Builder (13.99)
- ❖ My Family Tree (20.99)
- ❖ Heredis 2018 for Mac (69.99)

None of the apps have reviews in the app store except MacFamilyTree which has mixed reviews.

Thanks to our Technology Education Coordinator, Sam Iversen, for her help with the Mac/Apple options

Resources at the library

Books

- Baxter, Angus. *In search of your Canadian roots : tracing your family tree in Canada*. 3rd ed. 1999. Print.
- Blanchard, Gill. *Writing your family history : guide for family historians*. 2014. Print.
- Coombs-Bennett, Shannon. *Genealogy basics in 30 minutes*. 2016. Print.
- Dunn, Michael. *A beginner's guide to online genealogy : learn how to trace your family history and discover your roots*. 2015. Print.
- Galford, Ellen. *The genealogy handbook : the complete guide to tracing your family tree*. 2001. Print.
- Hart, Cynthia, and Lisa Samson. *The oral history workshop : collect and celebrate the life stories of your family and friends*. 2009. Print.
- Irvine, Sherry and David Obee. *Finding your Canadian ancestors : a beginner's guide*. 2007. Print.
- Leavitt, Caroline. *The kids' family tree book*. 2017. Print.
- Levenick, Denise May. *How to archive family keepsakes*. 2012. Print.
- Levenick, Denise May. *How to archive family photos*. 2015. Print.
- Morgan, George G. *Genealogy*. 4th ed. 2015. Print.
- Scott, Jonathan. *Tracing your British and Irish ancestors : a guide for family historians*. 2016. Print.

- n. a. *Scrapbooking Family Memories : all new page ideas celebrating special occasions and everyday moments*. 2005. Web.
- Smith, Drew. *Organize your genealogy : strategies and solutions for every researcher*. 2016. Print.
- Taylor, Maureen. *Family photo detective*. 2013. Print
- Taylor, Maureen. *Scrapbooking Your Family History*. 2003. Print.

Magazines

- Family Tree Magazine. Cincinnati, Ohio: F & W Publications.
- Internet Genealogy. Ajax, Ontario: Moorshead Magazines.
- Your Genealogy Today (formerly Family Chronicle). Ajax, Ontario: Moorshead Magazines Ltd.

Library Website

Genealogy page

(<http://sechelt.bc.libraries.coop/research/information-by-subject/genealogy/>), accessed from Information by Subject area in the Online Resources menu (includes Teresa's Genealogy & Family History Toolbox)
<http://sechelt.bc.libraries.coop/files/2013/05/Genealogy-Family-History-Toolbox.pdf>

Further resources

❖ books

- ILL
- bookstores

❖ magazines

- subscriptions
- specialty stores

❖ websites

- see handout

❖ social media

- Genealogy on Facebook list:
<https://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>