



Genealogy for Beginners

Fall 2023

Oct 9-30 6-8PM

Instructor: Tracy Reilly Kelly

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Interested in learning who were the people you came from? Take a hands on course in a computer lab to explore how to find your roots and create a family tree. Learn about how different genealogy programs work, both for free and for a price. Examine how to utilize newspapers and old records. Discover many tips and techniques, with an experienced genealogist at your side, who loves being a detective and learning the real backstories! Learn about DNA testing and products and what it means. Required: ability to independently navigate the web.

"To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without roots"
Chinese proverb.

Learning Objectives: *as a result of taking this course, students will:*

1. Compare and contrast various genealogy resources websites
2. Discover how to create a Family Tree
3. Explore how to connect historical events to the people you are researching.
4. Learn how DNA tests work and what they tell you about yourself.
5. Understand how you can take wrong turns doing genealogy research.
6. Examine the old records and newspapers for how they uncover clues.

Course materials: You will receive weekly emails that contain resource links and information that we will be studying.

LINKS FOR ALL CLASS USE:

- National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/>

- National Genealogical Society: <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/websites/>
- Family Search.com
- U.S. Census Bureau – census.gov
- Library of Congress - <https://www.loc.gov/>
- Wikitree.com

Class Schedule: this is my plan – it could change depending on student input

Oct 9 – How do you make a Family Tree? Compare and contrast free and paid family history websites.

Oct 16 – What is a DNA test? How does it work? Compare and contrast DNA testing services. Military record searches.

Oct 23 – Land records, cemeteries, census lists – using resources and historical research to learn about your ancestors.

Oct 30- Detective work – solving individual family mysteries; putting it all together. Working on computer terminals on individual projects with instructor personal help.

Class Evaluation: Class evaluations are sent by email. Sometimes the email will be delivered to your “junk mail,” but we can assure you it’s from Clark College only. Your responses are completely anonymous. If you do not see your evaluation immediately after class, look in your junk mail and send it to your email address. If you do not receive an evaluation please email continuingeducation@clark.edu or call 360.992.2939.

Tracy Reilly Kelly retired as Program Manager at Clark College Mature Learning and Community Education. Initially a History major, Tracy received her B.A. in Human Services from the Evergreen State College and an M.S. in Teaching Health Education at Portland State University. Tracy taught Health, Human Sexuality and Women’s Health and Women’s Studies at Clark College for 12 years and at Portland State University for 4 years. In 2008, Tracy was honored as a Woman of Achievement by the YWCA of Clark County and Clark College. In her semi-retirement she has become an avid genealogist and is writing a book on her search for her family ancestors.