

JUSTICE FOR GREENWOOD

The Justice for Greenwood Foundation's DIY Guide to Genealogical Research

Who might find this useful:

People curious about their family history and who are looking to see if they have a familial connection to Greenwood.

What to do with your research findings:

The information you discover during your research will no doubt be important for you and your family whether or not you do end up having a familial connection to Greenwood. If you would like to participate in the Justice for Greenwood Foundation's Genealogy Project, you can enter information gleaned during your research into our online genealogy intake form available at the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=g4kYjzFlvUSH2E-Q3f9XyGxX7CrNfodGnFR2-xPOTpxURUIzMOZKOUIFUDYzNTkOM00wS1k3R1YwRi4u>

You might be a Descendant of someone who experienced the Massacre and its immediate aftermath if:

- You are Black and your family has lived in Tulsa for generations.
- You have heard stories or seen pictures of an Ancestor who lived, worked, owned property, or spent time in the Greenwood area of Tulsa Oklahoma.
- You have an Ancestor listed on the Dawes "Freedmen" Rolls for the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, Seminole, or Cherokee Nations.

Start with what you know

Gather all the information you have available about your family and write it down. Templates can be useful for helping to organize your family information. You can find some good free ones at the [National Genealogical Society](#).

Brainstorm about the names, places lived, and life events of yourself, your parents, grandparents, your children, your grandchildren, aunts and uncles, cousins, even your family friends. This identifying information is particularly crucial if a family member has a common name, or if certain names are repeated within your family. Don't worry if you don't have exact dates or towns, or even exact years or states. Give it your best guess now, and research will turn up more precise answers later.

Here is a checklist of what kinds of information will be helpful in your research:

- Birth: when and where
- Marriage(s): when and where
- Divorce(s): when and where
- Death: when and where
- Residences:
 - Current (or most recent) address and how long
 - Former addresses: when and where

Beginning your research

Once you've written down and organized everything you know, the easiest way to research is to begin online. There are a couple of ways to do this for free, and it's entirely possible you'll locate much of the basic information you're looking for right away. The two websites below have a lot of information overlap, but each has records the other doesn't. You should definitely search both!

FamilySearch.org: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>

- Family history research is a tenet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and the site an outreach to the larger community.
- The site is free for everyone, even at home, although you must create an account.
- They do not spam, sell your information, or proselytize.
- FamilySearch has more records than any other website, and they have their own Wiki that provides information about what records are available where, as well as research strategy information on nearly every topic: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page
- They have an excellent "Getting Started" page for beginners: www.familysearch.org/gettingstarted
- They also have FamilySearch Community, which is a moderated forum to get help and ask questions. Moderators are professional genealogists with deep subject knowledge: <https://community.familysearch.org>

Ancestry.com: <https://www.ancestry.com>

- For-profit subscription genealogy website. Libraries have a free version for public use.
- The paid version of Ancestry allows you to build and save your own personal family tree. Neither the free version, nor FamilySearch have this feature.
- Ancestry's learning center is much less comprehensive than FamilySearch

Advancing your research: General Resources

There is no one-stop shopping for genealogy information. There are many resources online, but much is not. Privacy laws restrict access to modern records, sometimes for 100 years.

- Most public libraries have genealogy information. The Tulsa City-County Library has a genealogy center located in the Hardesty Regional Library. Some libraries offer free genealogy research classes in addition to free database access.
- Many places in the U.S. have local genealogical or historical societies. Tulsa has a genealogical society. Nearly all societies have educational events, many for free.
- YouTube has numerous free channels that cover virtually every aspect of family history research. Some channels are better than others, so check the host's credentials and the Comments section for episode feedback.

Advancing your research: Specific Record Sets to Investigate

- Census records (federal every 10 years, some states have separate censuses)
 - Here is a link to the census online:
https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/decennial_census_records/census_records_2.html
 - However, plugging in information about an ancestor into familysearch or ancestry.com (both linked above) is the easiest way to search the census.
- Vital records (birth, marriage, death certificates)
- Other vital record sources (cemeteries, funeral homes, obituary/death notices, divorce, delayed birth certificates, Social Security, probate, family bibles, passports, church records)
- Military records (WWI and WWII draft registration, enlistment, service, pension)
- 1921 Tulsa city directory:
 - <http://digitalcollections.tulsalibrary.org/digital/collection/p15020coll12/id/2439>
 - You can search for your Ancestor's name in the 1921 Tulsa City Directory to find more information about them such as where they lived and their occupation.
- Newspapers
 - One of the best newspapers to search for information is the *Tulsa Star*:
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86064118/>
 - To search the *Tulsa Star*, in the link above click on "Browse Issues" then click on any date that appears on the calendar in **bold**. The Library of Congress has digitized issues from 1913-1921.
- Real estate deed records
- Schools, clubs, and organizations,
- Voting records, other public records (court cases, business licenses)

Advancing your research: More Websites with Additional Resources

- <https://cyndislist.com/>
 - Provides lists of web links to resources on virtually any research topic.
- <http://www.linkpendium.com/>
 - Provides lists of web links to resources on virtually any research topic.
- <http://usgenweb.org/>
 - Crowd-sourced moderated website, organized by county and state.
- <https://theancestorhunt.com/>
 - Provides lists of web links to resources on many topics.
- Newspaper websites:
 - <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> (free from the Library of Congress)
 - <https://www.newspapers.com/> (subscription service, many libraries have free access)
 - <https://www.genealogybank.com/> (subscription service, many libraries have free access)
 - <https://news.google.com/newspapers> (free website, new content is no longer being added)
 - <https://archive.org/details/newspapers> (free website)

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