

DIY Guide to Genealogical Research



Take
Our
Survey

Start with what you know. Gather all the information you have about your family and write it down. Templates can help you stay organized — you can use ours or explore free options from the **National Genealogical Society**.

01 Beginning Your Genealogy Journey

Once you've written down and organized what you know, the easiest next step is to begin online. There are free options available, and you may quickly find much of the basic information you're looking for. The two websites below overlap in content, but each has unique records — so be sure to search both. You can also read a more detailed explanation of these resources.

Resource List for Genealogical Research

JUSTICE
FOR GREENWOOD

Brainstorm names, places lived, and life events connected to yourself, your parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, and even close family friends. This information is especially important if a family member has a common name or if certain names are repeated.

Don't worry about exact dates, towns, or even years and states — make your best guess for now. Research will help fill in the details later. Then, start exploring the primary and secondary resources listed below.

Primary Sources

- ☐ **Census** (Federal/State)
- ☐ **Vital** Records (Birth, death, marriage records)
- ☐ **Court** records (Adoption & Guardianship, Divorce, etc.)
- ☐ **City** Directories
- ☐ **School** Records
- ☐ **Probate** Records, Wills, Trusts
- ☐ **Bank** Records

Starter Questions

- ☐ **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?

Secondary Sources

- ☐ **Family** Bible (old family bible where names/dates were written in as they occurred)
- ☐ **Books** (Gates, Parrish, Red Cross Report, etc.)
- ☐ **Newspapers** & newspaper clippings
- ☐ **Oral** history interviews
- ☐ **Funeral** Programs or Obituaries
- ☐ **Insurance** documents
- ☐ **Yearbooks**
- ☐ **Tax** Records
- ☐ **Fraternal** or Society books
- ☐ Annual proceedings (from lodge, church, and other meetings)
- ☐ **Reunion** Program Booklets Journals/Diaries/Letters
- ☐ **Medical** records
- ☐ **Photograph** albums
- ☐ **Hospital** birth records/birth affidavit (Moton Hospital, Variety Clinic, etc.)

Who might find this toolkit 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:

[Justice For Greenwood Genealogy Project Intake Form](#)

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.

Screeners Questions

FamilySearch.org



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

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.

Resource List for Genealogical Research

02 Advancing Your Genealogy Journey

There's no one-stop shop for genealogy information. While many resources are available online, much is not. Privacy laws also limit access to modern records, sometimes for up to 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.

Free Video Guides for Your Genealogy Journey

YouTube offers numerous free channels covering nearly every aspect of family history research. Some are stronger than others, so be sure to check the host's credentials and browse the comments for feedback on each episode."

For Your Information

Census records (federal every 10 years, some states have separate censuses)

https://www.census.gov/history/www/genealogy/decennial_census_records/census_records_2.html

However, plugging in information about an ancestor into familysearch.org or ancestry.com is the easiest way to search the census.

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.

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.

Additional Information

General Genealogy Resource Directories

Cyndi's List (<https://cyndislist.com/>)

Curated lists of web links covering virtually any research topic.

Linkpendium (<http://www.linkpendium.com/>)

Extensive collection of genealogy links organized by topic.

The Ancestor Hunt (<https://theancestorhunt.com/>)

Focused on genealogy research with categorized resources and guides.

USGenWeb Project (<http://usgenweb.org/>)

Crowd-sourced, volunteer-driven site organized by county and state.

Newspaper Research Sites

Chronicling America (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>)

Free digitized newspapers from the Library of Congress.

Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/>)

Subscription service; many libraries provide free access.

GenealogyBank (<https://www.genealogybank.com/>)

Subscription service with historical newspapers; often free through libraries.

Google News Archive (<https://news.google.com/newspapers>)

Free access; no new content being added.

Internet Archive (Newspapers Collection) (<https://archive.org/details/newspapers>)

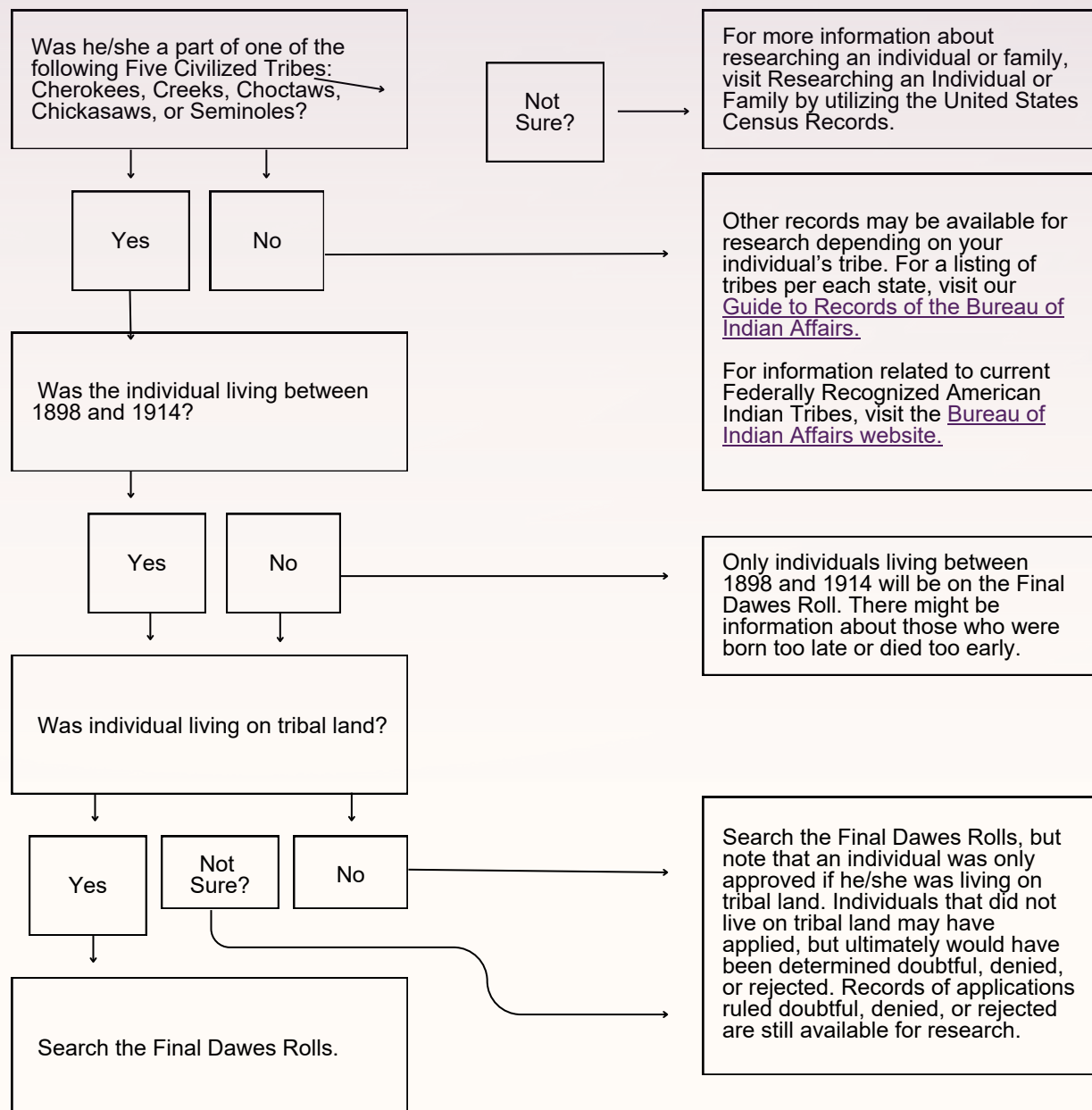
Free digitized collection of newspapers.

Additional Resources

Researching Dawes Records for the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma

JUSTICE
FOR GREENWOOD

Individuals and families applied to be listed on the Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma. The Dawes Commission used the applications to determine if the individual or family were eligible for enrollment. The Commission kept applications of all individuals and families that applied even if the application was rejected or ruled doubtful.



*If you are unable to answer "yes" to these questions, continue gathering information that can help you to determine if your individual was an American Indian.

Your Name: _____

JUSTICE FOR GREENWOOD

Tribe & Dawes Roll # _____

Father _____

D.O.B. __/__/____ D.O.D. __/__/____

Tribe & Dawes Roll # _____

Name _____

Relationship _____

D.O.B. _/ _/ _ D.O.D. _/ _/ _

Tribe & Dawes Roll # _____
Name _____
Relationship _____
D.O.B. ____/____/____ D.O.D. ____/____/____

Tribe & Dawes Roll # _____

Name _____

Relationship _____

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Tribe & Dawes Roll # _____

Name _____

Relationship _____

D.O.B. _/ _/ _____ D.O.D. _/ _/ _____

Tribe & Dawes Roll # _____
Name _____
Relationship _____
D.O.B. ____/____/____ D.O.D. ____/____/____

Tribe & Dawes Roll # _____

Mother _____

D.O.B. __/__/____ D.O.D. __/__/____

Tribe & Dawes Roll # _____

Name _____

Relationship _____

D.O.B. __/__/____ D.O.D. __/__/____

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Your Name: _____

JUSTICE
FOR GREENWOOD

Father _____

D.O.B. _/ _/ _ _ D.O.D. _/ _/ _ _

Name _____

Relationship _____

D.O.B. _/ _/ _ _ D.O.D. _/ _/ _ _

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Relationship _____

Mother _____

D.O.B. _/ _/ _ _ D.O.D. _/ _/ _ _

Name _____

Relationship _____

D.O.B. _/ _/ _ _ D.O.D. _/ _/ _ _

Name _____

Relationship _____

D.O.B. _/ _/ _ _ D.O.D. _/ _/ _ _

Your Name: _____

Father _____

D.O.B_/_/_/____ D.O.D_/_/_/____

Name_____

Relationship_____

D.O.B_/_/_/____ D.O.D_/_/_/____

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Your Name: _____

Tribe & Dawes Roll # _____

Father _____

D.O.B. __/__/____ D.O.D. __/__/____

Tribe & Dawes Roll # _____

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Relationship _____

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