

# Instructions for Pedigree Chart, with Sources

These special sheets are designed to help you

1. know what you know
2. know how you know
3. know what you don't know
4. know where to find what you don't know

How?? Using your Pedigree Chart of course!

A Pedigree chart usually starts with yourself and lists your parents, grandparents, great grandparents. This number of generations fits nicely on an A4 sheet. When beginning your Family History research, it is a good idea to always have this with you - don't leave home without it!!

These Pedigree Charts start with your parents. One for your mother and one for your father. Or, if appropriate, you could have one for each of your 4 grandparents. Print as many forms as you need (the copyright restriction is waived for you).

You need to record your sources. At each event, circle just how you know what you know. eg if you know your grandmother's birth date & place because you have the birth registration (eg certificate or similar), then circle C. If you know because of an entry in the Family Bible, circle F (Family). Circle both C and F if appropriate - if you have a certificate and a Family Bible! If this is something you just know, perhaps because your parents told you, then circle F.

If you know your Grandfather's birth place because it is on his daughter's birth registration, do NOT circle C for this - only circle C when you have the registration (certificate) relating to that event. In this case circle F because the information has come from family when registering another event.

Do try to fill in where the event took place. At least the country! Remember you need the 3 W's - the Who, the Where and the When. If you only know two, you can usually find the third! The WHERE is most important. Knowing the country is a guide to further research also. Try to give an approximate date (year) too - some idea of the 'when'.

So always list the country even if you are not sure about this. Write in pencil & add a ?

The KEY (upper LH corner):

**C** = certificate/original image of registration.

**R** = found on an RG's Index eg Free BMD, NSW BDMs, NZ BDMs, BUT registration/certificate not sighted

**P** = Parish Register

**S** = census

**G** = genealogies (Other people's research such as you find on Ancestry, My Heritage, FamilySearch

**M** = Tombstone inscriptions

**F** = for anything and everything that a family member has provided - that includes you!!

The NUMBERS!!!

Cross out lower numbers if starting with your Father /Grandfather (any male). Look for the BORN/BAPTISED - you will see numbers beside this. If you are starting this chart with a male, then cross out the lower (odd) number. Do this for each generation. Remember, males are always on an even number. Females are always on an odd number; so cross out the upper (even) number.

This is not all THAT important. So, if you just don't 'get-it', then forget about it. Having the numbers correct helps when you show your Pedigree sheet to someone you hope can help you fill the gaps! Eg you can say '#8 on (surname).... family sheet ....' - but is not essential.

Write names

- above/on the solid black line
- Forename/s SURNAME
- Use Female MAIDEN SURNAME

On dotted lines

- Write date and place
- XX XXX XXXX for date
- month first three letters eg Feb
- suburb/parish, town, County/State, Country

**Remember:**

forename/s SURNAME on solid line  
date and place on dotted line

**Remember:**

Males on even numbers  
Females on odd numbers.

Use pencil if not sure of data.

WRITE CAREFULLY AND CLEARLY!

Please fill in this form - DON'T just print a Pedigree Chart from your computer program!! You need the challenge of thinking about the information!! You need to see how you know what you know. You need to learn to be familiar with how you know what you know.

Look for gaps - see where/what you need to research next.

Don't worry if you don't know how you know!!!

Write in what you think you know, in pencil. Don't worry if you don't know very much!

That's why you are filling in the chart!!

Like help with this? Scan & Email your Chart to

[Jan@genealogy.net.nz](mailto:Jan@genealogy.net.nz)

Or post to PO Box 25025, St Heliers, Auckland 1740.

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