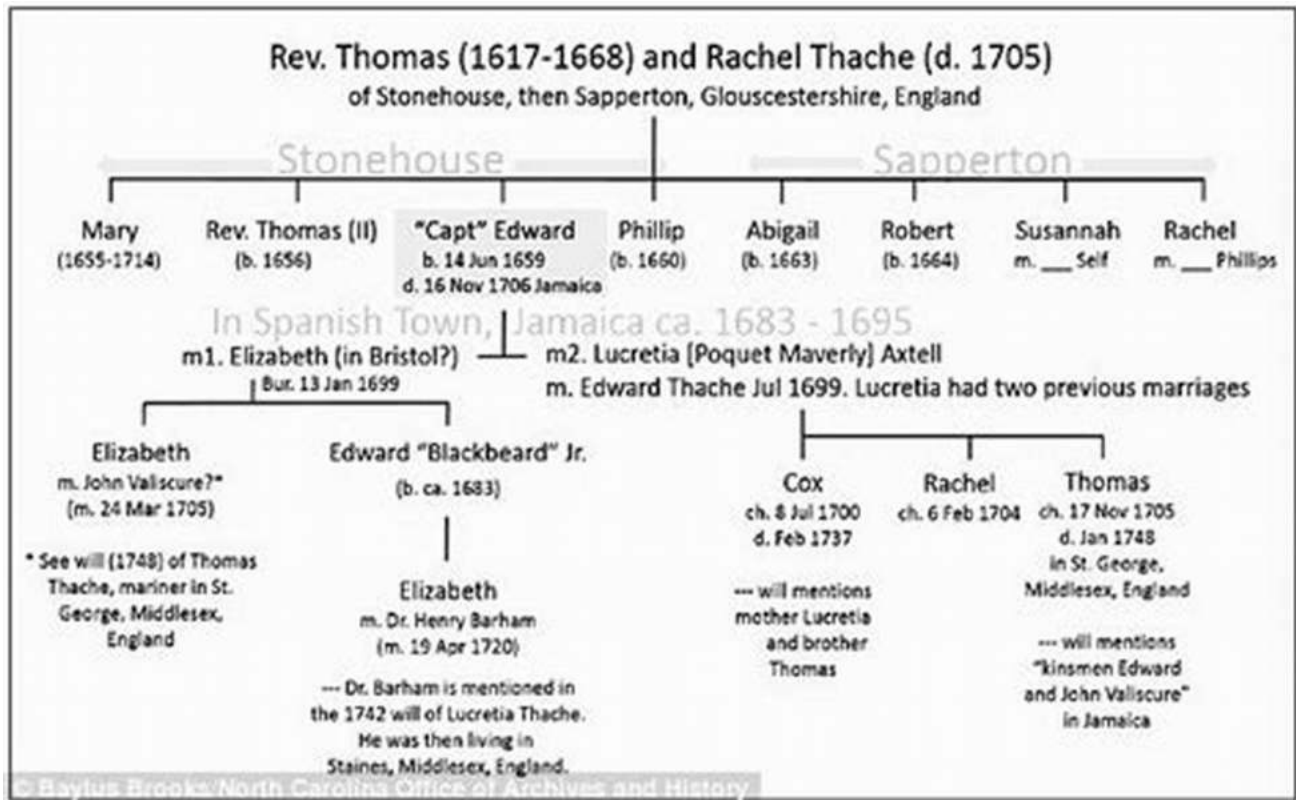


# A Comprehensive Guide for Family Historians: How to Uncover Your Ancestral Legacy



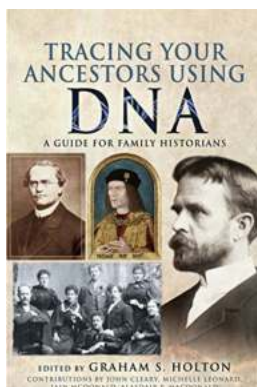
Are you curious about your family's history? Do you want to discover the untold stories of your ancestors? Embarking on a journey as a family historian can be a rewarding and enlightening experience. In this comprehensive guide, we will provide you with the tools, tips, and resources to help you uncover your ancestral legacy and create a lasting record for future generations.

## 1. Start with Yourself



4 reasons you should study your family history

 familyshare.com



## Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA: A Guide for Family Historians by Graham S. Holton (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 23915 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 262 pages  
Lending : Enabled



When diving into the world of family history, it's essential to start with what you already know. Begin by documenting your own life, including personal details such as birth, marriage, and achievements. Gathering information from your memory and personal documents is crucial in setting the foundation for further research.

## **2. Interview Relatives**

## 20 FAMILY HISTORY INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- What's your first memory?
- Tell me about the oldest relative you remember.
- How did your parents meet?
- Tell me about your childhood home.
- How did your family celebrate holidays?
- What were your favorite subjects in school?
- Who was your favorite teacher?
- How did you meet your spouse?
- Tell me about your wedding day.
- Tell me about the day your first child was born.
- Tell me about your friends. How did you meet?
- Describe your first job.
- What did you do with your first paycheck?
- What was your favorite job and why?
- Who are some of your heroes?
- Describe your experience of a historic event.
- What was your experience with computers?
- What were your favorite books, songs, etc?
- Where and when have you been the happiest?
- Anything else you'd like to talk about?

familytree

One of the most valuable assets in your family history journey is your living relatives. By conducting interviews with older family members, you can gather precious stories, anecdotes, and vital information that might not be documented anywhere else. Prepare a list of questions, bring a recorder, and cherish these moments while capturing the past.

### 3. Utilize Online Databases

How to Use  
Book Databases  
to Further Your  
Family History



ANCESTRALFINDINGS.COM

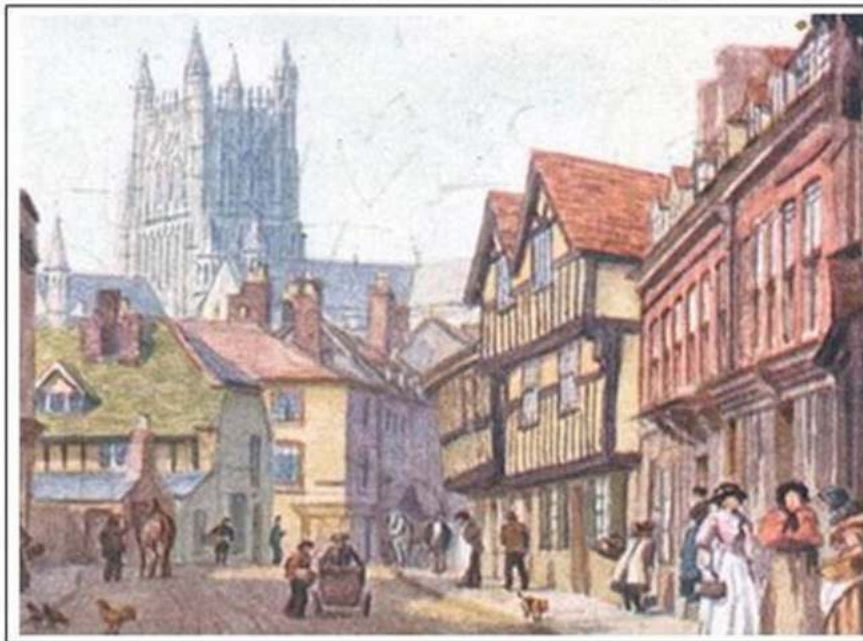
The internet is a goldmine for family historians. Numerous online databases offer access to birth, marriage, death, and census records, as well as newspaper archives and military records. Websites like Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, and MyHeritage provide extensive collections of historical documents that can potentially unveil missing links in your family tree.

#### **4. Visit Local Archives and Libraries**



## Exploring local history with children

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service



### A Homework Guide

While online resources are convenient, physical archives and libraries are treasure troves of historical information. Visit local archives in your area to access old city directories, church records, and immigration documents. Librarians and archivists can be invaluable sources of advice and assistance in your research, guiding you to lesser-known resources and hidden gems.

## 5. Join Genealogical Societies and DNA Testing

February 2012

**MyHeritage**

# DNA TESTS NEW

Let science take your family history to the next level

**PATERNAL LINE TESTING**

- Y-DNA12** Discover the deep ancestral origin of your direct paternal line.
- Y-DNA37** Improved Y-DNA test.
- Y-DNA67** Highest resolution Y-DNA test.

**MATERNAL LINE TESTING**

- mtDNA** Reach into the past to uncover the deep ancestral origin of your direct maternal line.
- mtDNAPlus** Improved mtDNA test.
- mtFullSequence** Highest resolution mtDNA test.

**POWER TESTS**

- Family Finder** Find family across all your lines.
- Comprehensive Genomes** Identify the ethnic and geographic origin of the maternal and paternal lines.

**COMBO TESTS**

- Family Finder + Y-DNA12** Find relatives across all lines, and verify if you share a paternal line.
- Family Finder + mtDNAPlus** Find relatives across all lines, and verify if you share a maternal line.
- Family Finder + mtFullSequence** Find relatives across all lines, plus get the highest level mtDNA test.
- Y-DNA12 + mtDNAPlus** Recommended combination to cover both your paternal and maternal lines.
- Y-DNA67 + mtDNAPlus** The best combination to cover both your paternal and maternal lines.

Powered by **23andMe** FamilyTreeDNA

To expand your family history research, consider joining genealogical societies or DNA testing services. Genealogical societies provide access to exclusive databases, expert advice, and networking opportunities with fellow family historians. DNA testing can also provide surprising results and help you connect with long-lost relatives, uncovering family connections you never imagined.

## 6. Organize and Document Your Findings

## PUT IT IN A TABLE

*Understanding and Organizing  
Research Findings*



**TABLE 1. CYNTHIA (DILLARD) ROYSTON'S AGE IN CENSUS RECORDS FROM 1850-1880**

NAME	CENSUS YEAR	RESIDENCE	AGE	ESTIMATED BIRTH YEAR	BIRTH PLACE
Synthia Royston	1850 <sup>a</sup>	Chambers Co., Alabama	35	1815	Georgia
Cynthia Royston	1860 <sup>a</sup>	Chambers Co., Alabama	44	1816	Georgia
Cynthia Royston	1870 <sup>a</sup>	Chambers Co., Alabama	53	1817	Georgia
Syntha Royston	1880 <sup>a</sup>	Collin Co., Texas	62	1818	Georgia

As your family history research progresses, it's essential to keep your findings organized. Create a system to organize your documents, photographs, and notes. Utilize genealogy software or online platforms to build a digital family tree and connect different generations. Don't forget to cite your sources, ensuring accuracy and providing a roadmap for future researchers.

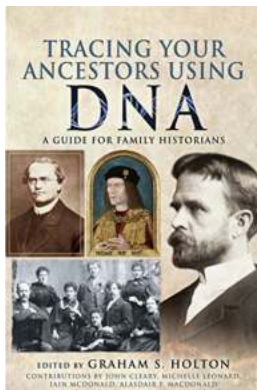
## **7. Preserve and Share your Ancestral Legacy**





Your hard work and dedication deserve to be preserved for generations to come. Consider digitizing family photos, recording oral histories, and compiling your research into a comprehensive family history book. Share your findings with other family members and consider creating a website or blog to connect with fellow family historians. Your passion for history can spark interest in others and help build a collaborative community.

Becoming a family historian is like embarking on a captivating journey through time. By following this comprehensive guide, you will gain the necessary skills and knowledge to uncover the secrets of your ancestors. Remember, every small detail adds to the bigger picture, so be patient, persistent, and enjoy the process. Your efforts will not only satisfy your curiosity but also leave a lasting legacy for future generations.



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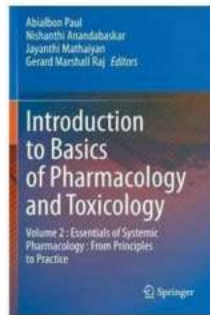


An easy-to-use, straightforward guide for British family historians looking to trace their ancestry using DNA testing.

DNA research is one of the most rapidly advancing areas in modern science, and the practical use of DNA testing in genealogy is one of its most exciting applications. Yet there is no recent British publication in this field. That is why this accessible, wide-ranging is so valuable. It offers a clear, practical way into the subject, explaining the scientific discoveries and techniques and illustrating with case studies how it can be used by genealogists to gain an insight into their ancestry.

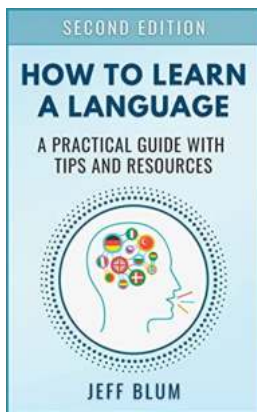
The subject is complex and perhaps difficult for traditional genealogists to understand but, with the aid of this book, novices who are keen to take advantage of it will be able to interpret test results and use them to help answer genealogical questions which cannot be answered by documentary evidence alone. It will also appeal to those with some experience in the field because it places the practical

application of genetic genealogy within a wider context, highlighting its role as a genealogical tool and suggesting how it can be made more effective.



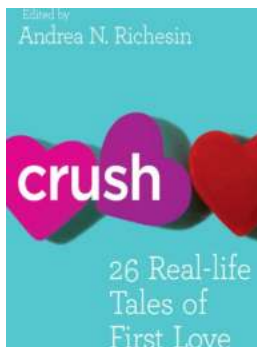
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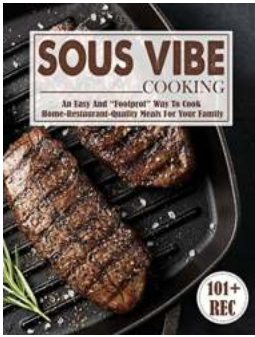
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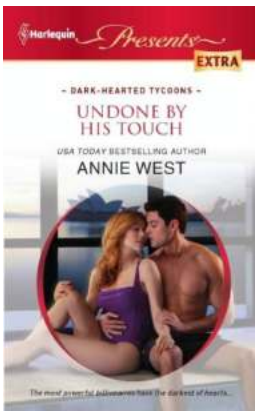
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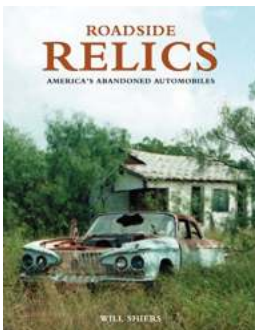
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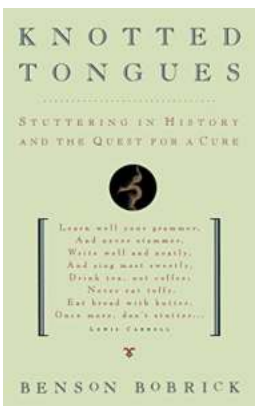
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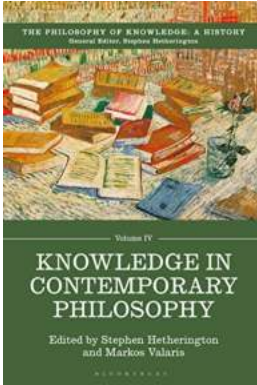
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