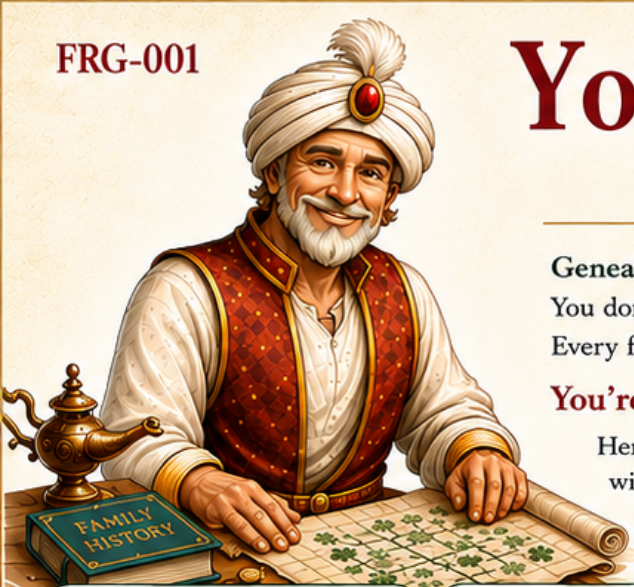




Your First Research Guide

You Know Enough to Get Started!

Genealogy is an adventure of discovery.
You don't need to be perfect. You just need to be curious.
Every family has a story—and you can discover yours.

You're already on your way.

Here's what you need to know to take your next steps with confidence. The rest comes—one question, one record, and one discovery at a time.



The best genealogists aren't the ones who remember everything—they're the ones who write it down.

—Howard

1 Start With One Question



Every research project begins with one question. Examples:

- When was she born?
- Where did they live?
- Who were his parents?
- When did they come to America?

One good question is easier to answer than ten at once.

2 Follow the Clues

Every record is a clue. Don't expect one record to tell the whole story. Instead, look for records that work together.



Birth Record



Census Record



Marriage Record



Death Record



Obituary

One clue leads to another.

3 Write It Down



When you find something interesting, write it down:

- where you found it
- when you found it
- why you think it matters

A little note today can save a lot of work tomorrow.

4 Keep Looking



Records don't always agree—and that's normal!

Don't guess. Keep looking. One more record may solve the mystery.

These good habits are what you'll eventually come to know as the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS).

It simply helps genealogists build family histories they can trust.

5 Where Can I Look?



At Home

- Photographs
- Letters
- Family Bible
- Family papers



Around Town

- Library
- Courthouse
- Cemetery
- Historical Society



Online

- FamilySearch
- Find a Grave
- HCGS Website
- Subscription resources



Every Discovery Leads to Another Question

That's what makes genealogy so much fun!

Enjoy the journey—one question, one clue, one discovery at a time.



Howard's Research Tip

Go back and take another look at records you've already seen. It's amazing how often you'll discover a clue you overlooked the first time.



You're a Genealogist!

Congratulations!
You've already taken the most important step. You started asking questions. You started looking for answers. That's what genealogists do. You know enough to begin discovering your family's story. The rest comes...
one question... one record... one discovery... at a time.

Welcome to the adventure.



**Howard County
Genealogical Society**

Founded 1976

*We help you discover
your family's story.*



Website: hcgsm.org



Join HCGS: hcgsm.org/join



Howard: Howard@hcgsm.org



P.O. Box 274
Columbia, MD 21045

*Join us. Discover more.
Preserve your story.*



Scan to learn more
and become a member!
www.hcgsm.org/join



Helping Genealogists
in Howard County, MD
and Beyond