

How to Fill Out a Pedigree Chart

Write your full name in space #1.

Space #2, write the name of your father.

Space #3, write the name of your mother, using her maiden name as her last name (surname).

Space #4, write the name of the father of your father (your paternal grandfather).

Space #5, write the name of the mother of your father (your paternal grandmother).

Space #6, add the name of the father of your mother (your maternal grandfather).

Space #7 is for the name of the mother of your mother (your maternal grandmother).

Dates for important events in the lives of your ancestors will go on the pedigree chart, such as, the dates and places of births, marriages, and deaths. On some charts, birth is sometimes abbreviated as b, birthplace as bp, marriage dates as m, marriage places as mp, and death dates as d and death places as dp. Spouses are abbreviated as sp.

When writing dates, get into the habit of writing the day, the month abbreviated, and the four digits for the year, i.e. 11 Feb 1889, even though most of us learned in school to write the date as 2/11/89. In some older records or records from other countries, the day is often written first, then the month, and then the year. In the above date, it may be confusing as to what month you're referring, February or November, and what year, 1689, 1789, 1889, or 1989.

Write out the complete locations – town, county, and state; for places outside of the United States – village, parish, county, and country.

Example: Martha Greer
b 12 Feb 1807
bp Ferguson, Cabell Co. (now Wayne Co.), Virginia, (now West Virginia)
m 11 Sep 1823
mp Wayne Co., West Virginia
d 22 Mar 1891
dp Ironton, Lawrence Co., Ohio
sp Rice McCarroll

If state and county boundaries have changed, write the name of the county when the event occurred and put the new name of the county or state in parentheses.