

Tipton County
Mini 4-H



Family
History

TRACING MY FAMILY TREE

4-H FAIR EXHIBIT

- 1) Complete and exhibit the “My Family Tree” Chart.

OR

- 2) Make a poster of your family tree using pictures or other information.

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered where your ancestors came from; why they left their families and came to America; and when they arrived in this country? Were some of their relatives Indians, Germans, or of French descent? Could some of your ancestry come over on the Mayflower and where did they land – was it in New York or did they continue inward by following other navigable waterways? Could you be related to any royalty or have any of our Presidents been a line in your heritage (family tree)? Would you like to know more about your heritage?

If you do not know the answers to these questions, then the project of tracing your heritage might give you some of the answers to the questions. This project is a simple way of tracing your roots and one the whole family might enjoy working on. Also, this project never ends and is something that you will enjoy when you are in the third grade and join a regular 4-H club.

First, let us discuss briefly some of the benefits and reasons we should attempt to trace our ancestry:

- 1) FUN: Most people do this as a hobby and part-time. Others do it professionally and travel hundreds of miles yearly to obtain the desired information and to observe where their ancestry lived, worked and died.
- 2) RELIGION: Some religious organizations, most notably the Mormons (L.D.S.), maintain family records as a spiritual concept.
- 3) LEGAL: Settling estates in many instances can only be accomplished by determining relationship.
- 4) LINEAGE AND HEREDITARY SOCIETIES: Some societies require proof of ancestry as a requirement for membership.

- 5) MEDICAL: Some diseases, or the tendencies to have weaknesses toward, are hereditary, and determining such factors prior to conceiving a child could prevent much pain and heartache.

**To forget one's ancestor is
to be a brook without a source;
a tree without a root!
...Chinese Proverb**

OBJECTIVES

The mini 4-H'er should be able to:

- 1) Complete the "My Family Tree" Chart.
- 2) Talk with family members about the family's heritage.

WHERE DO I BEGIN?

Begin with **YOURSELF**. Always proceed from the present to the past. Know your name, place of birth, places you have lived, dates you moved, and any other information that is readily available.

Then go to your parents and find out the same information you did for yourself, plus the date of their marriage, occupations and military records. They may also be able to give you this information on your grandparents (their parents) and perhaps your great-grandparents. Try to obtain as much from them as possible.

KEEP ALL IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS, PICTURES, AND RECORDS YOU COMPILE FOR THIS PROJECT IN A VERY SAFE PLACE. THEY WILL BE USEFUL TO YOU ALL YOUR LIFE AND SHOULD BE SAVED!! Generally, it is agreed upon that two (2) copies of every item should be retained.