Using A Family Medical Tree
&
Tips For
FamilySearch.org

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A Medical Family Tree

What Is A Family Medical History?

- **A family medical history or medical family tree is a record of important medical information about your relatives, including illnesses and diseases, along with the relationships among the members of your family. A family health or medical history is begun by talking with your immediate family members -- parents, grandparents, and siblings -- as they provide the most important links to genetic risk.**

Why Is Your Family Medical History Important?

- **As you write down your family health history, you may notice some interesting trends. These types of patterns can indicate that you are at a higher risk of developing a particular disease. With the insights gleaned from your family health history, you can work with your doctor to create screening protocols that are tailored to your individual health risks.**

How Is a Family Medical History Used?

Diagnosing	Diagnosing a medical condition
Determining	Determining whether you may benefit from preventive measures to lower your risk of a specific disease
Deciding	Deciding what medical tests to run
Identifying	Identifying other members of your family who are at risk of developing certain diseases
Calculating	Calculating your risk of certain diseases
Calculating	Calculating your risk of passing certain conditions to your children

What Should Be Included in a Family Medical History?

- Going back about three generations (to your grandparents or great-grandparents), try to collect details on every direct family member who has died and the cause of death. Also, document the medical conditions of all family members, including the age at which they were first diagnosed, their treatment, and if they ever had surgery. Important medical conditions to document include:

- Cancer
- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Mental illness
- High blood pressure
- Stroke
- Kidney disease
- Alcoholism
- Birth defects
- Learning disabilities
- Vision or hearing loss

Other Sources of Information

- **Family documents:** Diaries, old letters or obituaries may mention health concerns over the years.

- **Public archives:** Birth, marriage and death certificates often list medical information.

- **Genetic testing:** A number of options are available today if you want to know more about your genetic makeup and predisposition for certain diseases and conditions—from seeing a geneticist to using at-home kits.

- **Adoption resources:** If you were adopted, your adoptive parents or the agency from which you were adopted may be able to help.

Diseases of our Ancestors

It does not take long delving into the world of genealogy to see that death and high mortality rates were more intimate and frequently encountered facts of life for our ancestors than for us in modern times.

Five of the most prevalent diseases our ancestors had to contend with.

Cholera- Several cholera epidemics swept through Europe and North America during the 1800s, killing hundreds of thousands.

Influenza-The Asiatic flu took lives across the globe during the 19th century, spreading quickly from Russia into Europe and across the ocean to North America. The worst influenza pandemic occurred during 1918 to 1919 when an estimated 50 million people died across the globe.

Smallpox- was one of the deadliest diseases known to man.

Tuberculosis or consumption-was one of the most feared diseases in the world during the 19th century.

Typhus-was in epidemic proportions during the 19th century. In Canada in 1847, more than 20,000 people died from it.
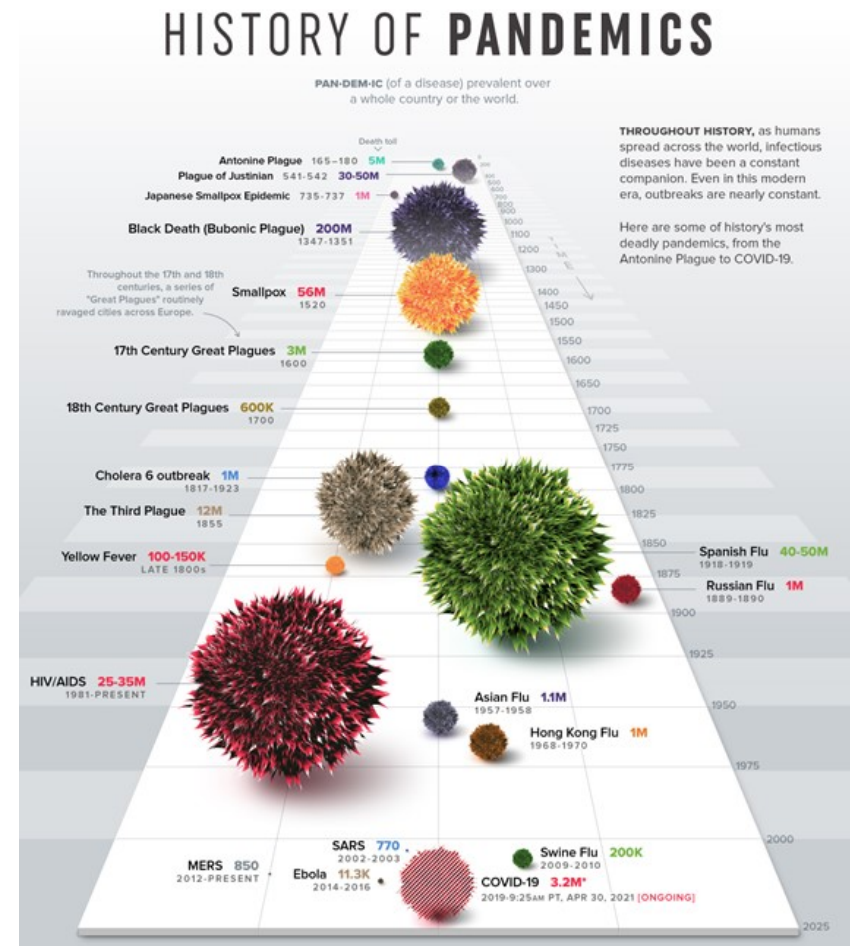
Medical Conditions

- Pleurisy

- Meningitis

- Jaundice

- Dysentery

- Our ancestors also delt with medical conditions that could cause an infection and lead to death.

- In doing your family history; medical conditions, illnesses and causes of deaths in the family are an essential element to have written down.

What Our Ancestors Died of

- Whenever possible, learn whether there were outbreaks of epidemic disease in an area about the time your relative died. If a child died while a smallpox outbreak ravaged the vicinity, consider that may have killed your family member too. Halifax had smallpox at the turn of the nineteenth century, as well as cholera epidemics a few decades later. There was a visitation of the mis-named "Spanish" influenza after the end of World War One.

- **Timelines can be helpful to have on hand when researching.**

- **Cause of death can be found in several documents generally accessible to genealogists and historians.**

NOTICE.

PREVENTIVES OF

CHOLERA!

Published by order of the Sanatory Committee, under the sanction of the Medical Counsel.

BE TEMPERATE IN EATING & DRINKING!

Avoid Raw Vegetables and Unripe Fruit !.

Abstain from **COLD WATER**, when heated, and above all from *Ardent Spirits,* and if habit have rendered them indispensable, take much less than usual.

- Be sure to check for death certificates or county death registries, newspapers, family Bibles, mortality schedules, and even church records, which will frequently list such information. Many of these are available online at major genealogy sites like MyHeritage, Ancestry, or FamilySearch. Others can be obtained on microfilm from the Family History Library, viewed on other sites, requested from local libraries, or ordered from archives and government facilities.

Old Disease Names

- Bladder In Throat: Diphtheria.
- Bronze John: Yellow fever.
- Chill fever: Swelling of extremities caused by exposure to cold.
- Cramp Colic: Appendicitis.
- Domestic Illness: Mental breakdown, depression.
- Falling Sickness: Epilepsy.
- Milk sickness: Disease from milk of cattle which had eaten poisonous weeds.
- Rose cold: Hay fever or nasal symptoms of an allergy.
- Teeth: Death of an infant when teething.
- Water on brain: Enlarged head.
- Yellowjacket: Yellow fever.

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The Family History Guide

About The Family History Guide

- The Family History Guide is a free website that represents a best-in-class learning environment for family history. Its scope is broad, but its focus is narrow enough to help you achieve your goals, step by step. Whether your brand new to family history or a seasoned researcher—or somewhere in between—The Family History Guide can be your difference maker.

The Family History Guide

Intro   **FamilySearch**   Ancestry   MyHeritage   Findmypast   Trainers   Activities   Youth   Media   Faiths   Countries   Vault   Tracker   Misc.

Sections   Overview Vide   Guide   FAQs   About the Projects   Project Resources

🖶 Print

1: Family Tree

2: Memories

3: Descendants

4: Discover

   Knowledgebase

   Goldie May

   Surname eBooks

5: Indexing

6: Help

7: Technology

8: DNA

Family Tree App

Memories App

Introduction

Overview Video

Summary

1. Look for ancestors with a light-blue icon in the couple's box—this means that record sources are available. If you don't see any of these icons, expand one or more ancestor lines to find them.

2. Click the **light-blue icon** for an ancestor.

3. In the list that appears, click the link for a hint (or click **Show All** to see all record hints for the ancestor, and then select a link). This displays a Record Hints table with additional information for the record.

4. If an image is available below the table, click "View the original document" to see the record. To see the record collection on FamilySearch, click the Record Collection link.

5. To see additional information, click **Document Information** (down-arrow). This displays the Digital Folder Number and Image Number. If this is an indexed record, you can click "Thank the volunteer" to send a thank-you message to that person.

6. If you would like to use information from this record to use as a source citation, copy the text found below "Citing this Record." To close the information dialog, click the "X" icon in the hints window.

7. Click **Review and Attach** for the record and person you're interested in. This displays the "Attach Historical Records to

John Thomas Bailey

25 September 1892–15 August 1972 (Age 79)
Boyton, Suffolk, England, United Kingdom

⊟ VIEW RELATIONSHIP

The Life Summary of John Thomas

When John Thomas Bailey was born on 25 September 1892, in Boyton, Suffolk, England, United Kingdom, his father, William Bailey, was 27 and his mother, Mary Elizabeth Snape, was 27. He had at least 2 sons with Jeanie Neave Bennett. He lived in Adlington, Cheshire, England, United Kingdom for about 10 years and Queens, New York, United States in 1930. He died on 15 August 1972, in Old Lyme, New London, Connecticut, United States, at the age of 79.

Parents and Siblings

William Bailey
1864–1942 • Male

Mary Elizabeth Snape
1865–1937 • Female

Siblings (6)

John Thomas Bailey
1892–1972 • Male

Harry Bailey

Photos and Memories (2)

Do you know John Thomas? Do you have a story about him that you would like to share? *Write a story*

Spouse and Children

John Thomas Bailey
1892–1972 • Male

Jeanie Neave Bennett
1889–1958 • Female

Children (2)

Harry Bailey
1920–1999 • Male

Jack Bailey
1923–1946 • Male

Activities

Heritage
Learn about John Thomas's homeland.

Traditional Dress
Put your face in a costume from John Thomas's homelands.

Family Time Line

[Spouse and Children] [Parents and Siblings]

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        1860  1880  1900  1920  1940  1960  1980  2000
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John Thomas Bailey 1892–1972
Jeanie Neave Bennett 1889–1958
Harry Bailey 1920–1999
Jack Bailey 1923–1946

New Discovery Person Page

Thank You