Genealogy—Your Family’s History

Did you know that you can come to Alfred Dickey and get help with finding out your family’s history and genealogy? We have a reference librarian who can help you out. Why is it important to know your genealogy? Here are some important facts about genealogy. A direct lineage or “pedigree” will typically begin with you, and then you follow a particular surname or bloodline back through the generations. You may not always be able to trace a surname past a certain point as surnames weren’t typically used in Europe until the 1400s. Before that, an individual was titled according to their trade, father’s name, or physical features. If searching for European ancestors, search the local church records of the country in which they were born. Churches documented baptisms, marriages, and deaths as far back as the 1100s. However, until around 1500, most documentation was for those with royal lineage.

Genealogy can be like putting together a puzzle that has an unlimited number of pieces, as each family member has branching lines. Creating a journal or scrapbook can help you build your tree. It’s important to remember to save everything you can. Census records are mundane, but they still show migration patterns of family members.

Items such as family Bibles and Shabbat or Kiddush cups were typically passed down through generations, and may have some clues to some ancestry. These and other such artifacts or family heirlooms often have legends or tales regarding their origins. Although fun stories, these legends often have hints of truth in them. Researching manufacturers, customs lists, artist sketchings, signatures, and other identifiers may assist you in learning more about your heirloom.

Online records can be easy and convenient to access. However, be cautious when using them to prove your genealogy. Don’t use an online source unless you can also see a copy of the original document. Online resources can be easily altered by anyone. There are some useful websites for genealogy, however. They are: The National Archives at https://www.archives.gov/ and passenger lists at www.statueofliberty.org.

A final note: if you’re starting your genealogy journey, just remember that your task may never be completed. Tracing your family’s roots can branch out and take you across the globe. The use of DNA in genealogy can open up even more lines of ancestors.

If any of this interests you, stop by Alfred Dickey to talk to our reference librarian. You can also e-mail reference or genealogy requests to adpl@daktel.com or call 701-252-2990.
Great Beginnings Family Book Club
Meeting Monday, April 3rd, 6:00 PM at Alfred Dickey Public Library.

Join us for the Great Beginnings Book Club at Alfred Dickey Library on Monday, April 3, at 6:00 PM.

We will be discussing Sharon Creech’s *Saving Winslow*, a book suitable for 6 to 8 year-olds (and their families!).

Stop by Alfred Dickey to register your family and get your book so you can begin reading. We will gather to discuss the book, enjoy snacks, and participate in a book-related activity. Please pre-register in person.

Springtime is Here! Check Out Our Seed Library

The Jamestown Seed Library seeks to benefit the community by providing free seeds to the public. Our goal is to get more people excited about growing their own food!

The seeds are located at the Stutsman County branch of the James River Valley Library System. Seeds are available as long as our stock lasts. We currently have vegetable, herb, and flower seeds.

You can check out seed mats from Stutsman County Library’s Library of Things to help you start your seeds! The seed mat is an electronic device you can plug in that will keep your seeds at a constant temperature so they will sprout faster.

You don’t even have to have a library card to “check out” seeds, so stop by and pick some up today!

Author Corner
Meet Terry Pratchett

*Terry Pratchett* was born on April 28, 1948, in Buckinghamshire, England. He is best known for his Discworld series, but he also wrote other fantasy and science fiction, usually with a humorous twist. Pratchett was thirteen when he published his first story in a school magazine. He left school at seventeen to become a journalist, which is also when he began working on his first novel, *The Carpet People*. Pratchett worked in journalism and public relations during the 1970s and ‘80s. He became a full-time writer in 1987, four years after his first Discworld novel, *The Colour of Magic*, was published. The Discworld series has inspired plays, TV adaptations, and video games. The series includes books for teens as well as adults. They are an interconnected collection of fantasy novels with a humorous and satirical slant. Pratchett also published a number of other novels and stories, some co-written with writers like Neil Gaiman and Stephen Baxter. Pratchett received many honors during his life, including knighthood 2009.

https://www.britannica.com/biography/Terry-Pratchett

Alfred Dickey Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM
Friday 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM
Saturday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
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Stutsman County Hours:
Monday - Friday:
12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
910 5th St SE
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