



# All in the Family

*Voltaire wrote that if you live a good life and do well, you have no need of ancestors.*

Fine for him, maybe, but many Oklahomans are passionate about tracing their family roots and sharing the stories of their families' treks to the Sooner State. The famous cartoonist and Pawnee native Chester Gould must have known folks like that—every time he inserted Bob Oscar Plenty into a “Dick Tracy” story, the old-timer insisted on recounting the tale of his father’s ventures out west by covered wagon.

If you’ve ever been interested in cultivating—and maybe pruning—your family tree but don’t know how to begin, the genealogy collection at your Metropolitan Library System is a good place to start.

Books like The American Society of Genealogists’ *Genealogical Research: Methods and Sources* can get you started. If that sounds a little too hard-core to be a starting place for you, maybe a book written for younger would-be genealogists, something like Susan Provost Beller’s *Roots For Kids: A Genealogy Guide for Young People*, would serve as a better introduction to the subject. You can even buy computer software to help you with your search for the past, and your library might even be able to back you up there. We have books like Marthe Arends’ *Create Your Own Family History Book With Family Tree Maker, version 8, the Official Guide*.

But here’s your best bet for a successful introduction to one of America’s most popular hobbies—check out the “Genealogy for Beginners” research guide on our website, [www.metrolibrary.org](http://www.metrolibrary.org). When you get to the website, type the word “genealogy” in the “Search our website” box, hit “enter” and you’ll be taken immediately to the “Site search” page. The research guide you want will be at the top of the list. The guide was prepared by Downtown librarian Phyllis Davidson, an avid genealogist and one of *info* magazine’s most popular book reviewers.

Much of the material that will help you along is cataloged as “Reference,” which means that you’ll have to use it in the library because it cannot be checked out, but when you find something you can use at home, get your library card ready

and log into CyberMars, our online catalog, and reserve the books you want to look at. We’ll then send them to whichever MLS library is closest to you and you can pick them up. It’s pretty easy.

So, if you’ve ever wondered if you’re related to a king or a horse thief, one of the early immigrant groups or one of the Indian tribes, with our help it won’t take you long before you start on the road to finding out. It’s never too late to begin.

