

WORD LIST FOR THE YOUNG FAMILY DETECTIVE

Genealogist

A person who studies family history.

Genealogy

The study of family history

Family Tree

An illustration of the members of a family in the form of a tree.

Ancestor

A person from the past in your family tree. For example, your great-grandfather is your ancestor.

Descendant

A person in your family tree who is a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of someone in the past. For example, you are a descendant of your great-grandfather.

Ancestor Chart

A chart that starts with you and shows all the ancestors you know. For example, an ancestor chart might show you, your parents, your grandparents, your great-grandparents etc. It is also called a pedigree chart, or an *Ahnentafel*, a German combination word made up of the words for ancestors (Ahnen) and table or chart (tafel).

Descendant Chart

A chart that begins back in the past with the earliest known ancestor and ends with your generation. Often the earliest ancestor is the person who came to the United States from somewhere else in the world.

For example, you are a descendant of Plikard Siler and his wife Elizabeth Hartsoe. Plikard came to America from Germany back in the 1700s. He is the earliest known ancestor. Plikard and Elizabeth had many children, and one of them was their son Weimar. Weimar Siler was born here in America. He married Margaret Rafferty. You belong to the Weimar and Margaret Siler branch.

A descendant chart would begin with Plikard and Elizabeth at the top. Below their names would be the names of all their children, and below them the names of all their grandchildren and so on until the long line of descendants would include you!