

Timelines

FamilySearch.org

WHAT IS A TIMELINE?

A Timeline is your life or the life of your ancestor in outline form.

It includes only the basic dates and places of events that happened in your life or the life of your ancestor. It can also include historical events.

WHY CREATE A TIMELINE?

If you are planning to write your own personal history creating a timeline first helps you organize what you will write. It can serve as a basic outline for your history.

When searching for information about an ancestor, a timeline not only allows you to organize their life into the key events, but it also helps you to see possible mistakes in the information you have about an ancestor. Putting the place where events occurred helps you to see where the ancestor moved.

For example, if an ancestor died in 1846, he cannot be alive when the census was taken in 1850. Or, perhaps a female ancestor was only ten years old when her first child was supposed to be born. If an ancestor has a child born in England in 1900, they are unlikely to also have a child born in Utah in 1900. A timeline helps you to see the things that don't make sense.

WHAT GOES ON A TIMELINE?

A timeline normally begins with the birth of the person the timeline is for and ends with their death, or the present date. It can include any events that were significant to that person, including: school events, church events, personal events (first tooth), family moves, government events, historical events, brothers and sisters births and/or deaths, marriage, etc.

ONLINE TIMELINES

www.ourtimelines.com

To add your events to historical events timeline.

www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/materials/timeline

To add your events to your own time line