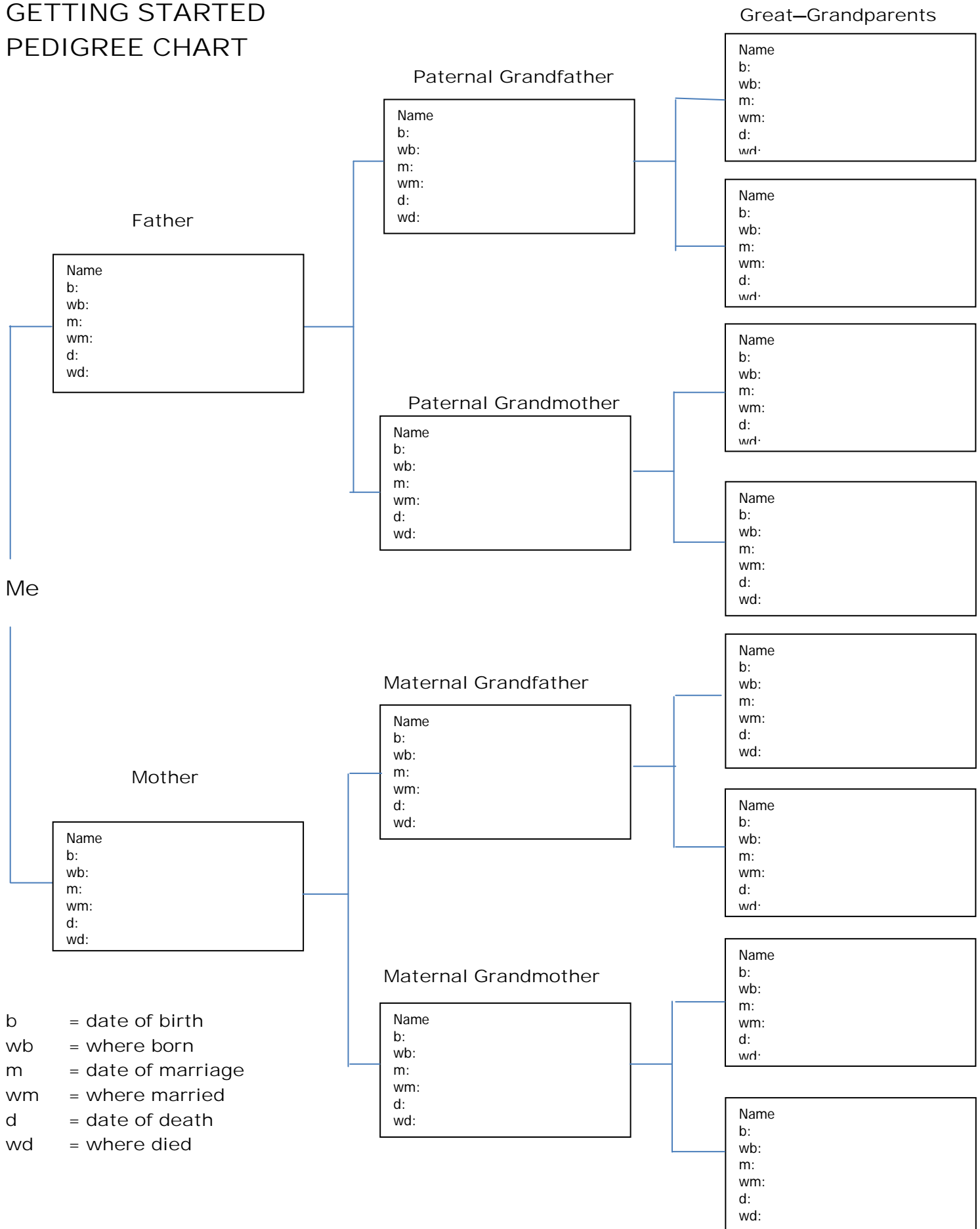


FOUR GENERATION GETTING STARTED PEDIGREE CHART





STARTING TO FIND YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

- 1 Always work backwards from the known (which is yourself and what you know) to the unknown (which is your forebears).
- 2 Write down what you know. Use the blank Pedigree Chart included and start to fill in the information you know.
- 3 Talk to older family members — before they die. They will usually be pleased to find someone taking an interest and be willing to share information and stories. Document what you are told but don't believe everything. Memories can be incomplete, prejudiced, or just repeating family folklore. Sometimes you will find confusion, contradictions and conflicts. So maintain a healthy scepticism.
- 4 Get contact details from distant relatives, uncles, aunts and cousins.
- 5 Seek to acquire family records, photos, letters and other documents.
- 6 Search the Births, Deaths and Marriages indexes and Census or Electoral Roll records, wherever your ancestors lived.
- 7 Always try to get at least two separate sources of proof for each event.
- 8 Classify your information into:
 - *Primary sources like certificates, wills, photos and other official documents.*
 - *Secondary sources like written or oral family histories, letters, diaries, interviews and memories.*
 - *Internet sources including indexes, images, transcripts etc.*
 - *Incidental sources like rumours and folklore.*
- 9 Photocopy or scan certificates and important documents and ensure the originals are stored safely and securely.
- 10 Set up a system to organise and manage your work in progress.
- 11 Don't be afraid to seek help from other family historians, whether inside or outside your family.
- 12 Learn about other community family history information resources, such as State Library, State Archives, National Archives, National Library, local historical societies, and internet subscription websites, and how these resources can help you.
- 13 Consider joining a family history society.
- 14 Early on in your project think about how and to whom you want to present your family history when completed. Don't feel confined to a hardcopy publication when you can include paper, photos, images, video and audio, and publish on CD, DVD, or on the web. Make sure you consider privacy, ethical and copyright requirements.