

# Start Your Family History

A companion to your ancestral chart for Coal Creek, Briceville, Fraterville, Rocky Top, and Anderson County families.

## 1. Begin with what you know

- ☐ Fill in yourself or your starting relative, then parents and grandparents. Record full names, maiden names, dates, and places. Use pencil if you are unsure.
- ☐ Choose one question to work on first: Who were Grandma's parents? Where was a relative buried? Which mine did someone work in?
- ☐ Mark uncertain information with a question mark. Write "about" for an estimated date. Leave unknown answers blank.

## 2. Look at home before searching online

- ☐ **Family Bibles:** photograph the birth, marriage, and death entries, plus the title and publication pages. Note who owns the Bible and who may have written the entries.
- ☐ **Photos, letters, and scrapbooks:** check writing on the backs of photographs, envelopes, diaries, funeral cards, obituaries, and newspaper clippings.
- ☐ **Family papers:** look for certificates, military papers, deeds, school records, church records, and mine or company papers. Scan or photograph originals and keep them safe.

## 3. Talk with living relatives

- ☐ Ask parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and longtime neighbors. With permission, record the conversation; note the person's name and interview date.

**Questions to ask:** What were their full names and nicknames? Where did they live? Which church, school, cemetery, or mine was connected to the family? Who kept the family papers? What stories do you remember?

## 4. Check the evidence and save your work

- ☐ Compare names, ages, spouses, children, occupations, and places. Two people with the same name may be different people. Online trees and hints are leads to investigate.
- ☐ For every discovery, record where it came from: person interviewed, book and page, cemetery and photograph, or website, record title, and date viewed. Save a copy of the record image.

**Share thoughtfully:** ask before sharing interviews or family photos, and keep living people's contact details and personal information private. You do not need a DNA test to begin.

# Coal Creek Miners Museum

201 South Main Street, Rocky Top, TN 37769 · (865) 630-5006 · [www.coalcreekminersmuseum.com](http://www.coalcreekminersmuseum.com)

---

## Where to Look Next

Start close to home, then expand your search. Check library hours, holdings, and access before visiting. The links below are clickable in this PDF.

### Local books, records, and people

#### Master Alphabetical Burial Index of Anderson County, Tennessee

A local resource compiled by Robert Griffith, historian at the Coal Creek Miners Museum. Use it as a starting point for burial research, then compare entries with headstones, obituaries, death records, and cemetery records. **To ask about the index**, call the museum at (865) 630-5006 or email [info@coalcreekminersmuseum.com](mailto:info@coalcreekminersmuseum.com) with "Burial index" in the subject line.

#### Clinton Public Library – Tennessee History Collection

Local history and genealogy books; microfilm of Anderson County court, deed, probate, census, and other records; and local newspapers. Ask about volunteer genealogy assistance.

[clintonpubliclibrary.org/helpful-resources](http://clintonpubliclibrary.org/helpful-resources)

#### Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection – Knoxville

The history and genealogy department of Knox County Public Library, on the third floor of the East Tennessee History Center, 601 S. Gay Street. Ask about East Tennessee families, books, maps, and regional records.

[knoxcountylibrary.org – McClung Historical Collection](http://knoxcountylibrary.org – McClung Historical Collection)

#### Anderson County Historical Society

A source of local history and genealogy connections. Ask about publications and surname or community research.

[pellissippi.wordpress.com](http://pellissippi.wordpress.com)

### Useful websites

#### FamilySearch

Free account; historical records and family-history tools. Some record images have access restrictions. Search records as well as the family tree.

[familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)

#### Anderson County TNGenWeb

Local research links, cemetery and vital-record resources, family material, and archive and library leads.

[tngenweb.org/andersoncounty/resources](http://tngenweb.org/andersoncounty/resources)

#### Find a Grave

Cemetery memorials and headstone photographs. Check the photograph and supporting records; family links and transcriptions may contain mistakes.

[findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)

### A local search checklist

Check **census records, marriage records, death records, obituaries, cemeteries, church records, deeds, wills, and probate files**. For mining families, also ask about company records, mine-disaster accounts, and local newspapers. Ask librarians for cemetery books, family histories, and community histories.

**Try every place name:** Coal Creek, Lake City, and Rocky Top. Also search Briceville, Fraterville, and the family's specific community. Try maiden names, nicknames, and different spellings. Follow clues into nearby counties when a family moved or lived near a county line.

**My next step:** \_\_\_\_\_