

**How do I trace back in my family tree to find out if a certain ancestor is related to me? N.P.**

Thomas E. Collins, a Venturan who is a director both of the College of American Genealogy and of the Southern California Genealogical Society, gave us a pointer or two about tracing ancestors. The first thing to do is to write down everything you know about all the members of your family . . . . births, marriages, deaths, in-laws, locale, etc. Then you can search county records, church records, wills and such.

Various methods are much too involved to tell here, but valuable books have been written to help people like you. In the Ventura Public Library you'll find several, including Know Your Ancestors by Ethel Williams, and The Art Of Ancestor Hunting by Oscar Frank Stetson. These two books are informative and look like good reading for a rainy day.

Mr. Collins recommends that you follow books like these in your search, and says that although it is most fun and most rewarding to do it all yourself, if you would care to contact him perhaps he might do the work on your behalf.

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