

THE HISTORY CENTER

in Tompkins County

MY FAMILY TREE

Many of you have probably read some or all of the 'Little House on the Prairie' book series. You know that Laura Ingalls and her family lived out West, but did you know that her family had their "roots" back here in New York State? "Pa" Ingalls, Laura's father, was born in Cuba, New York and lived there till he was twelve years old when his family moved to pioneer out West.

- ~ Try to locate Cuba, New York on a map of New York State. It's in the southwestern part of the state.

Almanzo Wilder, Laura's husband, (and the main character in the book, Farmer Boy), was born on a farm in the town of Burke, near Malone, New York.

- ~ Try to locate Malone, New York on a map of New York State. It's in the northwestern part of the state below the Canadian border.

Laura was able to trace her and Almanzo's families back through many generations. See if you can trace your families' roots just back to your great-grandparents on both sides of your family by filling in this Family Tree. First, here are a few definitions to help you get started.

KINSHIP TERMS

A family tree is a chart of the members of a family. The members are related by birth and by marriage, and they're called "relations" or "relatives." The names for the relationships are called "kinship terms."

Siblings: That's you and your biological* brother(s) and sister(s).

Parents: That's your biological* mother and father, or your primary caregivers.

**Grand-
parents:** They're your mother's and father's, or primary caregiver's, parents. Generally, there are four of them altogether: two grandmothers, and two grandfathers.

**Great-
Grand-
parents:** They're your grandparents parents, and there will be four of them on each side of the family; two parents for each of your grandparents.

*** Bio-
logical:** Related by blood.

Your great-grandparents were born about 100 years ago, but your parents and grandparents have known them and remember them. Here's why:

- ~ your great-grandparents are your grandparents's parents and your parents' grandparents.

Ask your parents or primary caregivers about their grandparents. And when you're with your grandparents ask them about their parents and grandparents. Before a visit you might write or e-mail them a letter with questions about your great-grandparents to get their memories working.

Here are some questions to ask:

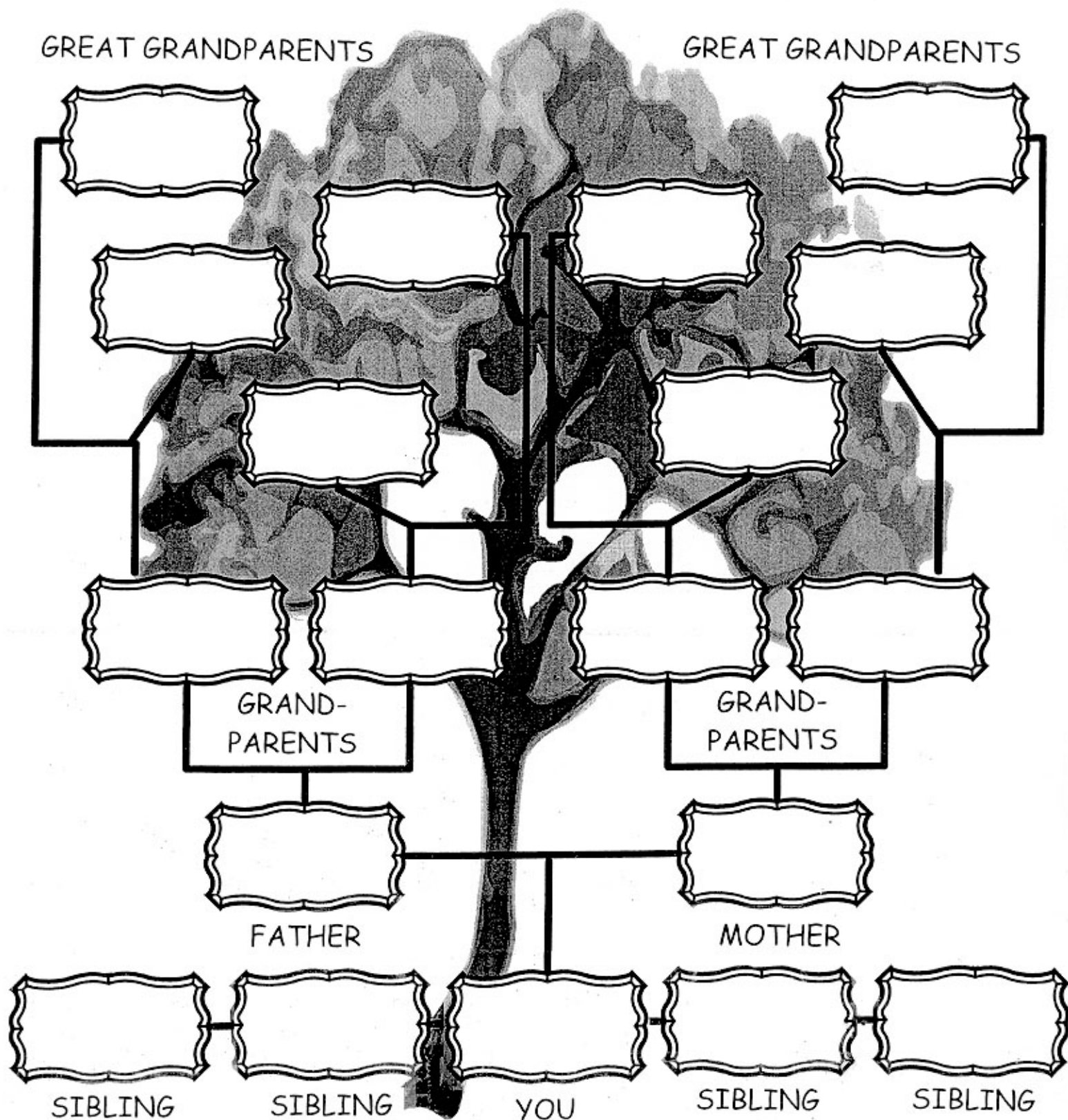
- (1) What were my great-grandparent's names?
- (2) When and where were they born?
- (3) Where did they live?
- (4) What were their homes like?
- (5) What did they do for a living?
- (6) What were they like?
- (7) Any stories about them?
- (8) Does the family have any things they owned?
- (9) Any pictures, letters, and/or diaries?
- (10) When and where did they die?

Now you are ready to fill in your own Family Tree. Keep it as a record for all your family members to remember their ancestors by!

My Family Tree

GREAT GRANDPARENTS

GREAT GRANDPARENTS



Local history POP quiz

1. The Eight Square Schoolhouse is:

- a. The only brick, octagonal schoolhouse in New York State
- b. A place where 4th graders go to experience a day of school in 1898
- c. All of the above



2. In 1817 Tompkins County was named for Daniel Tompkins because he was...

- a. a famous local resident
- b. Vice-President of the United States
- c. a Revolutionary War hero

3. Who was Levi Spaulding?

- a. the inventor of blue jeans
- b. an Ithaca resident and owner of the Spaulding Athletic equipment company
- c. the first African American Police Officer in Ithaca

4. In 1892 Ithaca which of the following happened in Ithaca:

- a. the original ice cream sundae was invented
- b. the first city-wide telephone system was installed
- c. a movie theatre was opened

5. Eleanor Roosevelt visited Ithaca in 1938 to celebrate what event?

- a. The creation of Stewart Park
- b. Her brother's wife's sister's friend's birthday
- c. The opening of the Southside Community Center

6. List the 9 towns of Tompkins County:



QUESTION #1

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT IT!

FIND THE 8 SQUARE SCHOOLHOUSE

When was the 8 square schoolhouse built?

How much did it originally cost to build?

Where is it located?

Do children attend classes there today?



QUESTION #2

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT IT!

Mr. Spaulding is standing in the museum, can you find him?

Where was he born?

When did he come to Ithaca?

What did he do before he became a police officer?

How did he die?