Tips for Tracing Your Family Tree

List what you already know
Start an ancestral chart

Interview relatives
Make family group sheets

Get death records
Death certificates, obituaries, etc. Then...

Follow death-record clues
Time/place of death lead to birth, marriage, other records

Search census records
Learn where ancestors lived. Then...

Search local sources
Newspapers, local histories, property (land) maps, court and church records, tax lists, wills, etc.

Don’t forget
Family histories, immigration records, ship passenger lists, military records, etc.