Classes will begin Tuesday for local residents who want to research their family tree, but don't know how to get started.

The genealogy course for beginners involves a five-part series to be taught by Esther Johnson, a veteran local genealogist .

In addition to this Tuesday night's session, classes are scheduled for Feb. 17 and 24 and March 3 and 10, each lasting from 6-8 p.m.

Classes will be held at different locations.

The second-floor classroom of Mount Airy Museum of Regional History will host the first two sessions.

On Feb. 24, the third class is planned at the Surry County register of deeds office in Dobson, with the fourth on March 3 to occur at the Carlos Surratt Genealogy Room of Surry Community College in Dobson.

The final installment on March 10 will be back at the museum classroom.

Laptops are welcome, but not necessary, with many handouts to be provided.

The class is limited to 25 students.

Museum members will be admitted free, but there is a fee of $5 per class (or $25 for the course) for non-members. Annual memberships are available for $25 for seniors and students or $40 for others.

Amy Snyder of the museum staff can be contacted for additional information or registration at

(336) 786-4478, Extension 227, or aesnyder@northcarolinamuseum.org.