

How To Uncover Your Genealogy

HOW UNCOVER YOUR **GENEALOGY** SELECTED TIPS - 81 PAGES!



81 Pages!

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Why You Need To Explore Your Past

It seems simple to understand why history is important. There are countless times that history repeats itself. We are face with the same choices that we were just a handful of years ago. Did we learn from our mistakes or will we make the same ones over and over again?

Whether you believe in a Higher Power or not, there is still the question of what could have happened to those that are in your past. After all, don't you want to know who was in your family tree?

Could you be the descendant of one of the Kings or Queens of England? Perhaps you have an ancestor that was a war hero in the Revolutionary War. Perhaps the past isn't as pretty with ancestors that died in famines, illnesses or strife, only to save their children that you would eventually come from.

The "what if" type questions are out there and people in general are curious about what it means for them. If you want to know what your chances of learning more about your past you have to give genealogy a chance. You have to try to learn more.

The good news is that it's quite possible for many people to learn more about those in their family trees. The quest starts with understanding the process of genealogy and then learning how to get started on your own journey to learn as much as you can about those that have come before you in your family tree.

Genealogy is the study of family ancestry. It is the study and tracing of the family's pedigrees. During the process of genealogy, you will collect the names of your relatives, including those that are deceased and will then establish their relationship to each other.

This will include exploring various levels of your family tree as well including primary and secondary family members. You will use both documentation and word of mouth to help you to develop your family tree. The goal is to ultimately build a family tree that includes all of your relatives as far back as you would like to take it, or at least as far as you can take it.

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Getting a family history of your family is a bit different. In genealogy, you technically only will get the names of your family members, creating a tree.

But, with a family history, you will take this one step farther by including information about each of those people. Learning more about the lives they lived is part of getting your family history.

Sometimes, this can be done at the same time as creating a family tree, other times it is a bit more complex because of how difficult it can be to learn this information. The goal is to gather as much information about your ancestors as you can to better understand your family's history in both public and private life.

Genealogy And History

One important thing to consider is the fact that your ancestry is part of history. Even if you can't get through the search for your family as thoroughly as you would like to, chances are you will learn a great deal about history and the role that your family may have played in that history. It could be small but it could be something important or something significant.

Sometimes, a search for your family's relatives can lead to reunions, or meetings with others that you may not have known or haven't seen in years. When you explore this path, you may find that distant cousins can offer you information. Or, you may find that a fight in the family has led to a certain area of your family being cut off from you, and it may help to bring you all back together.

In addition to this, you may find that your family was separated for reasons that could not be controlled by them. For example, perhaps a war caused your family to split up. Or, foster home and adoption may have pushed your family into various directions that you didn't know about.

The fact is; there are likely to be family secrets, hush hush memories and much more that you can uncover when you use genealogy as your tool to uncovering your family's history and behaviors.

Indeed, you are likely to bring your family closer together and to have a better understanding for each other. And, for many people this means piecing back together family traditions and revealing family secrets that should have been told long ago.

Genealogy is actually something that people have done for centuries, if not longer. The need to know about your past is a natural, human curiosity and for that there have been numerous different people that have strived to learn as much as they can about their past throughout history.

Generally speaking, though, genealogy was something that was only done in olden times for those that were of power. For example, it was important to trace the genealogy of nobles, kings, queens and emperors. Any ruler needed to have information that showed that he was

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the right ruler for the job. Genealogy was used to help determine who the righteous ruler in many cases was.

If you wanted to claim that you had the right to have wealth and power, then you had to show that your ancestry proved that you were worth it. Demonstrating that you were the rightful heir or the rightful ruler was no little task and only genealogy could make this happen.

On a side note, the coat of arms of a family in the times of royalty were often used to help determine family lineage. This is actually called heraldry. It is the ancestry of royalty that was used in the quartering of the coat of arms of a family.

In many cases, though, modern ancestry studies have shown that many of those that used these methods to “claim” their righteous place in royalty were actually not authentic. They were merely fabrications that didn’t prove anything, really. The most notable of these, of course, are those kings, emperors or other rulers that used their ancestry to show how they were linked to gods and the founders of the civilization itself.

The fact is that genealogy is something that can only be traced through truth, and that is something that is in the eye of the beholder. While you can probably find documentation to support more modern claims of ancestry, going back quite far in time is difficult.

Nevertheless, it is a story that you can tell! Imagine begin able to say that your great, great, great grandfather was part of the Royal Family!

The search for answers, then, will start with the need for authentic answers. For that, we turn to modern methods of uncovering the truth of families, first.

Research And Effort Methods

The process of learning about your family is likely to be one that offers several key searches. You'll use a wide range of these methods to get to the answers you need.

Types of relationships among your family members will include kinship to various groups or associations.

A surname search is called a one name study which will only give you details about a certain family name, passed down over time.

A small community, village or even church parish may offer help in the research methods. This also includes a one place study, which is just a search of on location's family lines.

Or, you can use a particular person to search for, for example trying to use your family's history to connect to another person's family.

The truth is that you'll likely need to go through many of these methods to find the answers that you need. In many ways, it's a process of looking where you didn't know you needed to look for answers regarding your family.

Even if your family doesn't have any known connection to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, commonly known as LDS, you may still be able to use their records to help you to learn about your family.

During the 1900's, this group worked hard to create a program of moving all of their available records on ancestry into the valuable tool of microfilm. They placed all records they had in this medium, to safeguard them. In addition to this, they also created an index that was used to keep track of all of their members.

These two undertakings were large, thorough and would become one of the best tools for genealogical searches today. Today, these two projects have been folded together and are in two databases that are readily accessible.

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The International Genealogical Index, which is known as IGI, is a tool that can be used. It is a transcription record of filmed civil and ecclesiastic records. These records have come from various locations from cooperating local areas around the world.

The other database that you can use is known as the Ancestral File or just simply AF. This database is used to collect the information about the member's contributions over time.

So, how can these databases help you? First off, the IGI is one of the best records of old birth and marriage records from the LDS. It has records of those that have been born, died and married starting from well back to 1500. Most of this information is from the United States, Europe and Canada.

Generally, information regarding members has been able to reveal quite a bit about family ancestry from these resources.

How can you use the LDS's collection of information? In Salt Lake City, Utah the collection of these microfilms is located. The resources are located at the Family History Library which has a vast collection of information regarding the entire society.

Yet, you don't have to travel there to find them. There are branches (some 4000 of them) around the country and world that can offer you help.

You can visit these locations, request information or even rent information for your on site research needs. In fact, they have expanded this search ability to the internet as well. You can visit the collection at this location at FamilySearch.org.

Creating A Family Tree

You have two options. First off, you can use just paper and your notes to create your family tree, which will look like a tree with all of its branches. But, this is hard to keep organized and can be a good tool if it is used correctly and managed.

The other option that you have is Family Tree Software products which can help you to determine an effective, electronic method of managing your family tree. In a later chapter we will talk more about how software can aid you in the process of uncovering your family tree. It's important, though to consider it as a tool for organization if not for finding your family members.

Placing the names of those people that you have learned about on your family tree is a process that requires a good eraser. It will be fun to put the pieces together, but it will also be difficult to organize.

Tips For Managing Your Family Tree

These tips will help you to get your family tree up and running. Your goal is to do the best that you can to keep it organized, so that it is easy for you to use later.

Group each person by the family that they belong to. If they have more than one connection, place these families near each other, and show their relation.

Group families by how they are related. If the two men are brothers, note this. Determine how each family relates to each other and note it.

Sometimes, using index cards can help you to keep large families organized. Even for those that are alive, create an immediate family index card, which includes the family, members, dates of birth and location that you can refer to later, over and over again.

Place blank spots near those people that you haven't found. For example, if you find out that there's a sister to one of your cousins that you don't know their name, mark that there is a sister. Later you may find their name and information.

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Every once in a while, go back to the beginning of the project and see if there are any blanks that you can fill in. Often, you can learn a lot without realizing it.

It also pays to include others in this information that you've found. For example, if you are working on your genealogy project with your sister or aunt, when they see your family tree laid out, they may remember some additional information from the information that you have gathered. This information is important to gather.

Hiring A Professional

Probably the most expensive option for you to use is that of hiring a professional genealogist. These individuals are likely to provide you with the highest quality results, if you select one that is responsible, experienced and dedicated to providing the information to you.

Hiring a professional to do this work for you is a good idea, especially if you find yourself at a road block. Yet, it is essential that you do your homework to find someone that is willing and capable of providing you with the information that you need. There are, unfortunately, many organizations that are only looking for a payday rather than looking to help you to put together your family's story.

Find out what history that professional offers. What has he done for others? What is the farthest back he or she has been able to go for other families? In addition to this, you want to know how it will happen. Where will they gather additional information, how will they do more than you did and what can you expect to learn from what you are offering them?

In getting this information, you should also make sure that the professional will be providing you with an accurate family tree. For example, it makes no benefit to you to be filled with inaccurate information, and since you likely have no way of knowing if it's authentic, you need an upfront guarantee.

Getting references for those that you employ and then understanding what they really can offer you is essential. Make sure to check them out with the Better Business Bureau or similar organizations as well.

Family Tree Software

There are two types of genealogical software that you can purchase. By far the most is that which will help you to store, organize and later display the family tree information that you determine. This type of software is a benefit especially when a paper like tree would be too much to keep organized.

The other type of software available is that which can help you to find your family tree members. Some of this family tree software is only basic in what it can offer, some is much more thorough. Although not nearly as beneficial as using a professional genealogist, this software can help to point you in the right direction and help you to fill your tree in.

When selecting software for your use with your family tree project, realize that not all software is the same in quality. One of the best things you can do is to look for reviews of specific programs from the web and from other consumers that have used it. This will give you the best estimate of the quality and the worth of the software to you.

Using additional resources for your family tree search is important to those that want to go as far as they can with their search. Not only will it help to do this, but these tools can make organizing and time management of this large project much easier on you.

Getting Started In Genealogy

The study of genealogy is one that many people find quite rewarding. By taking the time to learn about their family, people often learn quite a bit about themselves in the process. Taking the time research your family can be quite a rewarding experience for you and for all that are around you. It will open the door to what your family has lived through and provide you with a look into the world that they were exposed to. Often, you will learn things that you may not have known about any other way.

To get started, you can easily take the time to learn about the options that are available to you. Your first decision will be how much work you will want to do on your own. For some, this may be taking the time to secure information from your family. Or, you may determine that you will want to work with a professional genealogist. Whichever your choice is, you should then pursue the options that you have in it. Depending on how deep into your past you would like to go, you have resources to help you to achieve these objectives.

When it comes to learning about your family, there should be little that stops you from doing so. You have many resources available to you because, like you, there are thousands of people that are dedicated to learning more about their family's history. It is a natural curiosity that many humans want to know. Where did they come from? And, when they do this, they can reap the rewards of learning more about themselves. Once you determine which way you will do this, you can move on to starting your task. More than likely, you will be like most others and find that this is a very rewarding experience to be in.

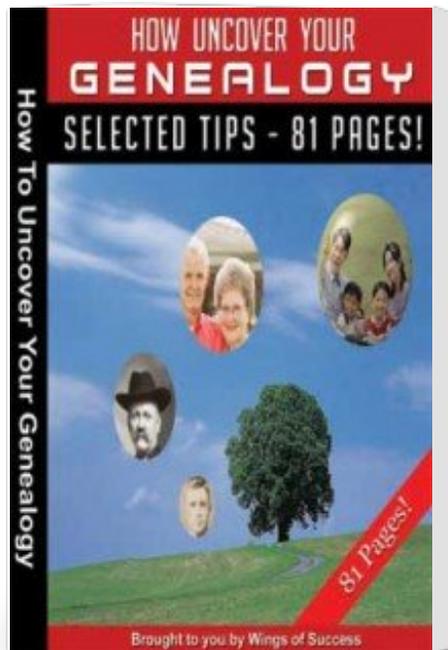
Your Family: A Great Source For Genealogy Research

One of the first things that you should do when you want to learn about your family's history is to begin by working on those living members of your family. Believe it or not, they may hold the keys that you need to learn about your family's history. Even though you may not think that it is important to talk to even your distant cousins, there are many benefits to doing so. Take into account what role that they play in your family's blood line and then begin talking to them about what they know about your genealogy.

The first thing that you will want to do is to work on names of ancestors. Some people may actually know the maiden names of female figures in your history. Some will know the names of those siblings and such that may not play a direct role in your history but still are part of your family tree. What you will want to do is to try to construct a family tree based on the names that have been given to you.

Don't stop there, though. You will want to hear the stories that they can offer you as well. These stories are full of a rich history and often have tidbits of history as well as tidbits of details that you need in order to make them come to life. You will find that these are things you need to know. Perhaps they will know the cities in which your family members grew up in. Or, they may know what region of the country their ancestors lived. They may know that someone was in the war or that someone else was in jail. These are informational pieces that you can use to begin your backward journey into your past. Each one of them offers a little more information about your past that you need to know.

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