

Family History Work

my name

Welcome to the world of Family History!

First of all, you don't need to be an expert at any of this. What you do need is a plan...and to be held accountable for your goals. Examples of a Family History goal you set could be one of the following:

- Every wednesday at 8 pm.
- 40 hours during each of the months of January, April, July, October.
- 3 hours a month before church on fast sundays.
- Dinner with friends followed by an hour of family history work together.

Make it fun.

Give yourself a break.

Give yourself a reward.

Make the process work for you so it's enjoyable. Include your family in the process. After all, this is about you connecting with your family...both past and present. The more you find, the more you're hooked. Trust me. It's addictive.

For me, the way I learned how to navigate and "do" family history work was just to create an account and poke around. Once I understood the structure of Family Search, everything was self-explanatory and honestly they've automated most of the process of finding records. You just need to spend some time, search records by typing in a name and figure out if it's them, then attach the record to your family tree. It builds your lineage for you.

I've included ideas for 3 different categories of activities that all relate to temple work : Temple, My Story, Family History Work. Each idea has instructions and a time listed...Anywhere from 2-20 minutes. There are also areas for you to write your own ideas or ones you find online. You can do this! Enjoy.

Love,

Jenalee Marshall (Oakhill Ward Family History Consultant)

"While temple and family history work has the power to bless those beyond the veil, it has an equal power to bless the living. It has a refining influence on those who are engaged in it."

President Russell M. Nelson
"Generations Linked In Love"

Your Log-in Information
(app or website)

membership #

username

password

Family Search Log-in

Steps (website)

Go to the FamilySearch.org website, and click Create Account. Enter the required information, and click Continue. If you are not a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, skip to step 4. If you are a member, continue with the steps below:

Find your Church record number.
Enter your Church record number, and click Continue.
If you do not remember the date, click Try another question, and answer that question instead.
If you do not know the answer to any of the questions, click Skip questions. Later, when you have the required information, you can add it to your account.
Click Continue.
Enter a username and password.
If someone else is using your desired username, available variations appear beneath the field. Click one to choose it, or enter a different username.
If someone might see your username and password as you enter them, click Show Password to deselect it. Instead of displaying the characters of your password, the screen displays dots. You can enter your password twice to make sure that you typed it correctly.
Select a recovery option, and enter the required information—an email address or a mobile phone number.

- **Keep your log-in information handy by writing it in pencil above.**

The recovery option allows you to activate your account and recover your username and password if you forget them.
If your country is not on the drop-down list when you enter your mobile phone number, you must use an email address.
Click Create Account.
Activate your account:
Email: Go to your email account, open the message, and follow the instructions to activate your new account.
If the email did not arrive, click Resend. If you end up with more than one verification email, use the most recent one.
Sometimes, the activation link in the email does not work properly if you open the email on a mobile phone. If this happens, use a desktop or laptop computer to open the email and activate your account.
Mobile phone: On your mobile phone, find the text message with the verification code. Enter that code into the Enter Code Here field.
Click Submit.
If the message did not arrive, click Resend.
If resending the message does not work, check the phone number where the code was sent. This number appears on the screen.

Steps (mobile app)

Start the Family Tree or Memories mobile app.
Tap Create a Free Account.
Follow the instructions listed above, for the website, starting with step 2.

My Temple Goals

My Family History Goals

Plan to Achieve my Temple Goal

Plan to Achieve my Family History Goal

FAMILY HISTORY IS FOR EVERYONE

Family history is much more than dates, records, and research.
Learn 10 ways family history work is more engaging than ever.



1
Interview family members and share stories online



2
Take and share photos



3
Print and share a chart



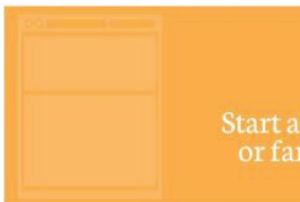
4
Prepare ancestors' names for the temple



5
Record what you learn on FamilySearch.org



6
Index records for online searching



7
Start a personal or family blog



8
Make use of social media



9
Create a digital scrapbook



10
Scan your family history books



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LDS.org

Notes

TEMPLE 5 minutes

Pray to Find Them

Your ancestors are being taught the gospel in the spirit world, and they need your help. When you exercise faith, God can inspire you to find their information needed for the temple. As Quentin L. Cook taught, you should not “underestimate the influence of the deceased in assisting your efforts” (“Roots and Branches,” Ensign or Liahona, May 2014, 46–47).

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

Pray to be led to find your ancestors that have accepted the gospel in the spirit world but haven't been baptized yet.

Pray frequently that you can be a gatherer in this great work and that you can help God's children receive the gospel.

Make a plan to act; consider family or ward members that can help you.

- www.familysearch.org/discovery/activities/the_temple/

TEMPLE 5 minutes

Prepare Family Names for the Temple

When you give of your time to help your ancestors stranded in the spirit world, you show your love for them. You will feel their love and appreciation as you act in faith to find them, because they need you!

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

With the help of a family member or ward member, find a relative that needs his or her work done that you can take to the temple.

GO DIGITAL

You can also try Ordinances Ready on the Family Tree app, which will search your tree and find relatives that need their work done. Click on the temple icon, and then click on Ordinances Ready and choose Baptism and Confirmation.

- www.familysearch.org/discovery/activities/the_temple/

TEMPLE 5 minutes

Visit the Temple

When you go to a temple, or even look at pictures of one, you can feel peace. Looking at photos of your local temple can help you feel prepared to serve there.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

If possible, go to a temple near you. Walk around the temple grounds, or even go inside the lobby. Think about what it will be like to go inside the temple and do baptisms.

Obtain a copy of your favorite temple and write a goal (below the photo) that will help you to attend more regularly. Display this on your bathroom mirror, fridge, next to you calendar.

GO DIGITAL

Look up photos online at churchofjesuschrist.org/temples of your local temple.

Look up your local temple on Google Maps or Google Earth to see the temple grounds.

- www.familysearch.org/discovery/activities/the_temple/

TEMPLE 5 minutes

Plan it!

When you plan your temple trip ahead of time, your excitement will grow and you will be more likely to stay on the path to get there.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

Use the questions below to plan your first trip to the temple with your family or someone else that is important to you. Make this day one you will never forget.

Which temple will I go to?

What day will I go?

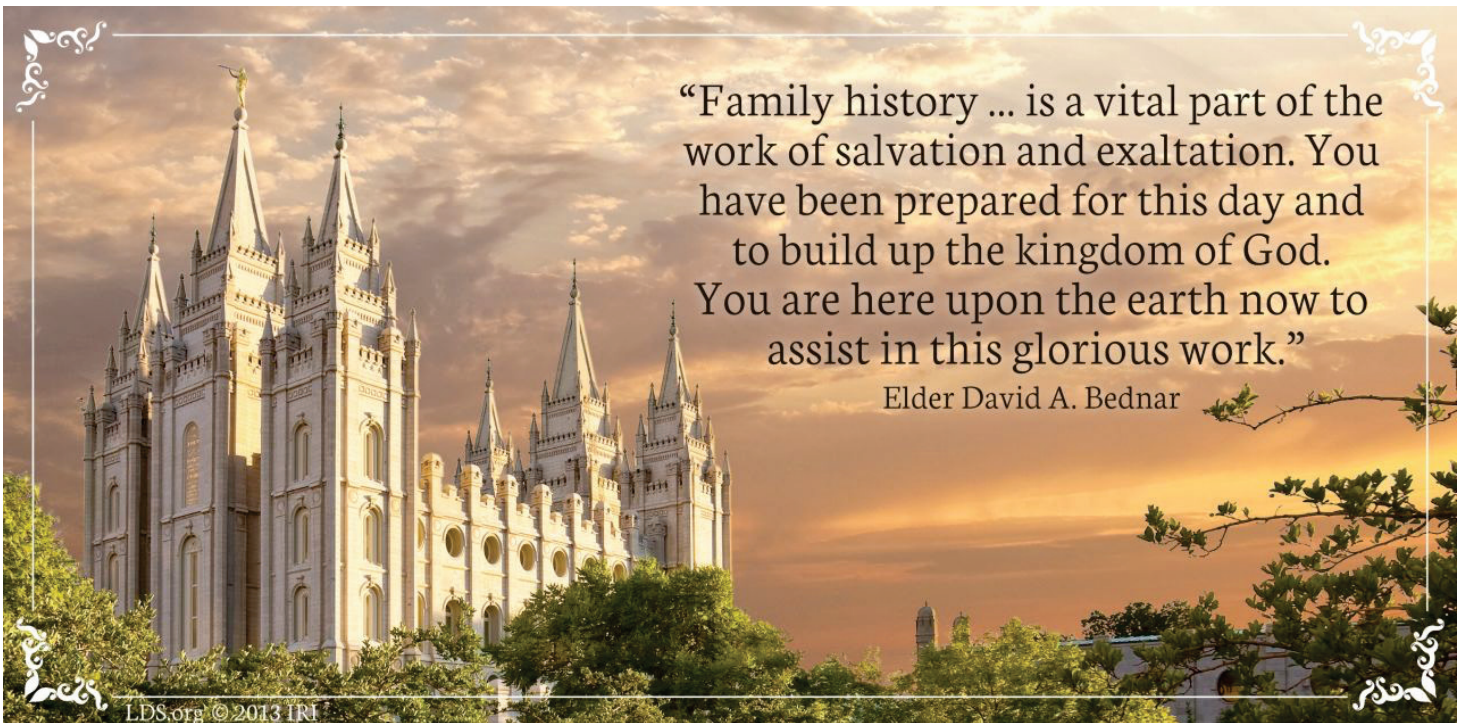
Who will come with me?

What will I do to prepare?

When will I go next?

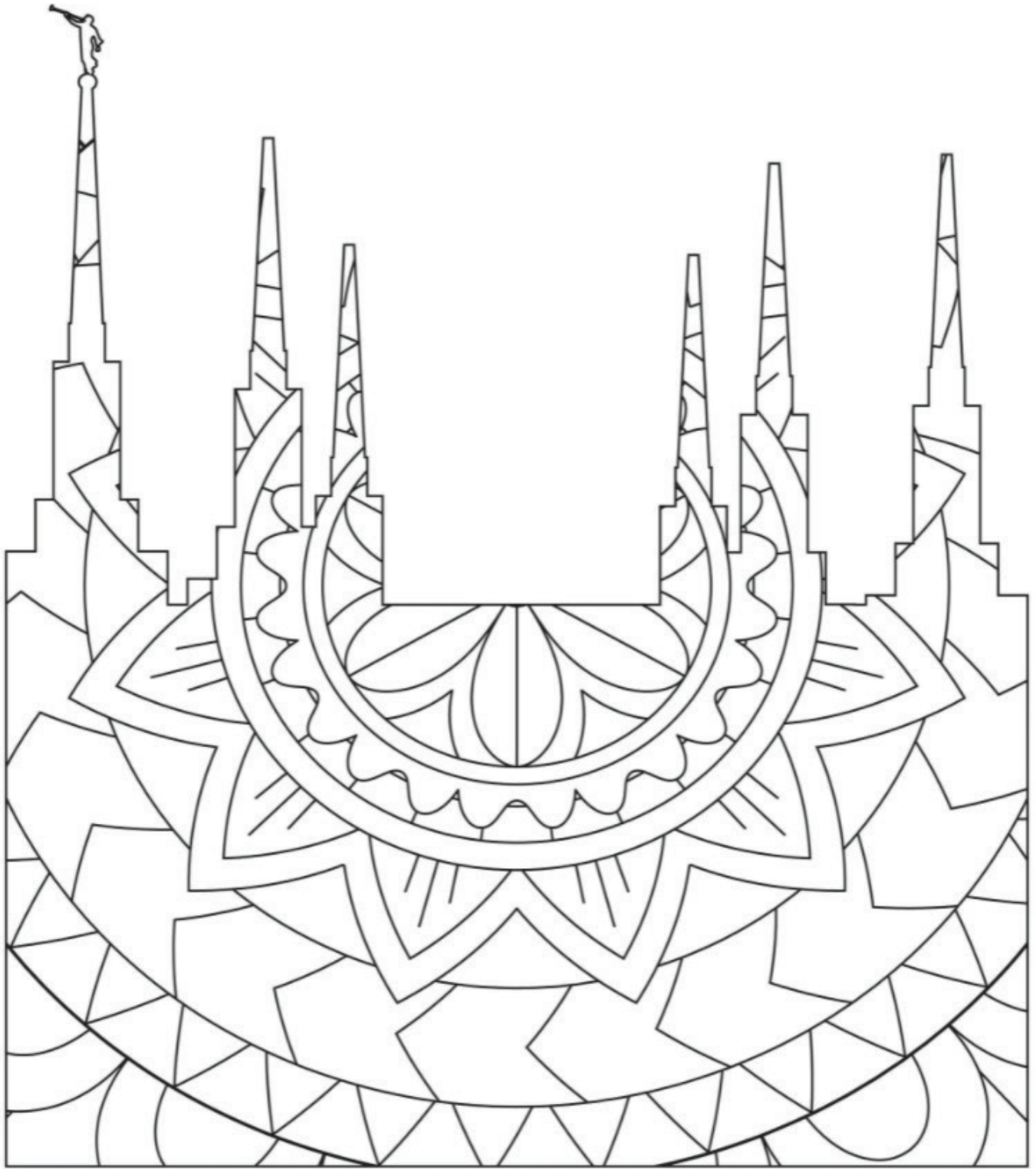
What will I do to remember my experience?

As your trip to the temple nears, consider making personal invitations to family members you want to be there.



TEMPLE _ minutes

My idea



FAMILIES ARE
FOREVER



COME FOLLOW ME

MY STORY 2 minutes

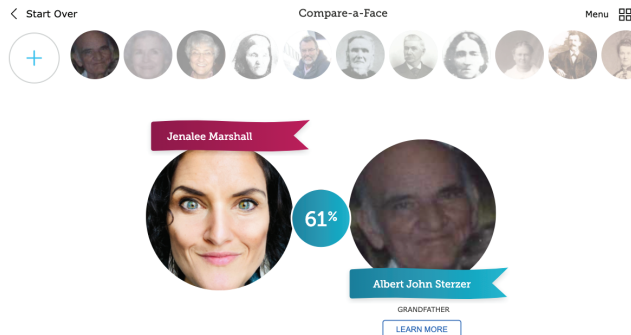
Who do I look like?

Which ancestor do you look most like?

Compare faces and find out.

Share your results on the ward Facebook page for fun.

- www.familysearch.org/discovery/compare



MY STORY 5-10 minutes

Automated Personal History Generator

Take time to record some of your own personal history. Just click on a subject. Type in your response. The website automatically creates a record for you and attaches it in Family Search.

Once you try this for yourself. Help a family member or friend who is less “tech-savvy”. :)

- www.familysearch.org/discovery/recordme/categories

MY STORY 5 minutes

What Is Cultural Identity?

Put simply, your cultural identity is the feeling that you belong to a group of people like you. This is often because of shared qualities like birthplace, traditions, practices, and beliefs. Art, music, and food also shape your cultural identity.

Cultural identity is an important part of your self-image, and it can help you feel more connected to those around you. However, knowing your cultural heritage can tell you about more than just yourself—knowing where you come from is an important step to learning about your ancestors.

DISCOVER YOUR CULTURAL IDENTITY

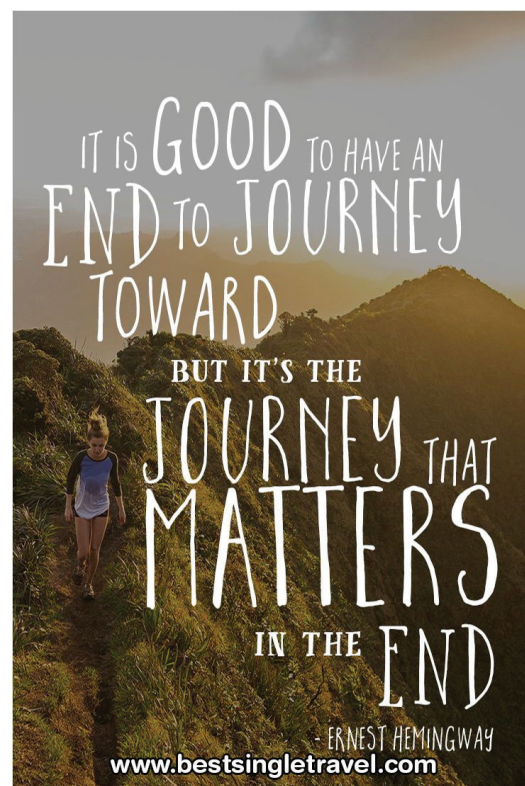
FamilySearch’s country pages provide resources for those seeking to learn more about their heritage across the globe. Each page contains information that teaches where your family comes from, gives resources to help you start your research, and provides links to FamilySearch’s record collections for that country.

Explore the FamilySearch country pages by clicking the links below! You might learn something about yourself, where you come from, or the world around you.

If you don’t see the country you are looking for, check back. We’ll be adding more soon!

VISIT HERE TO START LEARNING:

- www.familysearch.org/blog/en/cultural-identity-country-pages/



MY STORY 5 minutes

What is a Fan Chart and How to Find Yours

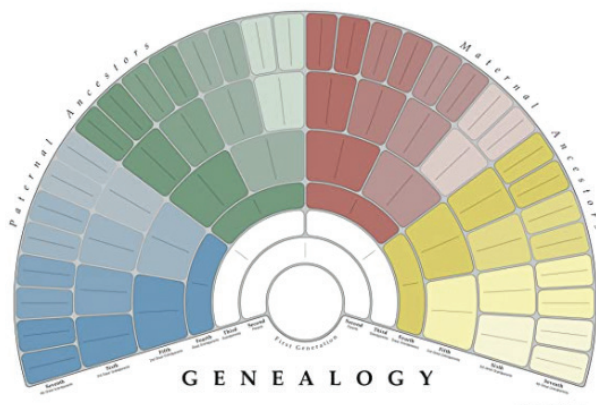
You can find your family tree fan chart by going to your family tree on FamilySearch.org and selecting Fan Chart from the menu in the top-left corner (or you can click here to go straight to the fan chart view). The genealogy fan chart usually displays you as the central person.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

Want to know where you came from?

Use the fan chart feature on FamilySearch Family Tree to view the birth countries of your ancestors.

Where do you see stops in your fan chart. Expand it until you see what gaps form. Then you will know what lineage you need to work on for finding records.



MY STORY 5 minutes

Start a gratitude journal

Your thoughts are fleeting. They come. They go. And if you don't take the time to record them...honestly they are lost. There are so many ways to record your impressions. Here are a few that I use on a continual basis that help me express myself but also are intended for others to experience.

- Facebook (use your profile or start a blog...it's as easy as sending a text message.)
- iPhone Notes (each phone has an app for it)
- Notebook (the \$ store has some small ones)
- LDS Library (highlight talks, scriptures and make a note about a thought or ?)



MY STORY _ minutes

My idea

FAMILY HISTORY WORK 5-10 minutes

Records Hints: An easy way to collect data and link records to your ancestors!

Try FamilySearch Record Hints, a quick tool that can help you add more information to your family tree. It's on the bottom section of the app.

What Are Record Hints?

The FamilySearch system constantly searches digitized, indexed records to identify records that may match records in the FamilySearch Family Tree. When a possible match is found, FamilySearch creates a record hint.

Record hints that match your family can provide new, important information about your ancestors, including the following:

Additional relationships

Additional events and facts

More correct dates

Name variations

More complete place-names

Where Can I Find Record Hints?

You will know that there is a record hint when you see a small blue box or icon to the right of a person's name in the Family Tree.

You can also find record hints in the Recommended Tasks section of the landing page when you sign in to FamilySearch.org or on the Family Tree mobile app when you click the check mark at the bottom of the screen, which opens the Ancestors with Tasks page.

- www.familysearch.org/blog/en/record-hints-how-to/?cid=bl-fsb-8855

FAMILY HISTORY WORK 10-20 minutes

How to Start a Family Tree on FamilySearch: Adding the First Four Generations

If you're ready to get started learning about your family tree, then FamilySearch.org is the perfect place to do it. Opening your own free account is a cinch. Once you have your account set up, you might find yourself wondering, "Now what?"

The best way to get started is to add first four generations of your family. Building your own tree will help you find where you connect to FamilySearch's global family tree. With one link, your small family tree could suddenly stretch back hundreds of years!

Gathering your family information into a family tree can also help you preserve memories and information about your living family. Besides just entering dates and places into your family tree, you can also upload precious family documents, store photos, or even preserve audio clips.

Creating your own family tree couldn't be simpler! Here are some steps you can take right now to get started.

FAMILY HISTORY

Pedigree Chart

<p>1 (YOU)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____</p> <p>Married: _____ Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____ Place: _____</p>		<p>4</p> <p>(Father of no. 2)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____</p> <p>Married: _____ Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____ Place: _____</p>		<p>8</p> <p>(Father of no. 4)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____ Married: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____</p>	
		<p>2</p> <p>(Father of no. 1)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____</p> <p>Married: _____ Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____ Place: _____</p>		<p>9</p> <p>(Mother of no. 4)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____</p>	
<p>(Spouse of no. 1)</p> <p>_____</p>		<p>5</p> <p>(Mother of no. 2)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____ Place: _____</p>		<p>10</p> <p>(Father of no. 5)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____ Married: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____</p>	
		<p>3</p> <p>(Mother of no. 1)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____ Place: _____</p>		<p>11</p> <p>(Mother of no. 5)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____</p>	
<p>Prepared by _____</p>		<p>6</p> <p>(Father of no. 3)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____</p> <p>Married: _____ Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____ Place: _____</p>		<p>12</p> <p>(Father of no. 6)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____ Married: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____</p>	
		<p>7</p> <p>(Mother of no. 3)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____ Place: _____</p>		<p>13</p> <p>(Mother of no. 6)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____</p>	
<p>Telephone _____</p>		<p>14</p> <p>(Father of no. 7)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____ Married: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____</p>		<p>15</p> <p>(Mother of no. 7)</p> <p>Born/Chr: _____ Place: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____</p>	
<p>Date prepared _____</p>		<p>DESIGNED BY JENALEE MARSHALL, GRAPHIC DESIGNER ©2021</p>			

FAMILY HISTORY WORK 10 minutes

Connect with your ancestors by reading their stories.

www.familysearch.org/photos/people?cid=bl-fsb-8856

This link takes you to all of your ancestors. Click on the face or name that speaks to you. This will take you to their “memories” which includes photos, journals, audio recording. When you create a memory for any ancestor, others will have direct access to the information just like you see now. It’s a global community / family where your efforts and thoughts about your family will live on and be shared.

FAMILY HISTORY WORK 5-10 minutes

Feel What They Felt

When you try to understand what life was like for an ancestor, you see him or her differently. Charity is the pure love of Christ. This is a fun way to develop this Godly attribute.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

Ask Heavenly Father to help you discover the ancestors whose lives and stories can help you.

Put yourself in an ancestor’s shoes; read a story about an event in his or her life. What was life like for him or her? What was going on in the story?

After learning about an ancestor’s story, act out that story with your family.

GO DIGITAL

In a search engine, look up historical events that happened when one of your ancestors was alive. Think about what life must have been like for them.

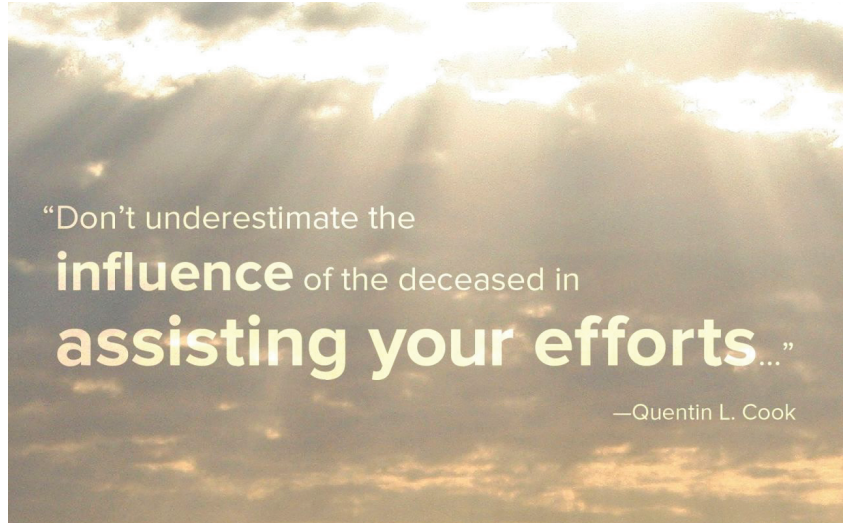
Share what you learned with your cousins or other extended family members. How could you help them feel what you felt about your ancestors?

You can also add this historical context to your ancestor’s profile by adding a “memory”.

Here’s how to add a memory:

Steps (website) Sign in to FamilySearch.org. In the menu bar at the top of the screen, click Memories. In the drop-down menu, click Gallery.

Steps (mobile app) You can upload memories from both the Memories mobile app and the Family Tree mobile app. Tap the plus sign (+) in the circle.



FAMILY HISTORY WORK _ minutes

My idea

Helpful Tips

1. Work With What You Know

This tip is probably stating the obvious. We are all working towards the unknown but there is no way you can do this unless you work with the facts – what you know already.

For example, if you are trying to trace your great grandparents you will first look at our grandparents.

So, if you already have your grandparents birth certificates then you will have some very useful information that you can use.

Information that can be found on these certificates will include their parents names, occupations and residence.

Have a logical mindset when researching! All of this can be used to find other sources of information for your great grandparents.

With this tip you have not jumped forward and looked for your great grandparents right from the start.

Instead you have used what you already know in order to find out more information.

So, you need to prove links between generations of our family tree before you can move on. If you do not do this then you may actually research the wrong family and waste valuable time.

I must confess though that in the beginning I did make this mistake with my own genealogy research. I was so caught up with my finding my ancestors and filling in names, dates and places into my family tree.

These may be tucked away in cupboards, drawers or shoe boxes. You may find old birth certificates or wills either in the basement or up in the attic.

Finding these will help you as they will contain useful details.

Also, by doing so you will not have to purchase them again, and so stop you from wasting your money!

2. Ask Your Relatives For Help

Our relatives and even the people who knew our ancestors are a very useful resource when it comes to tracing our ancestors. They may even know information that is not even recorded.

So, it is definitely worthwhile interviewing them!

Collecting documents and conducting an interview! As I mentioned in the bonus tip above you can also collect from them documents, certificates, photographs and other articles from relatives as well.

You will though need to ask permission from them before you take these articles.

If they want to keep the originals then you can always make copies. But if they do not want you to borrow them then you can always take photographs of them.

Conducting an interview is another way that you can collect information from them. For this you will need to plan how the interview will be conducted and what you will ask them.

By being prepared you will guarantee that you have gathered all the available information that you can get about our ancestors.

3. Record What You Find

At each stage of our research you will record what we have found out. You will either enter this information into a genealogy software program or by using a genealogy search website.

Both of these options will allow you to create and build our family tree.

With a software program, like Family Search/Family Tree (free from FamilySearch.org) we can cite our information and add all sorts of media to back up our findings.

Searching for your ancestors within our tree should also be quite quick and easy with this method.

And also you will be able to print out your findings through reports and charts.

These are all useful ways to record what you have found out.

By maintaining this practice this will help you decide what next piece of information that you will want to find out.

Record whether you have found any information at all! On the other hand though you will want to record whether you have not found any information at all.

You can also note where you have looked and that you were not successful in finding anything.

The reason for this is rather simple.

This practice will save you time in the future when you return to that particular ancestor and want to find out more about him or her.

It will save you from duplicating our efforts as you will not be checking the same sources as you did before.

Family Search is useful in this circumstance as you can make notes regarding our progress.

4. Record Your Progress So Far

Knowing where you are at all times on your family tree is important. Equally important is knowing what information you have found out about your ancestors, such as their name, dates and places, (as mentioned in the previous tip).

Using charts and reports to monitor your progress! Like printing out your Fan Chart (this is mentioned in an activity in this bookely). One way to record your progress is through the use of charts or reports.

These are particularly useful as you can clearly see all the information that you have gathered thus far. It can save you time as you will not have to go through folders and folders trying to find out what information has been found and what needs to be done next.

You can easily update or edit your family tree and then print them out as either charts or reports.

If you were to use the old paper and pencil method then this will be quite time consuming for you . If you did then we would have to redraw your family tree time and time again as you make corrections or found new information.

5. Make Educated Guesses

When you are trying to find information about your ancestors you should try to put ourselves in their shoes. By doing so you will have a much better chance of finding anything.

What do I mean by this you're asking? For example, if you already know when your ancestors were married then you can look for their children in subsequent years.

You may look within either the husband or wife's parish for any of their children.

If you have a census for the couple you can check within the area recorded in this document.

This document may also list their children, (although it maybe possible that on census night the children were staying with relatives).

On the other hand, the couple may have already had a child before they got married.

Or, the wife had a child prior to the marriage. These are both entirely possible and must not be disregarded.

Top 20 Interview Questions and Tips

Preparing for the Interview:

When conducting a telephone interview call in advance so you can set a convenient time for both of you. Several phone calls may be needed to ask all of your questions.

If interviewing through emails then leave space for the answers that you get.

A letter interview maybe the only option for you. If this is the case then enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. You can then send them a thank you letter in response to their answers.

Give your relative time to collect anything that may be of use to you. This will also allow their time to remember stories and anecdotes about your ancestors.

These questions to ask your family members are divided into several parts. You may want to ask all the questions or only some of them. These are a good starting point when conducting your first interview with a relative. You may want to return and gather more information later on.

General Information About the Family

1. What is your full name? Were you named after anyone/ what nicknames did you have growing up?
2. When and where were you born? Where did you live when growing up?
3. What were your parents and grandparents names? When and where were they born and were they named after anyone? You may want to ask about great grandparents as well.
4. Where did they live and what were their occupations? When did they die and where are they buried?
5. Do you have any brothers and sisters? What are their names, when and where were they born? Did they marry and to who?

6. Did your parents, grandparents have siblings? What were their names, and when and where were they born? Did they marry and to who?

7. How did you meet your partner? How did your parents, and your grand parents meet?

8. Tell me about your wedding? Your parents, grandparents wedding?

9. Your memories of parents & grandparents?

10. What can you tell me about your father's relatives? What about your mother's family?

11. What memories do you have of aunts, uncles, and cousins?

12. What stories did your parents and grandparents recite to you about your ancestors?

Your Ancestor's Life

13. What is your earliest memory? Do you have any childhood memories?
14. Describe your house and area you lived?
15. Which school(s) did you attend and what was it like? Who were your school friends?
16. What was your first job? What other jobs did you do during your working life? What were they like?
17. Where did you go on holidays as a child and as an adult?
18. What were your pastimes and hobbies?
19. What events impacted you the most while growing up?
20. What is your greatest achievement?