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**Family Genealogy Search**

**By Catherine Lee**

Today I was out with my mother, and her brother, my 82 year old uncle. I had a wonderful time listening to them tell stories from their childhood about my grandfather. We had such fun. There were lots of laughs between us.

This was a magic moment for many reasons. The first was a brother and sister sharing memories and the second was the sharing of a story of my grandfather. It's something that I'll definitely write down and add to the family album I'm keeping.

When I started researching my family I had lots of information awaiting me. My father's side of the family never threw anything away and we even have my great-great grandfather's birth certificate from England from the 1880's. I have my great-grandmother's family bible and pictures of her second husband in his civil war uniform.

Like a lot of families my family always had boxes of papers and pictures. My grandmother on my father's side always liked sharing family pictures and luckily she had the foresight to put all the names on the backs of the family pictures. I have a picture of my grandfather taken when he was just a month or so old being held by his mother, and this is literally priceless.

When you start your genealogy search don't forget to talk to your family members, they are a wealth of information. Here are a few other tips for you to follow when you talk to family members. If you want to speak with a specific relative the best thing to do is schedule time with them beforehand. I did this with my great-aunt and we had a wonderful time together. It also gave her a chance to go through her home and father information for me which she had waiting for me when I got there.

I also took a small dictaphone machine with me, which she knew about beforehand. She didn't have a problem with it, I just set it off to the side.

I took some pictures with me that my mother had given to me. My mother wasn't sure about who was in the pictures and though that my great-aunt might know who they were. She was able to identify several of the people in the pictures for me.

## Family Genealogy Search

I downloaded a genealogy tree off of the internet for free and started filling it out. I was amazed how much information I was able to fill out just talking to my family members.

To learn more about people search please visit

<http://www.peoplesearchdepot.info>

### **Finding Your Genealogy**

#### **By Kadence Buchanan**

One activity that many families find rewarding and exciting is researching their genealogy. Who doesn't want to know where they came from? Plus, if you research your roots back far enough, odds are that you could be surprised with some type of connection to a historical figure. While there are many sites that provide genealogy packages, doing the work yourself can really be rewarding when it comes to getting to know your relations.

First, when researching your genealogy, you should get some paperwork organized. You should create forms that you should distribute to the relatives that you know of that consist of places to fill in information regarding the births, deaths, marriages, and spouses of those that they know of in the family. Some people find it important to make the entries as complete as possible, listing family stories, occupations held, and other information about the entrants. You may also want to consider purchasing a program that helps you to log this information to ease the amount of paperwork that you will be doing. When you get information from a relation, be sure to ask them if they have any genealogical information that can help you in your hunt. Family bibles are one thing that can provide information about lineage that you may not be able to find elsewhere.

Once you seem to have reached the end of the paper trail when it comes to those that you can contact, you may want to turn your search towards census records. Census records have been around for almost the complete history of America, with censuses being conducted formally since 1790. These records can provide a wealth of information when it comes to finding relations that you may not know about due to the long length of time. Other sources of records for genealogy may include birth certificates, death certificates, adoption papers, divorce papers, and school records. Searching on the internet for your family name can also prove to be effective.

Now that you know the basics when it comes to finding your genealogy, indulge in it! Get your whole family in on the fun, it's exciting for everybody to find out about their roots.

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