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Researching Your Family Tree

By Lee Broome

Researching your family tree can be a huge undertaking for anyone. It involves lots of detailed work and a lot of searching and investigating, sometimes looking into literally hundreds of leads. The first thing you're going to need to be is organized.

If you're lucky like me your family saved everything. We even have our great-great grandfathers birth certificate from England. We have letters from the early 1900's written by the English relatives to the American relatives. We had several dozens of pictures, old postcards, newspaper clippings and the like. The first thing we did was buy sheet protectors for these precious old items to protect them from the use they were getting.

The next thing that you're going to want to get is an ancestral chart. These ancestral charts are easy to find and free to download off of the computer. They are generally what are considered "traditional pedigree charts" with room for up to 5 generations of information.

As you start getting into the process of looking up information on your ancestors you'll eventually end up with lots of papers. You'll want to keep them organized and safely stored in one place. It's suggested that you use a folders, one for each "family" that you are investigating. This is a safe way to store birth records and death records, newspaper clips, etc. Also, write down any information that you are given from various sources on each family member and keep it in these folders. You will want to keep detailed contact information on each person or organization you contact in your search in case you have more questions and need to contact them again.

You'll be amazed as you use the internet to do online searches at the amount of information available to you. There are records from the Civil War, records from WWI and WWII, records from New England dating back to the 1790's. There are passenger lists from ships that sailed to America from Ireland in the 1700's.

To learn how to Find People Online please visit

<http://www.peoplesearchusa.info>

You Can't See The Family Reunion For The Trees: Designs For Family Reunion T-Shirts

By Mandar

You've been given the job of getting t-shirts for your family reunion. The first thing that comes to mind for a design is a tree that incorporates various family members' names. Unfortunately, this is the first thing that comes to most people's minds and so you see that design everywhere. The following are some t-shirt design ideas that might get you out of the family reunion forest.

If you do opt for a tree, you have options to make the design distinctive. A summer or beach-themed family reunion could use a palm tree with coconuts representing names. On a more traditional tree, text can be incorporated in various places, not only the leaves but also branches and even underground in the roots.

A different motif for your shirts could be items that come in groups, especially if the item can be related to the family in some fashion. For example a pizza with names in the slices, a box of crayons for a particularly artistic family, or a carton of eggs (with at least one cracked). If music is prominent in your family, names set into various notes could be a theme.

Time is also a popular theme for reunion shirts. A clock face with names at the various numbers is a possibility, but don't forget other time keeping devices like wristwatches, sundials, even hourglasses.

Your family name itself could be an inspiration. Chef's hats for the Baker family, a waterwheel with names around it for the Miller's. An anvil with hammers or horseshoes for the Smith family. Of course if your last name is Johnson, you might want to forgo this option.

While a tree motif can make an excellent design, don't be afraid to expand your horizons and incorporate other ideas into the mix when coming up with your family reunion t-shirt design.

Mandar is a graphic artist and man-about-town with ExpertShirt.com. Design your own custom t-shirt at

<http://www.expertshirt.com>



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