

You CAN do family history in the summer.....

Check out these Quick, Easy, Fun ideas for suggestions...



GENERAL:

- Keep an easy project WITH your laptop so you can work a minute here and there on it as time allows.
- Choose an ancestor, look at their attached sources and make a quick list of what is "missing" that you can use later when you have more time. ie - they were alive in 1860 but no 1860 census is attached.
- Check your DNA match list for new matches.

FAMILYSEARCH AND MEMORIES APP:

- Download memories app to all of your portable devices!
- Turn on "Record" on your phone the "second" someone starts telling a family story.
- Record a short memory on FamilySearch. ie - How did you get your name? What is your first memory? How did you gain a testimony? What is your favorite family recipe? What is your favorite tradition? What is a silly memory from your childhood?
- On your children's memories tab, record a few short memories. ie - The story of their birth. A time when they made you proud. A favorite story from when they were young. Preserve your voice and your memories for each child.
- Go through your camera roll with a child and have them choose a few favorite photos of themselves to add to FamilySearch.
- One family does "tasks" on FamilySearch app on their phones as they go to bed. They make it a competition.
- You can attach record hints in only a few minutes. Use the options on the Pedigree Fan view to locate record hints that need to be attached.
- Visit a FamilySearch Discovery Center as a family.

MEMORIES (GENERAL):

- Find old letters (yours or other family members), read them and transcribe them. (Google docs/ voice typing works great for this!) Also scan the letters so those who read the transcription can also see the handwriting from the originals. This can be done just a little at a time and it is so fun!
- Have a stack of pictures handy and identify them and write the info on the back of them (with a pen specially made for writing on photos; use a soft pencil on older paper photos or sleeve and label the sleeves; food grade plastic bags are archival and are great for sorting pictures.)
- Take 5 minutes to write down a story or experience. Write down stories that are important to you as you think of them. Don't put it off for the "Someday" when you are going to write your life history.

- Call a parent or other relative and ask them one or two questions and either record them or write it down.
- Take photos or video of the family heirlooms in your home or the home of another family member. Write or record the stories behind these heirlooms. Heirlooms don't have to have monetary value to be important!
- Learn to use a scanning app on your phone or tablet.
- ALTERNATE IDEA: Have a family scanning party. Have a BBQ after as incentive to get the work done.

FAMILY REUNIONS:

- Make a family history Descendancy pedigree chart on butcher paper to display at a family reunion. Have families add information and make sure all current generations are known.
- ALTERNATE VERSION OF THIS IDEA: At a family reunion, the ticket for the first combined meal is a family portrait to put up on the board so everyone can see which families have new baby children or children that have married and any new in-laws.
- As part of the activities at a family reunion, organize a cemetery scavenger hunt. When a headstone is located, share a story or brief information about the person buried there. Treats along the way will keep everyone going.
- Turn on record on your phone the "second" someone starts telling a family story.

TRAVEL:

- On travels, visit towns and cemeteries where ancestors lived. Look for family stories ahead of time to share when you visit these places.
- Bring an ancestor's life history with you on a trip. As you travel through locations mentioned in the history, stop and read that section of the history. Read in the car and move on OR get out and investigate if there are interesting things to see.
- When family visits you (or when you travel to visit family), have photos that need to be organized or labeled handy so the family can work together on identifying who is in the pictures and what they know about the circumstances.

OTHER:

- COUSIN CAMP—grandchildren only (No moms and dads allowed). Share stories about an ancestor and then have an activity that relates to the story. (Example from Lorie: She shared the story of a great grandmother and what a wonderful baker she was. The cousins made cookies and lemonade and then a little stand. They sold the lemonade and cookies and saved the money they made to use for this year's cousin camp.)
- On a Family Facebook page, Ask specific family memory questions. Make sure answers are recorded in a safe place for future use...not just left on Facebook if answered there.
- Watch a short Ancestry Academy video (free app, login with Ancestry account, many videos are just a few minutes long. You can make a video queue for yourself of things you want to learn more about and have it ready.)

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SHARED THEIR IDEAS TO INCLUDE IN THIS HANDOUT!