

GenSig News

Waccamaw Neck Computer Club
Sandra M Barnes
sbarnes93@ymail.com

Gathering Family Memories

By following a few easy steps you can collect family memories at holidays and family reunions. Unfortunately, too many of us think that the right opportunity should be planned. However, if you try to wait for the perfect moment it may never happen. If you tarry too long, busy schedules and sudden illness can interfere. Instead, be prepared for those unexpected opportunities to collect your family history and traditions. A little preplanning can help you gather family history where and when it happens. The best way to start is to create a family history kit that you can carry with you or keep in your car when you visit with relatives. The following

equipment can be held in a small storage container and will fit in even a small suitcase.

Family History Gathering Kit:

##Pencils, notebook
##Pedigree charts
##Copies of an assortment of family photographs
##Camera with film
##Tape recorder

The contents of your kit can vary based on the materials you have on hand, as long as you have the essential tools to

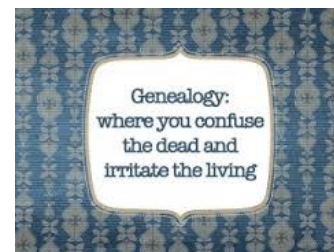
document your family history. For instance, pencils and a notebook are mainstays of genealogical research, but more computer-savvy individuals can use a handheld computer device to record information. The pedigree charts and photographs act as prompts when you are trying to encourage a reluctant relative to share their memories, and keeping a camera and a tape recorder handy helps preserve the details of the visit. Camcorders can be used, but it is usually not practical to carry one with you everywhere, while the new digital recorders that double as a still camera are nice, but expensive.

By Maureen Taylor (www.genealogy.com)

Websites:

<http://www.ellisland.org>
<http://usgenweb.org>
<http://www.genealogybank.com>
<http://www.obituaries.ancestry.com>
<http://www.census.gov>
<http://www.genealogy.com>
<http://www.theolivetreegenealogy.com>
<http://www.findmypast.com>
<http://www.archives.gov>
<https://www.mocavo.com>
<http://www.genealogyintime.com>
<http://www.myheritage.com>

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Tip: Similar Names May Not Be the Same People

Be careful assuming who is who when children have similar names. Just because the names "sound close" does not mean that they are the same child. It took me a while in one family to straighten out Lucinda, Lucena, and Lucy. It turns out that Lucy was the diminutive used by Lucinda and that there were only two daughters Lucinda (Lucy) and Lucena.

Sometimes I think people do these things on purpose.

Posted by Michael John Neill