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“How to Protect and Preserve Your Genealogy after Your OWN Death”

By Tormey, Michael

To an outsider, genealogy must seem like an inherently morbid pastime. After all, genealogists are obsessed with death records, obituaries, cemeteries, gravestones, estate documents, inheritances, eulogies, death masks, etc., etc.

The truth of the matter is, any form of historical research is a backwards-looking exercise designed to understand and document the past. And yes, death records, obituaries and the like can provide valuable clues in such research. But as a historian and genealogist, have you considered your own demise? Will your own descendants someday have a difficult time piecing together the details of your life because you spent so much time researching and documenting the lives of your ancestors that

you forgot to document your own life story? And what of all your research... all the years and decades you spent uncovering your family's past... all the records you have accumulated... all the old photographs you have discovered... all the boxes of priceless information you have saved??? What will happen to these valued possessions after you are gone?

Following are some thoughts to consider.

- Value is Subjective
- Focus on Preserving a Legacy
- Publish Your Results
- Donate Work of Historical Value to a Library

- Identify a Family Successor
- Pass Materials on Before Your Demise
- Disseminate Select Copies of Materials to all Family Members
- Don't Overlook Your Own Story

To read the complete article go to the following website in the citation below.

Tormey, Michael. “How to Protect and Preserve Your Genealogy after Your OWN Death”, “Michael Tormey’s ‘Legacy Blog’”, posted April 28, 2013, (<http://legacy-blog.com>: accessed [access date]).

Websites: <http://legacy-blog.com>

<https://www.easyfamilyhistory.com/learning-center/leaving-your-enduring-legacy>

http://www.genealogy.com/67_donna.html

<http://familytreemagazine.com/article/16-ways-to-leave-a-legacy>

GenQuote:

Legacy: A gift – something transmitted by or received from an ancestor



All this could be your Legacy!

GenTips: **Preserving Your Work** by Donna Przecha http://www.genealogy.com/67_donna.html

To preserve your work you need to use many techniques. Fortunately, there are many methods available for publishing, storing and archiving information. Try to use more than one to improve your odds. Here are the key points:

- Interest your children, grandchildren or a relative in genealogy so they will want to preserve the records.
- Use as many different methods as possible to store the material.
- Keep up with the technology and move your material when newer methods come along.
- Share information, but use discretion. Share with people who will respect it and not misuse it.