

# LIFE PLANNING SOLUTIONS

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## RESEARCH YOUR ROOTS

Many of our clients are retired, and have done extensive genealogical research. Two have even written books and had them printed for family members. Sharing family information, stories and pictures can be an inexpensive way to pass on your heritage, and keep it from being lost.

One year for Christmas my sister pulled all the family recipes and some old black and white photos, and made a simple family recipe booklet. What a treasure! I received it when I was in my 20's and still have it today.

If you like this sort of thing, this newsletter is for you. It contains information on local resources and websites that can help you research your family tree, plus some



ideas for turning them into gifts. I'm writing this now so that if you want, you have time to create something to share with your family this holiday season. Let me know what you learn, and feel free to share this newsletter with others.

Sherri

## FREE RESOURCES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has one of the world's largest collections of family trees, and their Family History Centers are free and open to the public. Go to [www.tinyurl.com/ptp6nrrn](http://www.tinyurl.com/ptp6nrrn) to access the site.

These centers offer free access to subscriptions genealogy databases, which would otherwise cost \$59 to \$299 per year, including Ancestry.com and Fold3.com, as well as military records going back to the Revolution.

Once you go to the site, you'll need to create a username and password, and I encourage you to visit the help page before you begin. I tried to jump right in, by searching for myself. I entered my married name

and date/location of birth, and came right up in the database but didn't find the site easy to navigate without visiting the help page.

Once you find yourself, you can look for other family members and add them, to create a family tree. I was easily able to find my mom and dad, and could see when and who added this information to the database. You can also add memories and photos, and share the site with family members so they can add to the tree.

In order to do a proper search for a person, you need their legal name, date and place of birth, and date and place of death if deceased.

## GENEALOGY RESOURCES

The **Washington Memorial Library**, which is located at 1180 Washington Ave. in Macon, has a Genealogical and Historical Room. According to the website, this is one of the most outstanding reference collections of its type in the South.

The library was founded in 1923 by the Mary Hammond Washington Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who saw the need for the library to provide assistance to people who wanted to research their ancestors.

Since then, the Room has grown to include more than 32,000 volumes and more than 24,000 microforms. It is located on the ground level of the library, and is free to use, Monday through Saturday.

It is such an incredible resource that last year, over 13,000 researchers came from 38 states and 5 foreign countries to use the facilities.

General guidance and assistance is provided by the staff, and copiers are available (20 cents per page). You can also submit a question by mail, and the instructions are on the website:  
[Http://www.bibblib.org](http://www.bibblib.org)

**The US GenWeb Project**, <http://www.usgenweb.org>, was created in 1996 by a group of genealogists who wished to enable online research. Within USGenWeb, there are thousands of websites, all maintained by volunteers.

Some of the things you can access from their website include: query boards, listings of local sources for records, county and state histories, online genealogy books and research tips.

When you pull up the website, you'll see the list of states on the left side. Click on the state, and you'll come to a page where you can research a person, a place or an event. Special reports are also available about specific towns, people or events. It is quite extensive.

And, if you are looking for records, or photos you can post a query to ask others if they can help you out.

**FamilySearch.org** has 986 databases for the U.S. and 502 databases for Europe that you can search by location, time period or record type (birth, marriage, etc). Recently they began adding records for South America and Asia.

**ChroniclingAmerica.loc.gov/** has free digitized newspapers from 1836 to 1922. They are very easy to access, and load on your computer quickly. You search by state, then key word.

**The Georgia Genealogical Society, GaGenSociety.org** is a statewide organization that promotes genealogical research and archiving. They oversee 15 individual Genealogical Societies to include:

Membership for individual is \$35 per year and they meet monthly, and they offer seminars and webinars for their members. I visited their website and learned that they are starting to offer a webinar titled, "Learn Family History from the Comfort of Your Home."

This month, they featured a webinar titled, "Family Gatherings: Dragging Genealogy Information Out of Your Family."

**The Central Georgia Genealogical Society** was founded in Warner Robins. They meet monthly and have special, guest speakers. In July, they met at the Washington Memorial Library in Macon to learn how to use these resources. Their website is [www.cggs.org](http://www.cggs.org).

**23andMe.com** is a website that enables you, via a saliva sample, to receive over 60 personalized genetic reports and understand what your DNA says about your health, traits and ancestry. It will research your ancestry across 31 populations worldwide. The cost is \$199.

*"Our most treasured family heirlooms are our sweet family memories."*

# MY GRANDMOTHER'S MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE:



“Life is lived forward, but understood backward.”

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## GIFT IDEAS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS

**Share Stories:** My father was a great storyteller, and we kept asking him to write them down. When he was 85 years old, he got a typewriter and wrote about 26 pages. He covered the family history to the best of his knowledge, how his parents came to America and eventually met, and what life was like on the farm and particularly during the depression.

Do you have anyone in your family who tells great stories, or who experienced something unique? Capture it on video to share, and store digitally for future generations.

If you need help getting started, visit [FamilySearch.org/MyFamily](http://FamilySearch.org/MyFamily) to download the "My Family" booklet. This booklet is full of questions to ask relatives with space for writing four generations of details.

**A Family Cookbook:** Do you get together for holiday gatherings, where certain people always make your favorite recipes? Have some of these recipes been handed down for generations? It's time to write

them down! Sometimes the person who makes the dish doesn't even know how they do it, so you may have to watch and take notes. Create a cookbook with pictures of these special treat and share with your family.

**Framed Gifts:** As you can see from my grandmother's marriage certificate, some of these historical documents are really unique, and could make a really nice framed gift. You could also combine immigration records with early photographs and birth certificates in a shadow box with other heirlooms.

**Create a Children's Book:** You could put a picture of an ancestor on each page, with a short, interesting story below.

**Create a Family Tree:** I have seen beautiful family tree quilts with names painted or embroidered on the leaves. Or, you could go online and search, "Family Tree Wall Art," and see all of the amazing and fun things you can do with the information you learn.

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