

Do Your Ancestors Want to Be Found?



As you search for your family roots and stories, it's possible that you may make fortunate discoveries of significant information that you were not even looking for. This is called *serendipity or intuition* – the process of accidentally or coincidentally making meaningful family history discoveries while looking for entirely something else.

Most people that do family history have a healthy respect for serendipity and feel that the search for their family roots is often guided in mysterious, unexplainable, miraculous, coincidental ways. They usually have a similar story of an unlikely discovery falling into their lap, like a gift, which leaves them with a feeling of awe, as if their ancestors are helping with the search. It's almost as if your ancestors are standing behind you pushing you in the right direction.

This prodding may come in the form of inspiration, intuition, a dream, a thought that enters your mind, or *just being in the right place at the right time*. But it's a little help from above that can lead you to information you may never find otherwise.

Your ancestors are alive in the after life and want to be found as much as we want to find them. Clearly, as we do this work there is unseen but definitive help from those who have passed on before us.

Examples of Serendipity

- Running into a previously unknown cousin at a far-away cemetery, even though neither person had been there before *as if the meeting had been planned*.
- Effortlessly discovering an ancestor's grave that you shouldn't have easily found.
- Family photos and heirlooms that are reunited with their families under unexplainable circumstances.
- Mysterious discoveries of books that seemingly magically open to exactly the right page for long sought-after information.
- Having a book fall off the shelf and land on the floor to the page containing information you want.
- Several unacquainted people showing up at a library in a city where none of them live, on the same day, at the same time *each seeking the same common ancestor*.



Ancestors Will Meet You Halfway

"We do indeed honor our ancestors when we search for them, and it seems, they return the favor. ... When one makes the effort to learn about the

lives of ancestors, they will often meet you halfway." Megan Smolenyak, *In Search of Our Ancestors*, 2000, Adams Media Corp.

Looking for a Needle

"Serendipity is looking in a haystack for a needle and discovering a farmer's daughter." "Serendipity, the art of making an unsought finding." Pek van Andel



Jules Henri Poincaré

Intuition Discoveries

"It is through science that we prove, but through intuition that we discover." Jules Henri Poincaré (1854-1912)



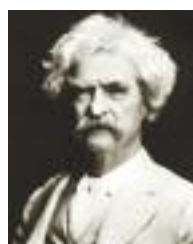
Albert Einstein

Valuable Intuition

"The only really valuable thing is intuition." Albert Einstein

Intuition and Inspiration

"I believe in intuition and inspiration; at times I feel certain I am right while not knowing the reason." Albert Einstein



Mark Twain

Instinct is Worth More

"For all the talk you hear about knowledge being such a wonderful thing, instinct is worth forty of it for real unerringness." Mark Twain (1835-1910)

Searching With an Open Heart

"I was amazed to find success in genealogy often comes from intuition, searching not with just the mind, but also an open heart, enjoying warm feelings with the deceased." George W. Fisk, author



Richard Buckminster Fuller

Cosmic Fishing

"I call intuition cosmic fishing. You feel a nibble, then you've got to hook the fish." Richard Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983), inventor

Help From the Other Side

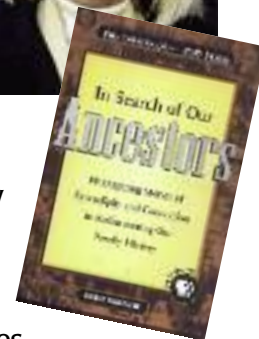
Inspirational Stories

Our forbears are indeed alive and well in the hereafter world. And they are anxious for us to connect with them. Here are some inspirational stories that will warm your heart and illustrate the help provided from the other side of the veil of death in tracing your family roots. Also check out these books and Web sites for more stories.

Megan Smolenyak's Books -

www.honoringourancestors.com

You can enjoy many inspirational stories in Megan Smolenyak's books of how people have experienced amazing incidents in the search for their roots. She was struck by the number of stories about random acts of kindness, coincidence, intuition, and serendipity. She found herself inundated with stories of distant cousins "coincidentally" meeting while visiting the cemetery of their ancestors, and she learned of family photos, papers, and Bibles that were reunited with their original families under circumstances that boggle the mind.

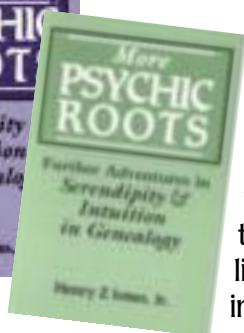
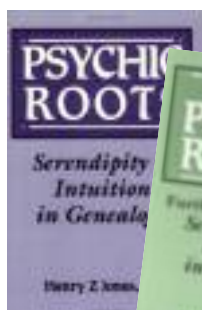


Hank Jones

Hank Jones' Books -

www.hankjones.com

Henry (Hank) Z. Jones, Jr. has written two books concerning the positive influence of coincidence



and serendipity in family history research. Over a hundred respected researchers discuss their experiences in light of synchronicity, intuition, and genetic memory. *Psychic Roots: Serendipity & Intuition in Genealogy* and *More Psychic Roots* contains a collection of stories and experiences contributed by people the world over. As the author concludes: "I do believe that our ancestors have no wish to be forgotten: they want to be found."

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Genealogy Today.com -

<http://genealogytoday.com/family/stories/serendipity.html>



Joanne Rabun relates stories about people being led to certain information in some mystical way.

Ancestors at My Fingertips

Kathleen had spiritual promptings at various times throughout her life. She sensed her Swedish ancestors were there, somewhere, waiting for her. She had searched for information for many years without success, but decided to try again. Before long she had the opportunity to go to Sweden, and found herself in the village church of her ancestors.

She followed the old, white-haired Swedish minister down a narrow flight of stairs into a small room where rows of brown leather-covered volumes lined the shelves from floor to ceiling. She told the minister her grandmother's birth date. He pulled a book from the shelf, opened it, and pointed to an entry. It was her grandmother's birth record. With excitement she watched as he pulled other books from the shelves showing the records of her grandmothers and great-grandpar-

ents families. In five minutes, she had in front of her information that she had not been able to find in ten years.



She quickly and happily copied all the records the minister had found for her, and wondered what she should do next. With only a short time to work in the church, she picked up the book for the next five-year period, but could not figure out the index in the front. She turned the page to where her family had been in the other book, but they were not there. She flipped through the book, trying to find some kind of pattern. With mounting panic and desperation, she gazed at the books lining the shelves. At her fingertips were the records she had been wanting for so long, but she didn't know how to use them! Each book was too thick to go through page by page.

She opened the book again and flipped a few pages. What could she do? She simply sat there, numb with disappointment. Gradually, she became aware of the book that she had just opened. The names on the page looked familiar. Despair gave way to joy as she recognized the names of her great-great-grandparents. There were 417 pages in the book, but completely at random, she had opened it to the one page that had the records of her family. *Ensign*, July 1995, 39

The Face Beyond the Veil

G.G. Vandagriff wanted to learn more about her great-grandmother. She had all the "data" about the dates and places, but wanted to really know her. She felt drawn to her in a way she couldn't explain, and the desire to know her grandmother consumed her. In a bold move, she knelt and prayed one night that she might become familiar with her in an intimate way. She wanted to know what she looked like, what her personality was, what her feelings were by following her husband to seven frontier settlements.