

CHAPTER 10



Other Rewarding Opportunities



There are many rewarding opportunities in family history other than building your family tree and connecting with the lives of your ancestors. Technology has made other family history activities – such as, creating your own family web site, family blog, online photo album, or just holding a family reunion – very fun, easy, and exciting. I hope you explore all of these other rewarding opportunities. You don't have to be a genius or computer guru to accomplish great things, even if you never considered them previously. Just have a little courage to jump in and start paddling and you will discover miraculous things happen to you and your family as a result.

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Suggested Activities

1. Hold a family reunion.
2. Start a family newsletter or blog.
3. Create a family web site.
4. Create a list of all the descendants of your grandparents and share it with all of your cousins.
5. Protect and preserve irreplaceable family records and heirlooms.
6. Publish a family history of your ancestors.
7. Look for ways to express your family history through painting, needlework, music or other creative channels.
8. Link into your ancestral homelands through traditional foods, festivals, and customs.

Sharing Your Family History



Once you have dug up your family history records and organized them into a computer database file, you may want to share your information and stories with others. It's important to share them for many different reasons.

It's more meaningful to you personally when you share with your dear relatives, plus sharing helps preserve your history for future generations. Sharing your family tree on the Internet is a great way to connect with your extended family and collaborate on your shared family history, and it helps them get involved. It allows other relatives to view your information and add their own, thus making it more complete. It's also a great way to exchange family photos, recipes and stories. By sharing your information you can help others in their research and reduce the duplication of effort.



There are more really good, easy and fun ways to share your family history today than ever before.



Easy Ways to Share Your Family History

- Submit your info to large family tree databases
- Create your own family web site (either hosted by your Internet Service Provider or by a social networking site)
- Create your own family blog
- Create your own online family photo album
- Email information and documents or send simple GedCom's to other family members (see Chapter 2 for information about how to create and send a GedCom file).

Publishing Your Family Tree on the Web

The Best Places to Put Your Family History Online

You can easily publish your compiled family tree online simply by uploading a GedCom to an existing family tree database. Some are free and some require a membership fee. Your GedCom can contain your entire family history or just one or more family lines. It can also exclude personal information about living people. There are several websites that allow you to deposit your information, index your family names, view the data, and download a GedCom to interested parties. See Chapters 2 and 3 for more details on these websites.