



Introduction



Our Unique Opportunity

Using today's technology – the Internet, exciting, new computer tools, and new, readily available, rapidly-expanding databases of records from all over the world – genealogy and family history work is possible with ease and in record-breaking time. No people in history have ever had the opportunity to connect with their beloved ancestors, learn about their lives and challenges, and grow to appreciate our heritage as easily and readily as we do today.



J. Richard Clarke
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The Most Beautiful Family Tree

“Through family history we discover the most beautiful tree in the forest of creation – our family tree. Its numerous roots reach back through history, and its branches extend throughout eternity. Family history is the expansive expression of eternal love. It is born of selflessness. It provides opportunity to secure the family unit

forever.” (J. Richard Clarke, *Ensign*, May 1989, 60)

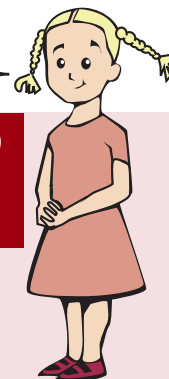
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Suggested Activities

1. Begin to feel a “connection” to those who have gone before you.
2. Plant a seed in your heart for loving your ancestors that can sprout, and that you can nourish so it can grow and get root and bring forth fruit for you and your family for many generations.
3. Read, ponder and experiment upon the suggestions in this book; be persistent and patient.
4. Discuss ways your family can honor your ancestors.
5. Plan a special evening with your family to tell stories and enact a skit based upon your ancestors life.

Here's some Things You Can Do Today to Get Started



FamilySearch.org - www.familysearch.org
Get Started in the *Start Your Family History* box.



They briefly explain six basic steps to do research. In addition, there are many 'How To' articles under the *Research Helps* tab. There

are also lessons and navigation tips for their free software program PAF (Personal Ancestral File) at www.familysearch.org/paf; click on *PAF Lessons* in the left hand column for 7 lessons.

Genealogy.com - www.genealogy.com > *Learning Center* > *Free Genealogy Classes*



There are many different lessons under the following categories:

- Getting Started
- Getting Organized
- Developing your Research Skills

DearMYRTLE - www.dearmyrtle.com
Lessons



There are dozens of excellent lessons under the following categories:

- Beginning Genealogy Lessons
- Finally Get Organized
- Kid's Genealogy
- Step By Step
- Using LDS Family History Centers
- Writing Your Personal History

10 Things You Can Do Today to Get Started

- 1. Plant a seed in your heart** for a desire to connect to your ancestors; nourish the seed so it can grow; learn about the sacrifices they made to make your life better, prepare to receive help from your ancestors. (Pages 6-7, 10-16)
- 2. Take a free online "How To" lesson** (or tutorial). (Page 16)
- 3. Subscribe to** a free e-newsletter or magazine; register for a free blog. (Pages 18-21)
- 4. Review and purchase** a family history software program and get acquainted with the basics. (Chapter 3)
- 5. Write down everything you know** about your ancestors; contact your family's "keeper of the flame" (your family's historian), and ask him/her to share their information. (Page 29)
- 6. Search existing online family tree Web sites** and published family histories for information on your ancestor. (Page 45)
- 7. Scan your precious photos** and documents to a digital format to protect them and be able to easily share with others. (Page 186)
- 8. Begin to write your family history;** gather your family stories; record the life stories of your parents/grandparents before its too late; record your own story while you can still remember; interview a relative; get grandkids involved to help establish a bond between generations. (Page 197)
- 9. Collaborate with others** to add branches to your family tree using a social networking Web site; connect with your family, swap stories, and share photos, recipes and information. (Page 79, 212)
- 10. Hold a family reunion;** organize your family; reach out to your extended family members; start a family blog or online photo album; volunteer to help index public records at home. (Page 219-221)