

### Genealogy: a Recession-Proof Hobby

*TIP: Check with the local library or genealogical society for possible free onsite access to commercial sites or hard-to-find databases.*

Genealogy is more than the listing of names and dates of your direct line ancestors. It's the puzzling out of details of your ancestor's lives. It's finding out your greatgrandparents had 11 children's births registered, but only 2 lived to adulthood – what happened? It's reading an 1881 newspaper obituary of another greatgrandfather and finally finding the married names and the nearby town residences of his 5 other daughters. Now you can finally track them down as well as their children – those other cousins of yours! Oh – and two of them were musicians! Fascinating details.

Or, perhaps you were following a family line and found their names on a ship passenger list from England to Massachusetts in 1620 and realized that the old family story of having a Mayflower ancestor is actually true!

Sometimes genealogy research is very puzzling as you have a branch of the family which is a mystery with no clues except for the statement from an elderly uncle that "maybe they came from Germany in the early 1700s". Perhaps they were part of the Palatine immigration to North America – new sites to search!

It's finding that one section of your family tree are mainly well-educated professionals or business owners who owned their homes and stayed put in one community, while in another section of the tree ancestors seem to be basic labourers in factories, going across the oceans and continents looking for a better life, bringing their families one year or three later.

Searching for clues in history can be very exciting when it's related to your own distant ancestors! What was happening nearby? What about wars? Religious persecution? Waves of epidemics? What were expectations of men? women? What about land ownership? Who got educated? Could your ancestors sign their names on documents? Did any fight in wars? Did they or their wives receive pensions? If they died during a war, where are they buried? What was written about them?

If you love old maps and historic newspapers, you'll love digging for details about your ancestors' lives and times! Best of all – most of this information is free!

Questions? More links? E-mail: [Celia@RootsBasic.com](mailto:Celia@RootsBasic.com)

