

Welcome to this issue, from **RootsBasic™** www.rootsbasic.com



If you have a specific question about how and where to find sources for your family tree, or wonder about genealogy classes online (run by certified genealogists), drop me an email and I'll include my answers in the next issue of TreeTips. - Celia

Note: All web links in the newsletter go to primarily free sites

TreeTip #1: REUNIONS – plan about a year ahead!

After the summer, people start to get organized, and amateur genealogists think about how they wish they'd had a Family Reunion to share those photos and memorabilia, or to find out more information about ancestors in the old country. Here are a few tips:

- **Inform everyone!** Inform as many people in the family as possible, and enlist one or two to help with all the organization. Inform the rest of the family using a brief history or questions in a fun and informative "poster" invitation. And don't forget to ask family members to pass on the invitations to other relatives that you may not have addresses for!
- **Ask for photos:** Ask relatives to bring some of their unusual or interesting photos or documents, medals, pet photos, whatever would be fun and interesting. Particularly useful are unidentified relatives!
- Develop a **Master family tree** sheet to keep track of who's who; a long roll of white paper, coloured pencils and using your software tree as a guide, you can write out the family tree. Use different colours for different lines in the family, then use that same colour for name tags or T-shirts, for example, to identify at a glance.
- **Make copies** of several of your oldest relatives for the family tree, and add to the Master sheet for more personal interest. Do a smaller sheet for each line, so people can go home with a copy of "their" tree.

TreeTip #2: YOUR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY – a Great Resource

Your local Genealogical Society(G.S.) is a valuable resource for your research! Memberships range from \$20-60 per year and are a bargain in today's times.

- **Library:** with books of all sorts in many topics, G.S. libraries contain valuable information including histories of places, events, wars, and more. Of particular interest are local or provincial graveyards. One can often use commercial website databases for free at a G.S. library! Another good reason to join.
- **Courses:** Your local G.S. has skilled experienced members, including professional genealogists, who may put on monthly or yearly courses on specific topics. What a bargain! In addition, the G.S. may have connections with other societies, and join in putting on yearly workshops, or advertising for others' workshops in the area
- **Trips to Salt Lake City - or other Countries!** There may be planned trips that several individuals are making, and grouping with others makes the trip very reasonable. Salt Lake City family search library is the largest genealogical library, and can be daunting if you don't have some assistance in how to use the resources efficiently. In addition, there may be small groups going soon to Scotland, or Ireland!

TreeTip #3: FAMILY TREE MAGAZINES & NEWSLETTERS

There is now a great deal of information available online, and more and more people like you are building family trees, learning about the history of their ancestors' residences and travels. An exciting range of family tree magazines and newsletters are now available, some of which may be read online rather than in paper form, if desired. Here are just a few available for beginners and more advanced researchers. Watch out for all the paid advertisers on the web pages! Also, check freebies!

- **Family Tree Magazine** (USA) www.familytreemagazine.com
Sign up for the E-newsletter, which will also include a free guide. Subscribe to the magazine, or buy individual issues, depending on your interests. Click around on the various departments for great helpful information, free guides & forms.
- **Family Tree Magazine** (UK) www.family-tree.co.uk
This is Britain's oldest family history magazine and invaluable for those who have roots in the UK. Again, check through the various departments for more helpful items.
- **Ancestry Magazine** (USA) www.ancestrymagazine.com
Ancestry.com is as ubiquitous to ancestor research as Google to searches. Unfortunately, this magazine offers subscriptions only to USA customers as yet. However there are online articles available by clicking on titles on the right hand side (From the Editors, From the Archives). Check out the details.
- **Your Family Tree** (UK) www.yourfamilytreemag.co.uk
Another monthly British magazine – 100 pages of genealogy help and advice, and always including a CD with software, parish registers, directories, and more. If your ancestors are from the UK, this is another very helpful magazine.
- **Internet Genealogy** <http://internet-genealogy.com>
This bi-monthly resource may be subscribed online-only, which I appreciate. Check out their current issue contents page, and also you can download a free issue. Very helpful in using the power of the internet, but also discusses other genealogical issues.

TreeTip #4: SOURCES – PROOF: Essential to your Family Tree!

Often when we start out researching, we grab great information on our family members and input into our family tree software, ignoring that pesky "Sources" table or tab. Oh dear. If this is you, after awhile you will come to realize that your information is only as good as your sources! Some family tree software includes a step-by-step method of how to fill in a correct source citation.

- **Make a Master List of Sources:** Oral history (person, dated), Birth Certificate, Marriage &/or Divorce Registration, Death Certificate, Photo of Headstone, Census.
- **Learn how to write a correct Source citation:** here's a quick and simplified reference to keep handy: www.geneabloggers.com/Citations_Quick_Reference.pdf (note _ for spaces). More details with many examples of common sources may be found on www.progenealogists.com/citationguide.htm Learn now – it's easier to do it right the first time rather than when you have over a thousand entries to fix!!

Happy searching!

- Celia

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