

Doncaster and District Family History Society

Computer Group

Snippets 15/10/2020

https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/how-to-be-a-good-future-ancestor/?utm_source=Communicator&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=buttonLink57&utm_campaign=How+to+be+a+good+future+ancestor&ccCt=iVzI3HG6dEwhkFlrQdQFZS9ic102719F5xUHIRELSMV1c7_hrWc%7egpRqXqVn

How to be a good future ancestor!

Do you wish your great-grandparents had kept a diary of their thoughts and activities? Or that you knew who every person on a treasured wedding photo was? Read on to discover how you can become a great ancestor for your own descendants.

A good part of the fun of family history is uncovering those clues that help you trace your family tree, find new ancestors and discover priceless details about what life was like in days gone by. But genealogy has its frustrations, with things like old photos without names and dates, a brick wall caused by lack of documents, and also sadly, family stories lost forever once a person is no longer with us.

If you can relate to this, read on to find out how you can become a good ancestor and make sure that future family historians can find out everything they need to know about you and your generation.

1. Label photos

Every time you print a photo of save it into a digital collection, make a note to include names and dates at a minimum. And when you get chance, why not curate a small collection of 'star' photos where you name every person, detail the relationship between each and include date and location?

2. Keep a diary

Official documents and photos are a crucial part of family history but nothing puts flesh on the bones quite like reading someone's thoughts and feelings. As none of us need reminding, 2020 has been quite a year and it will be really interesting for future generations of your family to understand how you and *your* family coped during the Covid-19 pandemic, how it affected your life and any changes that you made.

3. Curate a family history collection

A perfect autumn project as the nights draw in is to create a time capsule for your descendants, with an acid-free (to ensure it stands the test of time) storage box containing photos, important papers, a family tree and perhaps a diary or notes of your thoughts. Your gift to those who come after you!

4. Keep both online and offline records

To ensure your hard work on your family tree stands the test of time, it's worth keeping in mind that both paper-based and digital records should have a place in your family story. Precious originals such as birth certificates and photos can be kept

safely at home, whilst you can also have digital collections backed up to the cloud, so that you aren't left without access as technology changes over the years.

5. Don't forget the family heirlooms

Do you have treasured items that have a story behind them? Perhaps a vase that belonged to your great-grandmother or a carved chair that stood in your grandfather's farm cottage? Be sure to include a record of what these items are and who they belonged to and keep the document with the rest of your family history research.

The more you can do for future generations, the better the chance your research will stand the test of time. So why not get started today?

https://www.family-tree.co.uk/how-to-guides/what-did-my-ancestor-do-in-world-war-two-expert-family-history-how-to?postId=f3c807c4-d7be-464d-a66c-257f24f74f92&utm_source=Communicator&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=buttonLink59&utm_campaign=How+to+be+a+good+future+ancestor&cc=Ct=LZpqic%7evulinkFlrQdQFZS9ic1027191F5kUHfRELSMV1c7_hrWc%7egpRqXqVn

What did my ancestor do in World War Two? Expert family history how-to guide



Don't let your family war stories get lost in the mists of time. Keith Gregson shares his top tips for researching your family's involvement in World War Two.

During the war my father (Rex Gregson 1920-1994) served in the Royal Corps of Signals and my mother (Betty Gregson née Stephens 1922-2015) in the Women's Royal Naval Service. He was a signaller and she a telephone operator – natural positions as before the conflict both had worked in the Post Office in Barrow in Furness doing similar jobs to those undertaken in the forces.

My father's active service took him to Egypt and Italy; my mother's to a shore base in Northern Ireland where pilots of the Royal Naval Air Service were trained to fly from the decks of convoy escorting vessels. My father's service lasted from 1942 to 1945 and my mother's from 1943 to 1946 with moves to Scotland and Dorset after the fighting was over.

Documenting the war years

I am extremely fortunate to have parents who realised that, as I had become a history teacher in their later years, documenting their wartime experiences would be of use to me in the classroom. They both set to and provided me with a pile of useful material which I am happy to share here in the hope that you too can to discover similar evidence somewhere in your own family.

1 Official documents

Both my parents kept an extraordinary number of official documents including next of kin cards, financial accounts and pay and arrangements for post-war employment and life in general. The two I have chosen to feature here are my mother's official long record of service and my father's short record.

2 Medals and badges

My mother had a single medal which she claimed late in life and this was accompanied by a useful list of the service medals awarded during the conflict. She also had a number of intriguing small badges including one awarded for knitting clothing for the troops before she joined up and a RAF sweetheart badge from a family friend (possibly boyfriend) who sadly lost his life in the conflict.

I have assembled a collection of my father's medals and badges – a set of ribbons which include the two general war medals but also two for service in Italy and Egypt. The others form part of his general uniform.

3 Taking it further

- Ask your cousins and more distant relations – they may have correspondence sent by your parents and grandparents, for instance. They may also have photos, or even have inherited 'the medals'
- Investigate whether there are organisations that can help you: regimental museums and Facebook groups dedicated to local history may both be able to provide you with information, copies of photographs are more. It's worth asking.
- Search collectable and antique sites. While this is not the same as having your ancestor's original, it is interesting to see examples of the items they might have used and the medals they may have been awarded.

<https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>

"Irish Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates Now Available for Free Online

Images for Civil Death records from 1871 to 1877 are now available online. Over 15.5 million register records are now available to the public to view and research online on the www.irishgenealogy.ie website. The records now available online include: Birth register records – 1864 to 1919; Marriage register records – 1845 to 1944 & Death register records – 1871 to 1969