

List of Genealogy Resolutions Isn't Long

By Linda Talley

I try to make achievable New Year's Resolutions. The only one I have kept over the years is – "I resolve to make the bed every morning". I don't know why I make the bed every morning but don't keep the other resolutions such as: "Mop the kitchen floor every week", but I haven't.

I hope this year can be different. I hope this year when I make a New Year's Resolution I will actually keep it. Many of my resolutions usually have to do with researching my family history.

The problem with keeping a resolution that has to do with my crazy enthusiastic genealogy fixation is finding the time to actually sit down and DO it. I'm sure others have that problem also.

One of the regular genealogy researchers brought me an article the other day entitled "Lunch-Hour Genealogy" by Gaylord Cooper, published in the October 2010 Kentucky Living magazine. I think it may be my rescue from un-kept genealogy resolutions.

Mr. Cooper suggests 14 things that you can accomplish on your lunch hour:

1. Google your Ancestors.
2. Search inside Books (<http://books.google.com>)
3. Check your DNA. Order a test kit from a genetic genealogy service.
4. Download Digitized Military Records (Using pay sites like ancestry.com or footnote.com. Or free sites like familysearch.org (<http://pilot.familysearch.org>)
5. Request (or maybe download) a Death Certificate.
6. Interview a Relative or call to make an appointment for a visit.
7. Order Records on Microfilm from a family history center.
8. Join a Genealogical or Historical Society
9. Watch, Listen, Learn (rootstelevision.com)
10. Make New Genealogy Friends. (www.Geni.com and www.Familyhistorylink.com) Add a genealogy application such as www.FamilyBuilder.com Family Tree application to your Facebook page.

11. Use the library. Grab your list of “things to look-up some day” and look a few of them up. Or become familiar with the remote access databases from your local library.
12. Build or Update your Family Tree on the Internet.
13. Back up your Family Tree Files. You might invest in an external hard drive
14. Read a Blog on any of the genealogy websites.

In our busy lives it is difficult to find extra time to do family history. Daily tasks and important responsibilities certainly take priority over searching for ones ancestors. But it is possible to accomplish pieces of the genealogical puzzle in small amounts of time available.

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