

It's Called FAMILY History: Top Tips for Collaborating with Living Family Members

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Every Sunday night, for three hours, from two different states, this father/daughter duo works on their family history together. Join Steve and Crista Cowan for a look at some of their top tips for collaborating with your family members. It will accelerate your family history discoveries and enrich your relationships with living family.

Why Collaborate

Two heads are better than one. Sometimes three or four is even better than that.

Pool financial resources to share the costs of:

- ordering certificates
- hiring local people in archives and repositories to do lookups
- taking a research trip together and sharing the cost of the hotel room
- buying DNA kits for target testing other potential family members

Sharing this experience with close family members will bring them along on the journey with you and may nurture a love for family history in the next generation.

Who To Collaborate With

How many hundreds of people are already researching the same families you are researching? Who might already have documents and photos and stories that you have not uncovered yet (and might never uncover without their help)? Who can you help in the same manner?

Doesn't have to be a family member. Find people who are researching in the same area and time period. Or, find people who live somewhere you need records that you can setup an exchange with.

Who has skills you don't have? What unique skills do you have to offer?

Tips for Increasing Collaboration Opportunities

Talk to your family!

Update your Ancestry profile!

- Add a picture (increases engagement by 10x)
- Put in a location (you could show up on the AncestryDNA matches map)
- Write a few sentences about yourself and share as much (or as little) as you would like, including any links to social media sites.

Respond to Ancestry messages. Send messages to other users.

Post on message boards or participate in Facebook groups.

Tips for Successful Collaboration

Have clear research goals.

Find what works for you.

Communicate!

Resources:

<https://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>

Follow Crista on Instagram and Twitter for more tips @CristaCowan.

And, sign up for her monthly newsletter at <http://cristacowan.com>.

Want more from Crista? Find past episodes of her weekly internet show, The Barefoot Genealogist, on the Ancestry YouTube channel at <http://ancstry.me/TBGVids>.

Click SUBSCRIBE on that channel to receive notification each time a new video is uploaded.