

Communicate with your Relatives

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My husband and I have had a fairly easy time identifying our ancestors. We had acquired copies of family trees over the years but had not realized the wealth of information that we had until we started participating in the Synnøve-Nordkap Genealogy Group. Some of the genealogies were done by relatives and some came from historical societies.

On Don's father's side, we received a genealogy of his father's family dating back to the late 1700s from the Houston County Historical Society. We had made a trip there to do research and decided to join the society. As part of our membership we were told we could write down the names of some relatives and they would send us any information they had about them. On Don's paternal grandmother's side of the family, his aunt gave him a copy of the family tree dating back to the 1500's that had been done by the aunt's second cousin.

Don's maternal grandfather's family had put together a history and genealogy of the family in 1937 which began with the family's immigration to America from Norway in the 1860s. A cousin has also shared two genealogies of their maternal grandmother's family.

Don's parents were both from the Spring Grove area in Houston County. An added plus for anyone from the Spring Grove area is the Giants of the Earth Heritage Center that maintains, and continues to add to it, a genealogy of the early settlers in the area.

In going through papers that I had received from my father before he passed away, I discovered a family tree which included army service records done by his paternal grandmother and aunt so that they could become members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Several of my cousins are also interested in genealogy. Recently one of them acquired a genealogy of our paternal grandmother's family and has shared that with us.

One of my mother's paternal cousins was interested in genealogy and sent me a genealogy my maternal grandfather's family. My maternal grandmother, in a typically frugal Norwegian fashion, left a list of her siblings which included birth dates written in pencil on the back of a used envelope.

It definitely pays to communicate your interest in your family's roots to your relatives and to check out the local historical societies in the area where they resided in the US.