

CROSSROADS

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 3

SUMMER 2021



Genealogy as a Tool for Reparation and Healing

by Iris Kingery

Also in this issue . . .

Walking in Their Footsteps — Katharine Andrew

On Kids and Family Stories — Sunny Jane Morton

My Locked-down Genealogical Journey — George Hall



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State of the Association

President's Message

by Kelly Summers, AG® - UGA President

I look forward to summer. I anticipate the days I get to spend with my family, especially my grandchildren. I have found that I can intertwine family history into our regular fun activities. In the article, "Bridges and Eternal Keepsakes," Dennis B. Neuenschwander stated,

Not one of my children has any recollection of my grandparents. If I want my children and grandchildren to know those who still live in my memory, then I must build the bridge between them. I alone am the link to the generations that stand on either side of me. It is my responsibility to knit their hearts together through love and respect, even though they may never have known each other personally. My grandchildren will have no knowledge of their family's history if I do nothing to preserve it for them. That which I do not in some way record will be lost at my death, and that which I do not pass on to my posterity, they will never have.

It is vital that we share what we know about our deceased family members. You may need to be creative in the process. I have found that I can tell ancestor stories when my grandchildren are occupied with Legos, puzzles, coloring, or other things that keep their hands busy.

Through recent studies we have learned the importance of "belonging" for children and youth. If our children and grandchildren can feel connected and that they belong, they will be more resilient to the challenging difficulties of their age. I hang pictures on my walls of my children, grandchildren, and of our ancestors. I want my grandchildren to see that they are a part of a large family and they are an important

piece of the whole. I would like to challenge all genealogists to find ways beyond researching, to strengthen the bonds between your own family generations. Make a conscious effort to participate in the lives of your family members and share your knowledge of your ancestors in ways that are impactful to your posterity. I hope you enjoy this *Crossroads* issue that focuses on genealogy and the younger generation.



Kelly Summers, Accredited Genealogist®, currently works as a part-time faculty member at Brigham Young University teaching Family History and History courses. She also teaches online Genealogy courses at Salt Lake Community College. Kelly has been involved in genealogical research and teaching for more than thirty years. Kelly researches in the US, Latin America, Southwestern European, Scandinavian, and East Asian areas. Kelly's research interests lie in kinship research in primary source records and rural community reconstruction.

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UGA CROSSROADS IS LOOKING FOR FEATURE ARTICLES BETWEEN 1,500 - 5,000 WORDS FOR UPCOMING ISSUES - ACCOMPANYING IMAGES ARE PREFERRED.



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Genealogy as a Tool for Reparation and Healing

by Iris Kingery

"[...]Jonas Salk, inventor of the polio vaccine, said when asked what the main aim of his life had been: 'to be a good ancestor.' A comment like that can only come from a man profoundly aware of his place in the universe."

- Eric Weiner, *The Geography of Bliss*

Genealogy is more than a list of names on a pedigree: it is a tool to help one understand their place in the world in relation to others. For a European-American, exploring family history is commonly seen as an endeavor intended to determine which European countries their family hailed from and what life was like for their ancestors who came to what is now the United States. There is indeed merit and intrigue in this research. In fact, it's crucial because all history should be documented and preserved. And like any family history, the genealogies of European-Americans are varied and heterogeneous. However, in the mainstream European-American genealogy community, something is missing — a conversation about the long and ongoing history of violence committed by European-Americans against African-Americans, and what actions European-American genealogists can and must take towards reparation to the African-American community in light of this reality.

Finding documents is a large part of paper-trail (traditional) genealogy, but in reality, it is only the first step of the genealogical process.

The utmost importance lies in *how* those documents are examined within larger historical contexts and what broader conclusions about their contemporary significance are drawn. Learning about the past through genealogy is of great value for the contemporarily applicable lessons it can impart. For a European-American genealogist with roots in the American South during the Civil War, an example of this process of drawing meaningful conclusions from newfound information is deciding how to respond upon discovering that an ancestor fought for the Confederate South.¹ There are special organizations that connect descendants of Confederate veterans in a celebratory commemoration of the Confederacy, such as The Children of the Confederacy. However, while having a Confederate ancestor may seem like an exciting link to someone who fought for what they believed in, it is paramount to consider exactly what this ancestor believed in and who they were fighting for. In a time of debate over whether to keep Confederate monuments in public places, it's worth paying rapt attention to the feelings of American ethnic communities outside of European-Americans, specifically African-Americans, about the significance and legacy of the Confederacy. It must be remembered that the Confederacy was a group of people who fought to maintain the Old South's way of life — including slavery. That history can be deeply traumatic for African-Americans.

1 Warren W. Hassler, "American Civil War," in Encyclopedia Britannica, 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/event/American-Civil-War>

Research



As poet Caroline Randall Williams writes for the *New York Times*,²

If there are those who want to remember the legacy of the Confederacy, if they want monuments, well, then, my body is a monument. My skin is a monument. [...] It is an extraordinary truth of my life that I am biologically more than half European-American, and yet I have no European-American people in my genealogy in living memory. No. Voluntary. European-Americanness. I am more than half European-American, and none of it was consensual. European-American Southern men — my ancestors — took what they wanted from women they did not love, over whom they

had extraordinary power, and then failed to claim their children.

During the period of United States slavery, simply being in a social position — European-American, and, often, wealthy — to enslave rather than be enslaved gave European-Americans a several-hundred year head start that African-Americans did not have in acquiring wealth and opportunities to be passed down generationally. That several-hundred year gap is still noticeable today: as of 2019, 29.9% of European-Americans received a familial financial inheritance, compared to 10.1% of African-Americans.³ The intergenerational trauma of racism that still exists today has effects deeper than financial disparities, as African-Americans have notable health disparities with

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- 2 Caroline Randall Williams, “You Want a Confederate Monument? My Body Is a Confederate Monument,” *The New York Times*, June 26, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/26/opinion/confederate-monuments-racism.html>
- 3 Niel Bhutta, Andrew C. Chang, and Joanne W. Hsu, “Disparities in Wealth by Race and Ethnicity in the 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances,” *The Federal Reserve*, September 28, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.17016/2380-7172.2797>.

Research

European-Americans. The mortality rate for all cancers is highest among African-Americans than any other ethnic group in the United States, and 59.8% of African-Americans had no federal health insurance coverage in 2017.

This awareness alone may catalyze interest in learning about anti-racism in European-American genealogists, but that isn't enough. Confession of European-American privilege alone is not sufficient to create change. As John W. Miller, writer for the *Jesuit review*, says,⁴

[...] confession is not atonement. And as one African-American historian or economist after another pointed out to me, slavery is not a mystery, and it is not past. What European-Americans treat as a historical curiosity — something to investigate if we choose to —

is to black Americans a cruel, unavoidable ghost that haunts this nation's cities, schools, hospitals and prisons.

To work towards unity and healing, tangible anti-racist efforts must be taken. No one indeed chooses their ancestors, for better or for worse. What one does have control over, however, is how they respond to the legacy of their predecessors and decide not only how to behave as a world citizen, but what kind of ancestor they would like to be for their descendants. Genealogists are leading the way in this healing, specifically with a practice called racial reparation. Racial reparation, in the context of the relationship between the European-American community and the African-American community, is the action of redistributing money, access to opportunities and services, and fostering



⁴ John W. Miller, "My ancestor owned 41 slaves. What do I owe their descendants?," *America Magazine*, November 28, 2018, <https://www.americamagazine.org/arts-culture/2018/11/28/my-ancestor-owned-41-slaves-what-do-i-owe-their-descendants>

Research

interpersonal reconciliations owed to African-Americans because of the cruel institution of slavery upon which the United States was built and European-Americans still benefit from today.⁵ Reparations can be both interpersonal, such as the practice of mutual aid,⁶ and systemic, such as government initiatives to pay financial reparations to African-Americans. While European-American genealogists may not have the power to orchestrate systemic change within their careers, they can certainly pay reparations through individual action.

For European-Americans whose families have been in the United States for several generations, family history information is fairly easy to access online, and many European-Americans can find documents that ascertain which countries their families originally came from and what the lives of their ancestors were like. But for African-Americans, there are more barriers in tracing an extended family history because of the enduring legacy of slavery and racism. Enslaved people were often namelessly listed on documents as numbers underneath the full names of their enslavers, and families were ruthlessly torn apart at the hands of European-Americans who saw it as their right to traffic human beings for their own gain.⁷

However, it is important to be cognizant of this reprehensible history while also recognizing that African-American history and genealogy are certainly not limited to trauma inflicted by European-Americans. It contains love, trailblazing individuals and communities, fascinating stories, and meaningful and unique cultural practices. Making documentation of

this history where it is available more accessible for African-Americans wishing to discover their roots is a crucial step, and many African-American genealogists are working hard to do so. One young genealogist, Alex Trapps-Chabala, who got his start in genealogy with exposure to his own family records while staying with family in Alabama as a preteen, has personally dedicated himself to finding and indexing records related to African-American family history in the American South. He even created a database of his findings to serve as a resource to African-American family history researchers, KinConnector <<https://www.kinconnector.co/>>.⁸

European-Americans who specialize in African-American genealogy can practice reparation. Some European-American genealogists are inspired by the dedicated research methodology of genealogists such as Trapps-Chabala, and they are distinctly making their research reparation by conducting it free of charge for African-American clients. Carolynn Ní Lochlainn, the creator of the Reparational Genealogy Project <<https://ancestorsalivegenealogy.com/the-reparational-genealogy-project/>>, practices reparational genealogy in this way and provides resources and instructions for other European-American genealogists who wish to do the same.⁹ If a client is willing to take an Ancestry DNA test, Lochlainn will build them a family tree using her expertise in both paper trail and genetic genealogy.

Coming To The Table Reparations Working Group (CTTT) <<https://comingtothetable.org/>> is a group of diverse individuals who build on the process of tracing genealogy and understanding

5 Breeanna Hare and Doug Criss, "Six questions about slavery reparations, answered", CNN, August 15, 2020, <https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/15/us/slavery-reparations-explanation-trnd/index.html>.

6 Joel Izlar, "What is Mutual Aid?", University of Georgia School of Social Work, n.d., <https://ssw.uga.edu/news/article/what-is-mutual-aid-by-joel-izlar/>

7 "United States Census Slave Schedules, FamilySearch, last modified March 24, 2021, https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_Slave_Schedules

8 Pendarvis Harshaw, "The Road to Reparations Through Black Genealogy," KQED, December 11, 2020, <https://www.kqed.org/arts/13890226/excavating-and-digitizing-black-history-with-alex-trapps-chabala>.

9 "Bio: Carolyn Ní Lochlainn, Ancestors Alive! Genealogy, n.d., <http://ancestorsalivegenealogy.com/bio-carolynn-ni-lochlainn/>

Research

events in history.¹⁰ African-American and European American members convened to craft plans for reparation.¹¹

In 2014, Coming to the Table recognized it had a role to play in the movement and convened a conference call with interested members to discuss “Reparations.” During the call, European and African American members of CTTT shared ideas and made plans to establish a CTTT Reparations Working Group. The Working Group’s purpose was to develop a document that would inspire and provide guidance for European Americans desiring to initiate personal, community, societal and national reparations.

CTTT acknowledges that personal historical research (with tools such as ancestry.com and Our Black Ancestry <<https://ourblackancestry.com/>>) and self-education is only the first step: making connections, healing wounds, and taking action must follow. CTTT serves as a reminder that reparations aren’t just transactional, they are relational. Forming friendships across racial lines in one’s personal life can also be applied to genealogy, and the CTTT Linked Descendants Group connects European-Americans and African-Americans genealogically linked through slavery to pursue healing with “...dialogue, reunion, ritual, meditation, prayer, ceremony, the arts, apology and other methods.”¹² With this relational view in mind, a European-American genealogist can inspire anti-racist action in the broader genealogy community in ways such as becoming involved with the Slave Dwelling Project <<https://slavedwellingproject.org/>>, a project dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the lives of those who were enslaved.¹³

Though it may not always be seen as such, family history is an extremely powerful bridge to anti-racism because, rather than simply reading about history in a book alone, it grants the opportunity to see oneself as living history, carrying legacies of the past in their very being. The great hope lies, though, in the fact that one can choose to create their own legacy that is moral and just, no matter who or where they come from.



Iris Kingery is a journalist and freelance genealogist. She believes that genealogy can be used as a powerful force for social justice and is dedicated to incorporating this belief into her work.

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10 “Truth, Justice, Healing”, Coming To The Table, last modified 2019, <https://comingtothetable.org/>

11 “REPARATIONS...THE TIME IS NOW!”, Coming To The Table (CTTT) Reparations Working Group, Coming To The Table, August 2019, <https://comingtothetable.org/reparations-working-group/>

12 “Linked Descendants Working Group”, Coming To The Table, last modified 2019, <https://comingtothetable.org/linked-descendants-working-group/>

13 “The Slave Dwelling Project”, The Slave Dwelling Project, n.d., <https://slavedwellingproject.org/>

Walking in Their Footsteps

by Katharine Andrew

Each of us have our own story of how we stumble, tripped, or marched our way into family history and genealogical research. My story just happens to have started before I was born. I am a third-generation genealogist. My mother, Caroline Paulison Andrew, and my grandmother, Ruth Korte Paulison, are also genealogists. Not only is genealogy the history of my family, but it *is* a tradition within my family.

My grandmother, Ruth Korte Paulison, got her start in genealogical research in the late 1980s-early

1990s, shortly after her daughter, Caroline, left home for college. Ruth started genealogical research because she wanted to know more about her mother, Alvina Maria Johanna Karolina (Essig) Korte and her immigration from Germany to the United States of America. Ruth grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where she lived with her mother, father, and two brothers. According to her, Ruth did not know anything about her mother's immigration or her family history in Germany because "that just wasn't something we talked about." So, after her mother had passed away and Ruth's children had grown up, she decided that that was the time to learn more about her family's history.

Ruth was lucky, as she lived close to the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which has one of the best Genealogy Centers in the Midwest United States. There, she could search for answers to her questions in their huge collection of records. She went to the ACPL's Genealogy Center and once she found her mother's immigration information, she knew that she was hooked. She began researching her own genealogy, as well as her husband's genealogy—my grandfather Peter Trier Paulison: "So I did both at one time! Of course, Pete's family had so much written about them. My family was more difficult...and I went to Huntington, the cemeteries, down to the other counties in south of Indiana...it was interesting, learning so much about these people. And, of course, things along the way would spark your interest!" Thus, began decades of genealogical research.



Josephine (Steffen) Essig, Alvina (Essig) Korte, and Gottlieb Essig Sr. outside of their home in Indiana. The Essig family immigrated to Indiana in 1910 from Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Family History



Louisa Elizabeth (Gehle) Korte and her grandson, Ruth (Korte) Paulison's older brother, Ronald Korte, in Indiana.

Ruth concentrated on many families while she was researching: Essig, Korte, Prange, Gehle, Paulison, Trier, and Davies families. She was able to trace her mother's lineage back to Rödelheim, now part of Frankfurt am Main, as well as the lineages of her father, Peter's father, and Peter's mother well past the 1750s in most cases.

Her daughter, Caroline, became involved in genealogical research through Ruth. Caroline remembers getting involved in her mother's research because, "She [Ruth] had a bunch of written records that needed to be organized, so I put them into Family Tree Maker and got interested from there." So, she began plugging in Ruth's research into Family Tree Maker. While digitizing the research, she started to become interested in the family history itself. Learning what her mother had found made Caroline want to find more information. So, she began doing genealogical research as well.

Caroline focused on expanding the family tree to include many generations of cousins, aunts, and uncles, as well as focusing on the lineage of her

husband's family—David Andrew, my father. Caroline's research overlapped with Ruth's, but she concentrated mainly on the Trier, Paulison, Davies, Andrew, and Huss families. Caroline's mother-in-law, Sylvia (Huss) Hanselmann, a life-long promotor of education, loved hearing the background of her family that Caroline was able to find.

At the time, I was a young child. During this time, whenever my family would visit my grandmother in Fort Wayne, my mom and grandma would take me on their quests for ancestors and relatives—to the library, churches, and cemeteries. I remember helping them find the gravestones of people they were looking for and finding it so interesting that some of these people were born hundreds of years ago and I was somehow related to them! As I grew up, I began asking more questions and wanting to hear the stories that she was researching.

In second grade, my teacher assigned a project to everyone in the class to research one of their ancestors or family members and create a scrapbook or project about them. I do not believe that I am exaggerating when I say that my mom was thrilled and so was I. Because I heard the story of my great-grandmother's immigration to the United States from Ruth, I picked her to do my project on. In a way, this was my first genealogy report!



My mother, Caroline (Paulison) Andrew, and her grandmother, Virginia (Trier) Paulison, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the 1970s.

Family History

I began researching on my own in 2009, taking those first few steps in the footsteps of my grandmother and mother, when I was in eighth or seventh grade. I began seriously researching in my freshman year of high school. I took German classes in high school (and later majored in Germanic Studies in college) because I wanted to be able to read the letters that were sent to my great-grandmother in German and research my German heritage. Both sides of my family tree have German immigrants in them—not just my maternal side, but my paternal grandmother's side as well. Ruth's parent's generation was the last generation in her family to speak German. Ruth and her brothers were not taught German growing up because their parents wanted to lose their German heritage following World War I and World War II. My paternal grandmother, Sylvia (Huss) Hanselmann, encouraged my interest in the German language and history in general, telling me the stories of her great-grandparents and the time she spent in Germany, while her first husband was stationed there, during the Cold War.

Over the next few years, the end of high school and through college, I researched almost every day. I majored in Germanic Studies in college, which allowed me to be able to research more of my German ancestry than my grandmother and mother were able to, as neither of them spoke German.

In 2017, I got a job as a graphic designer at a local library. Over the next couple of years, I was influenced to look into going to graduate school for a Master of Library and Information Science degree. In 2019, I began presenting genealogy classes for the library, which I still do today.

After graduating college in May 2019, I was able to travel to Germany on a grant through the Germanic Studies Department at my college, to conduct an independent research project on my German genealogy. I backpacked through different cities in Germany, walking the same streets that my ancestors before me walked, going to various



Ruth (Korte) Paulison's parents, Alvina (Essig) Korte and Florian Christian Korte in Indiana. This photo was taken shortly after their marriage in 1940.

archives, libraries, and churches, and finding records signed by my ancestors and relatives in the 1800s. In Frankfurt am Main, I was able to hold the birth certificate of my third great-grandfather, Caspar Steffen, and his marriage record to my third-great grandmother, Johanna Wilhelmine Hoffmann, in my own hands. Being able to tangibly feel the marks my third great-grandparents made on their marriage certificate was like traveling back in time and meeting them in person. This was only heightened when I visited the church that the family was baptized and married in.

My research concentrations at this point have greatly expanded from just Germanic genealogy to include Midwestern, New England, and Quaker genealogy. My surname, Andrew, comes from a long line of Quakers from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Ohio, and Indiana. I have been able to trace back my direct paternal lineage to Robert Andrew, whose origin, though researched for decades by Ruth, Caroline, myself, and additional

Family History

Andrew family genealogists, including Alvin H. Andrew, remains unknown.

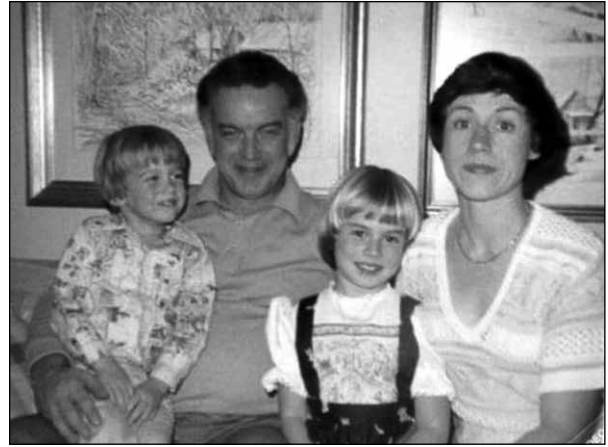
Today, I am in graduate school for a MS/LIS, I do genealogy research every day, I still work at that library and present classes on Zoom once a month, and I am more and more grateful every day for my grandmother and mom instilling a sense of curiosity of our family history. I can't imagine what I would be doing if my grandmother hadn't decided that one day, before I was born, to go to ACPL and look for information on her mother.

Profile: Florian Christian Korte and Alvina Maria Karolina Johanna (Essig) Korte

Florian Christian Korte was born on February 20, 1895 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Friedrich Ernst Dietrich Wilhelm and Louisa Elizabeth (Gehle) Korte. At age one, Friedrich arrived at New York Harbor with his parents, Conrad Dietrich and Marie Sophie Louisa (Mohlenbrock) Korte, and his brother Conrad Jr., age three, on October 26, 1854 on the ship the *Celle* from the village of Windheim, now part of Petershagen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. Florian's mother, Louisa, was the daughter of Friedrich Christian Dietrich and Lisette Christine Sophie (Prange) Gehle, also German immigrants from North Rhine-Westphalia. Florian was one of five Korte children from Friedrich and Louisa: Fred Jr., Florian, Edwin and Karl (twins), and Waldemar. Both Waldemar and Karl died in infancy, and Edwin died at age 19.

Florian Korte served in the U.S. army during World War I in France. Following his service, he started his 48-year career with General Electric in Fort Wayne. On May 18, 1940, he married Alvina Maria Karolina Johanna Essig at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Huntington, Indiana.

Alvina arrived at Ellis Island on December 16, 1910 on the ship the *Pennsylvania* with her mother, Josephine Maria Alwine Adolfine (Steffen)



Jon Paulison, Peter Trier Paulison, Caroline (Paulison) Andrew, and Ruth (Korte) Paulison at home in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Essig, and her four-month-old brother, Gottlieb Essig Jr., from Rödelheim, now part of Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Alvina's father, Gottlieb Essig Sr., had already arrived at Ellis Island on the S.S. *George Washington* and settled in Indiana to await the arrival of his family.

Alvina was the fifth child to be born to Josephine (Steffen) Essig. Josephine had been married twice prior to her marriage to Gottlieb Essig. Four of her six children, only four who survived to adulthood, were from previous marriages. Josephine was born to Caspar Steffen and Johanna Wilhelmine Hoffmann in Rödelheim. Gottlieb Essig was born to Christoph Friedrich and Carolina (Kuehnle) Essig in the town of Flacht, now part of Weissach, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

When Florian and Alvina were married, he was 45 years old and she was 33 years old. They had three children together: Ronald, Ruth, and Robert. Ronald and Robert both served in the U.S. Army, Robert served in Vietnam. Both brothers worked for General Electric for some time: Ronald started his career in 1962 and retired after 39 years, while Robert worked there for 12 years. Robert later became the Chief of Police in Albion, Indiana, and retired in 2005. Ronald married Ila Bohlander in 1986. Robert married Sharon Ort, together they had one son, Christopher. Ruth married

Family History

Peter Paulison and had two children, Caroline and Jonathan.

Profile: Peter Trier Paulison and Ruth Ann (Korte) Paulison

Peter Trier Paulison, my grandfather, was born on August 14, 1938 to Arthur Marion and Virginia Marguerite (Trier) Paulison. Both of his parents were descendants of Indiana pioneer families. Arthur Paulison's sixth great-grandfather was Cornelius Pauelson, who was a skipper on the ship the *Freedenberg* and arrived at New Amsterdam on November 2, 1620. Many of Cornelius' descendants served in the Revolutionary War, including his grandson John. John Paulison's son Isaac married Elizabeth Van Camp and moved the family west to Indiana in 1832, settling in Adams County. Their son Jacob was the father of Samuel Paulison who married Rachel Merryman. Samuel and Rachel were the parents of Arthur Paulison and Walter Paulison. Both Arthur and Walter studied journalism at Northwestern University, Walter stayed there as the Sports Information Director for 43 years. Arthur married Virginia Trier on June 4, 1932, at Trinity English Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Following their marriage, Arthur and Virginia became vice president and president of the Enterprise Glass Company. Arthur later became president of Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Virginia Trier was the great-granddaughter of Conrad Trier, who was born on August 6, 1811, to Heinrich and Catherine (Schroder) Trier in Ercksdorf, Germany. Conrad immigrated to the United States upon the ship the *Allegheny*, arriving in the port of Philadelphia on July 5, 1832. Conrad then began his long journey to Fort Wayne, Indiana, eventually purchasing land as one of the earliest landowners in Allen County, Indiana. He married Catharine Trier on January 1, 1837, having together twelve children. His son Peter Trier, the maternal great-grandfather of Peter Paulison, married Emilie Kellermeier on December

21, 1871. They had two children: Henry Trier and Emilie Trier. Henry married Anna Geridwyn Davies on June 27, 1906. Anna was born in the City of London, daughter of Jonathan Maurice Davies (b. 1836 in Trelech, Carmarthenshire, Wales) and Sophia Ceely Cecelia (Clarke) Davies (b. 1849 in Ward of Bishopsgate, City of London, England). The Davies family immigrated to the United States in 1886 on the ship the *S.S. Adriatic*.



Sylvia (Huss) Hanselmann and husband Jay Hanselmann in Indianapolis, Indiana on Sylvia's birthday.



Peter Trier Paulison and Ruth (Korte) Paulison at their daughter, Caroline's wedding to David J. Andrew on November 6, 1993, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Family History



Katharine Andrew and her grandmother, Sylvia (Huss) Hanselmann in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Henry and Anna (Davies) Trier had one child: Virginia (Trier) Paulison.

Peter Trier Paulison worked in the commercial glass business in Fort Wayne for 40 years. He married Ruth Ann Korte in 1964; together they had two children.

Profile: Sylvia Huss & Family

Sylvia (Huss) Hanselmann was born in 1935 to Ralph and Helen (Haueisen) Huss. Helen, who lived to be 101 years old, dying in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 2005, was the granddaughter of Isaak Jacob and Elisabeth Haueisen. The Haueisens came from Münsingen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, in 1881 with their sons Louis and Jacob, establishing a farm in Eel River Township, Allen County, Indiana. Their son Louis, born in 1877, was a stonecutter. Louis married Wilhelmina “Minnie” Ohse in 1898, having six children, Helen being one of them. Helen married her high school sweetheart Ralph Chaney Huss on June 20, 1926, at Trinity English Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Ralph’s fourth great-grandfather, Johannes Jan Huss, came to the

United States from the Czech Republic around 1749. Ralph and Helen had two children together: Ned Dean Huss and Sylvia Edna Huss.

Sylvia was the force that bound a family spread across the country together. She married Jerald Andrew in 1957, having four children: Joseph, John, Barbara, and David. In 1974, she married Jay Hanselmann. Sylvia graduated from South Side High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and attended Indiana University, becoming the first woman in her family to attend college. She graduated from Indiana University in 1953. She was an advocate for the importance of education for her entire life. She held two masters in education from St. Francis University and Ball State University, continuing her education with additional post-graduate work at Butler University. Sylvia had a 40-plus year career in education. She was a founding faculty member, and later the lower school director, of Canterbury School in Fort Wayne. She later worked in many roles, including guidance counselor and as director of learning services at Park Tudor School in Indianapolis.

Sylvia and Jay Hanselmann were devoted to their children, four from Sylvia’s previous marriage and another four from Jay’s previous marriage, and, later, their grandchildren. Sylvia inspired a love of reading, education, and creativity among all her grandchildren, of which she had 16 from her children and step-children, as well as many great-grandchildren. Sylvia passed away on January 16, 2021, at home in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Katharine Korte Andrew is 23 years old and from Chicago, Illinois, USA. She has been doing genealogy research since she was a child and specializes in Germanic genealogy, as well as New England, Midwest, and Quaker genealogy. She holds BA in Political Science and Germanic Studies, with a minor in history, from the University of

Illinois at Chicago and is currently a graduate student working towards a Master of Library and Information Science degree at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is active on Twitter as @kka_genealogy.

On Kids and Family Stories

by Sunny Jane Morton

Here are 10 hard-learned principles for teaching kids where they come from--while recognizing where they are.

"How can we get young people interested in family history?" It's a common and well-meaning lament among genealogists. But it's a bit like asking, "How can we get kids to love asparagus?"

I say this with love for both genealogy and asparagus. To me, genealogy is an endless variety of stories about what it's like to be alive. (Who wouldn't want to binge on that?) And asparagus, seasoned with just the right amount of lemon pepper and grilled to a tender char, is the taste of a perfect summer evening.



Pretending to do chores at a local historical society campus

But I had to grow into my love for asparagus as an adult. My kids still push it around their plates, and I'm ok with that. My goal isn't to turn my children into asparagus aficionados. Their taste buds may not be wired for it. Rather, my goal is to serve asparagus frequently and palatably enough that they come to appreciate its value for themselves. And maybe even voluntarily eat it.

Admittedly, the stakes are higher when it comes to sharing family history with young people. Research shows that creating and expanding on a shared history with children deepens emotional bonds. Knowing who they are and where they're from helps children contextualize their place in history and reassures them that people like them have overcome hard times in the past.

The following principles have come to guide how I teach my own children—now teens and young adults—about their family history. I've learned from both success and failure. Warning: these tips read more like a parenting article than a typical genealogy how-to. And though I talk about parents and grandparents, you don't have to be either to help instill a sense of heritage in a young person you love.

1. Focus on the relationship with the child. When building a family tree, we seek evidence of kinship. In my relationship with my living children, I want them to feel the emotional evidence of our kinship. As I tell stories, the child should never feel lectured to, talked down to, or overlooked. I hope they feel personally loved and respected and noticed. I hope they can tell that the stories I share in any given moment are a natural outgrowth of our conversation and relationship.

Research

2. Take cues from the child's interests.

I have strong and definite interests and don't easily immerse myself in someone else's. But to effectively connect with a child (or anyone else), I need to take a genuine interest in *their* interests. It logically follows that I should look for family stories they would want to hear (not just my favorites).

For example, as younger boys, my sons loved trains. So one of the first ancestors I introduced them to was a brakeman on a West Virginia railroad.

3. Try hands-on activities. This is especially true—but not exclusively true—for younger children. Hands-on activities engage our senses and imagination. They also give us natural settings in which to share stories.

Long ago, I introduced my boys to the brakeman ancestor by taking them on a steam train ride in the mountains of West Virginia. It was noisy, smoky and smelly, slow and chugging. We sat where we could see the brakeman. This experience was far more evocative and memorable than trying to explain what that ancestor's life would have been like.

When my young children enjoyed pretend play, we visited historical attractions where they could dress up in old clothing and try their hands at old-fashioned chores. As they got older, we visited living history campuses where they could wander a recreated neighborhood, peer into barns and homes, watch a potter at work, or try rope-making. Both kinds of experiences led to casual conversations about what our relatives' lives were like in the past.

4. Keep it simple. The younger the child, the more true this is. The simplicity might be in the activity: opt for something with one or two steps that doesn't require perfection. (I had to let go of fantasies about sharing my children's picture-perfect genealogy crafts on social media.)

In other cases, the simplicity might be in the storytelling. During the steam train ride, all I said to the



At Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan

boys was, "Your great-great grandpa Morton was a brakeman on a steam train here in West Virginia. They say you could always tell the brakeman because he was missing a couple of fingers." That's all they needed to know at that moment.

5. Keep it flexible. When we plan family history conversations or activities, it's easy to over-plan or to have certain expectations for how things will go. I've learned that the happiest outcome, especially with children, is to be flexible in my plans—and my hopes.

For example, last summer, I took my then-15-year old son to the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan. The draw for him was a special exhibit on his favorite comic book franchise. He agreed to wander through the enormous museum and living history village with me. I wanted so badly for him to love it, but I also knew that this was an unfair expectation. He's not that interested in history. But I steered him toward things I knew he would like: trains, industrial machines, old tools and the live glassblowing demonstration. Our conversation included how those interests played out in his father's and grandfathers' lives. I promised him we could leave whenever he was ready (and reminded myself that this was the deal). And we did.

Research



At Exhibition Coal Mine, Beckley, West Virginia

It's true that at a certain point, a young person needs to learn how and why to take an interest in other people's interests. So it was good for him to practice coming into my historical world. At least, for a little while.

6. Consider age-appropriateness and privacy. Some of the most important family stories you can tell a young person are the hard stories. With each hard story—and with each kid—I have learned to ask myself, first, is this my story to share? What privacy rights I should consider for the people involved and their living loved ones? Next, what version of the story is this child ready to hear? A simplified version? A mostly-complete version that still respects privacy or the child's developmental stage?

It is often possible to find an honest middle ground and say something like, "There's more to this story than I can tell you right now, and maybe we'll come back to it in the future." It's also possible to share some important family truths, such as unhealthy intergenerational habits, without compromising someone's privacy or legacy. Consider, for example,

the simple statement, "We have a history of alcoholism in our family that has caused real heartbreak."

Of course, these conversations can come up without warning. It has helped me to think about my most challenging stories ahead of time, as well as how and with whom I want to share them. Once I've prepared, I can watch for openings (or even create them if I feel there is some urgency).

7. Give kids *real*, relatable heroes. It can be easy, over time, to fall into the habit of telling only heroic stories

about that one grandparent, and only sarcastic or deprecating stories about that eccentric great-aunt. Such a practice paints incomplete and inaccurate portraits about our relatives, and it doesn't do our kids any favors, either.

Older children and youth, especially, are ready to learn about people with complex personalities who faced complicated situations. That's what real life is all about. I have learned to focus on how our relatives responded. Some kids may be ready to consider what their options may have been, given the time and place. As a genealogist, I can sometimes help young people better understand the restrictions that may have faced our female, immigrant, poor, minority, or other disadvantaged relatives. We can talk about what we might do differently, or how hard it must have been to be them, or what we respect about what they did or did not do at the time.

8. Be an (occasional) opportunist. I've learned to watch for natural conversational openings to share a family story. Or to create opportunities by taking ourselves to a place where history—and family history, specifically—easily become part of the conversation.

Research

I try not to do this too frequently, or I'll get the predictable eye-roll: "Mom's at it again." (Just like I'm trying to keep every conversation with my 14-year old daughter right now from coming back to Harry Potter.) Even when wandering around a Greenfield Village with my son, I kept the "family history" comments on a casual level, trying not to overdo it.

9. Tell short stories about yourself. Our stories matter, too. Without trying to be self-centered about it, I think *our* stories matter to a child more than the stories of a long-dead ancestor they've never met.

To be clear, my children don't show much curiosity about my personal history. I don't expect them to: as far as they're concerned, my life started when I birthed them. But typically, when I share a short, *relevant* story about my younger self, they listen and sometimes even ask for more. The trick is to be honest and vulnerable without compromising my own privacy or by resorting to either self-deprecation or self-promotion. (Yeah, it's a hard balance. I don't always get it right. But it's a skill worth learning.)



Childhood stories worth retelling

10. Tell stories about the child's earlier life. Many children love hearing stories about themselves (except at the self-conscious early-teen phase). They don't remember most of what happened in their lives before the age of 10. Even if they do, they often don't recall it well, or haven't revisited those memories with the new understanding that comes from being older.

I've realized that if I don't tell them their own stories, nobody ever will. And they need stories about their own challenges and how they have overcome them. This point has been driven home to me by my daughter, who was born with spina bifida. I have seen the power of reminding her of traits she showed from a young age, such as determination to walk (it took her more than two years) and sensitivity toward others (even as an infant, she would try to catch someone's eye and smile at them). My children and I also talk about experiences that didn't go as well when they were younger, and how they have grown since then.

Same genealogy, different goal

I don't feel a need to turn all my children into genealogists. I just want to ground them soundly in their past for their own well-being, and to help them become good people. Each of them responds to family stories in their own ways, and I think that's healthy. They all know who they're named after, and I think, for their ages, that they have a strong sense of where they come from.

If at some point they take a genuine interest in genealogy, I would love it. Of course, I would also love it if they'd eat their asparagus. But one thing at a time. At least they put it on their plates.



Sunny Jane Morton is the Editor of Ohio Genealogy News; a Contributing Editor at Family Tree Magazine; and content manager at YourDNAGuide.com. She was raised by parents who spent vacation time visiting relatives and cemeteries instead of Disneyland. She and her husband are now raising three children, ages 14-19.



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My Locked-down Genealogical Journey

by George Hall

I have always had a passion for history, and an interest, I suppose, in my family history. I started my first tree when I was only about seven years of age, but nothing really came of it and it was left untouched for a couple of years. I dabbled a little further into my family history when I was about twelve for a school project but, again, nothing really came of it. The interest never really left, but I genuinely thought that I would never be able to find out much about my family history. One reason being that it seemed impossible to me as a young person to be allowed to do research in a community that seemed to be dominated by 'older' people. I also did not realise that genealogy is not always a labour-intensive hobby but rather one that is very enjoyable. Back then I only knew of the Ancestry website as a place to research and was unaware of the plethora of free websites.

This all changed on a late Friday evening, in Mid-March 2020, when my journey truly began. I typed the basic details of my immediate family into Ancestry and something special sparked inside me when I saw hints for my grandfather's profile. I knew next to nothing about the man, only limited details of the tragic story of his death, when my dad was only a child. The FindAGrave index popped up and I saw something that I never imagined I would see, my grandfather's headstone. I truly believe from that moment I became captivated and motivated to find more and more information. The more I researched the easier it became, and my motivation skyrocketed.

The brick walls, that many genealogists dread, soon appeared, but despite this the motivation never stopped. Even when it seemed like things were impossible, I persevered and still enjoyed spending hours researching! Things began to take a turn for the worse in the world as a pandemic overwhelmed us. Having genealogy as a distraction through these times truly helped me. The world seemed less scary as I saw what my ancestors had been through and I discovered the sacrifices they had to make. It grounded my reality, as it gave me a sense of belonging, connecting me to the world in a way which I had never imagined I could be connected to.

The story of my grandad Richard Hall was slowly discovered. Hushed details were uncovered, and connections were made. By pure coincidence, I



Richard Hall at his wedding in 1969.

Family History

found a tree on Ancestry that included a couple that appeared to be my great-grandparents. It turns out the author of that tree was my dad's first cousin. Getting into contact with that cousin meant hearing family stories. I was sent photos of family members I never imagined I would be able to see. I soon sent a letter to a lady who married my grandad. It was a risk, in many ways, as she may not have wanted contact with me and there was the possibility that the image of my grandad that I had created in my mind could have been destroyed in a dramatic way. This luckily did not happen, and she told me lots of things about my grandad, and for the first time in my life I could say that I knew him.

The only thing I had left to do to connect with grandad Richard was to visit his final resting place. I did not even consider contacting anyone to help find a map or plot reference. My dad and I simply just turned up on a grey Sunday morning and spent a good two hours looking for him. I was the one that found him, and it was a sobering experience to find in front of me the burial for a man who was a mystery all fifteen years of my life. This was probably one of the most powerful moments so far in my genealogical journey as it was something so simple that I never dreamt could have been possible. We cleaned the grave in the summer and now visit as much as we can.

Another thing that my research brought to me was a much greater respect and care for those that have preceded us. I always had a slight respect and fascination into those that have passed, don't get me wrong, but it now means something different to visit a churchyard and a cemetery than it did before. Each stone not only represents a life but represents all their acquaintances and family. It also represents toil and labour with great hopes and dreams which either succeeded or were doomed to fail by history. It is somewhat comforting in a way, knowing that you are a minuscule paragraph in the ever-expanding anthology of life.



Richard Hall in his sea cadet uniform during the 1950s.

As time progress naturally you become better at doing something, and genealogy is no exception. You become more familiar with the records and how to use all aspects of the records to aid your research. You begin to use many research tools that were not apparent at the onset, and things begin to get easier. I began to notice many mistakes in my tree where events were not sourced correctly and there were vast conflicts of sources and events. These were naturally settled over time but are not a thing of embarrassment to me. They represent the thrill of finding out something interesting and wanting to continue to climb an unknown tree, and that to me is one of the most powerful aspects of family history. The thrill of discovery is felt by basically everyone and is one of the few ways we can all truly connect. I feel that sometimes the genealogy community needs to be more accepting of rookies and their inevitable errors. People are turned away sometimes by what they perceive as a community which is obsessed with perfection, which is desirable, don't get me wrong. But it should not be the be-all and end-all.

My connections gained from genealogy are not just familial. I managed to find the Hidden

Family History



George Hall visits his grandad's grave for the first time in May 2020.

Branch [<https://thehiddenbranch.com/>](https://thehiddenbranch.com/), a community of young genealogists, that advocates for young researchers who grew up in the digital age, and I was lucky enough to become a team member. Soon after, I participated in my first #AncestryHour where I met many friendly genealogists worldwide. I very much enjoy the collaborative nature of the Twitter genealogy community where I have learned a lot and I have helped others. By joining, I have made genuine friendships I would have never made and have a wider perspective of the genealogical community.

Liversedge Cemetery is my local cemetery and resting place of a couple of my family members. Last summer, I joined a group of volunteers caring for our cemetery and its burials. This, of course, would not have happened without genealogy and the connections I made. It has also been a great place to practise some gardening skills, get fresh air, and volunteer my time to my local community directly. It is a very welcoming group and has been a truly positive experience!

Liversedge Cemetery is also the location of the One Place Study I have started recently. I hope to tell the story of all those that lie in the cemetery but also all those that worked the grounds, registered the burials and helped build the picturesque cemetery. It is personal to me with the cemetery representing the history of my local area but holding both direct and indirect relations. Doing a One Place Study will also increase my skills in genealogy as I will encounter new sources, new places, new people and a wider variety of stories to tell. The One Place study will also enrich my understanding of the history of my local area allowing me to see it from many different perspectives that I would not have necessarily seen before. Tracking the rich and poor of one cemetery and one area really provides an interesting picture as even those that very fortunate are not immune to tragedy. If I had not begun my study of Liversedge Cemetery, I would not have been exposed to this as I mainly have poor ancestors and thus only see history through their eyes.

With the 1921 Census on the horizon, archives reopening, and the world seeming to be a little less scary, I look forward to the future. Genealogy is something that I am so grateful I managed to find. It has changed my life for the better in many ways, and given me connections and friendships I would have never had. Telling stories of those that preceded before us is something we should take pride in doing, and we must recognize the privilege we have to be able to do that. The power of genealogy is something that is rare in a fast-paced world, allowing us to reflect, connect, and be together.



George Hall is a Generation Z Genealogist, Hidden Branch Team Member and passionate about working class and local history. Growing up in the footsteps of his ancestors in the Heavy Woollen District in Northern England, he is passionate about telling the stories of all his ancestors whether they were members of the landed gentry or paupers.

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Leading the Next Generation of Genealogists

by Daniel

For those who know me, you'll know that I'm not your typical genealogist. I'm a 17-year-old Generation Z Genealogist (I am not a professional!) I've made it my mission to help the next generation of young genealogists start their journey into knowing more about themselves and the people before them. But as you can imagine, there aren't many people my age interested in genealogy. So The Hidden Branch <<https://thehiddenbranch.com/>> is my main focus which I will explain more about below.

As far as the genealogy community goes, I've done my best to help other genealogists with deciphering handwriting, offering advice, and even hosting a Twitter chat to help bust brick walls. I've definitely assisted in more ways than one, but there's one project that for me has been a highlight. I'm working with nine others my own age, all interested in genealogy, by creating our own website, writing blog posts, and starting communities to help unite all young genealogists all around the world. The project? The Hidden Branch. Founded in November 2019, we have a community up and running on Facebook for

young genealogists (ages 11-25 years) to join and chat about genealogy with people their own age. It is moderated thoroughly to ensure the safety of younger genealogists.

I am active on Twitter and have been a part of several Twitter chats including one that I hosted. #BWBHour (short for Brick Wall Busters Hour) helped other genealogists talk and solve brick wall problems. We had a lot of people joining to help solve brick walls that others have hit in their research whether it's in the United States or Ireland or the UK. You can follow me on Twitter @DanielGenealogy.

In recent times, I have started an Instagram Live Interview series (this can be found on Instagram at @daniels_genealogy). I have interviewed genealogists from organisations like MyHeritage and WikiTree as well as ever-emerging young genealogists like myself!

Another thing I work on occasionally is my Killedan One Place Study < <https://killedanoneplacestudy.wordpress.com/>>. I had chosen the townland of Killedan because it is where a lot of my ancestors because it is where a lot of my ancestors came from. I am definitely looking forward to what the future brings for me and my projects!

You can follow me and my latest work on my website https://linktr.ee/daniels_genealogy.



Daniel is a Generation Z Genealogist, Co-founder of The Hidden Branch, and founder & Host of BWBHour. Killedan One Place Study. Working to help encourage the next generation of genealogists to start young!

Crossroads for Kids

inviting kids to connect with their ancestors

Letter writing was once the only way to stay in contact with family and friends over long distances. When they have been preserved, letters can be fascinating glimpses into the lives of our ancestors and can provide valuable information when researching our family trees!

While public records can tell us about the big events in people's lives (birth, death, marriage, where they lived, etc.) letters can tell us more about who a person was - what they liked to do, what was important to them, what they did in their day to day lives. Old journals can provide these details as well!

Ask your parents and grandparents if any letters or journals still remain from your ancestors!

Crossroads for Kids is not only a place to learn about genealogy but to share as well!

If you have an experience with family history you would like to share, with the help of an adult, submit it to elisemgodfrey@gmail.com and you could be published in a future Crossroads for Kids!

Cursive Handwriting Practice

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff
Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll
Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq
Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv
Ww Xx Yy Zz

Accessed via freeprintableonline.com

Using the alphabet above, try writing your own name in cursive!

Handwriting practice lines for writing a name in cursive. The lines consist of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

Created via TheTeachersCorner.net Handwriting Worksheet Maker

Write your own letter!

Have you ever sent or received a letter from someone? Take some time to write a letter to a friend or family member. Despite taking longer, sending and receiving letters is a fun and thoughtful way to communicate with loved ones!

L L E X L H G T H A N D W R I T T E N Z
 U H R A X S E F I V V Y J L V R A Z L E
 C W F N K M D H W A H U Q T D K H R V A
 Y J W Q G T L S U D L D B O D B I I R F
 R C Z H I B R F U Z A E B A W C S G P A
 I H E N V E L O P E X Z O A Q R O D V M
 N M Z P E M T G B E O O S G U J R I Z I
 L X C I B G D I Y O X K B C G C S Y M L
 R X U J H S N G K F W G C W I W P E V Y
 X N D L K V O N C D O C U M E N T L S H
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 C E C Z A W I D K L Y I R R D E N Q Q S
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LETTER
 STAMP
 SNAILMAIL
 REMEMBER

CURSIVE
 ENVELOPE
 HANDWRITTEN
 REQUEST

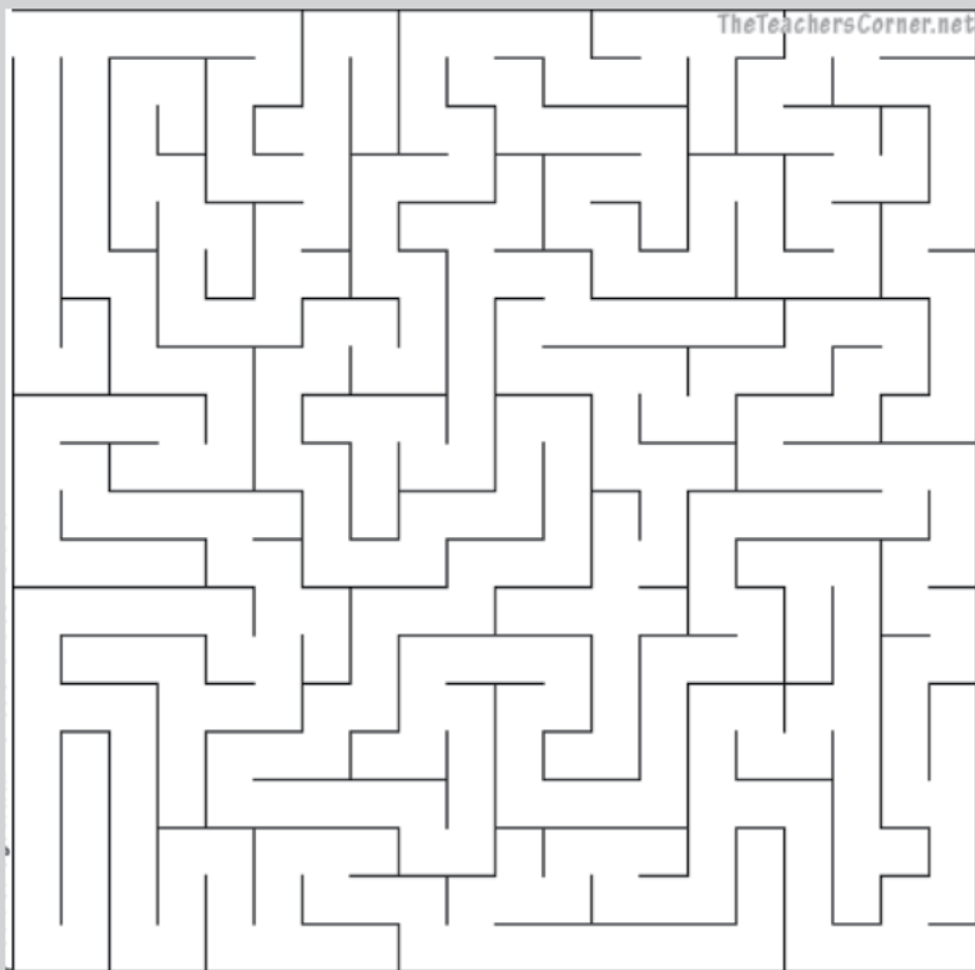
FAMILYHISTORY
 GENEALOGY
 PRESERVE
 DOCUMENT

Research by Mail

Letter writing used to be a huge part of locating and collecting family history research. If you needed a certain record or wanted information on a person or family, you couldn't simply sit down at a computer and look it up.

You needed to write a letter asking for the information you were looking for and wait for a response. As a result, it could take months (and sometimes years!) to make progress on family history research. With access to the Internet, instant communication, and digitized records, what once took weeks can now take mere seconds! Researching our ancestry has never been easier!

Help the postman deliver your letter!



Family History

I Was Just a Kid

by Diana Crisman Smith

I am an only child. My dad's only sister was eleven years old when I was born (he was twelve when she was born); my mom was an only child with a brother and a sister (that was her standing joke: her dad married three times — he had a son with wife #1; my mom with wife #2; and wife #3 had a young daughter he helped raise, so she had a half-brother and a step-sister). The children remained with their mothers growing up, but it was all pretty amiable, so they spent time together through the years and we all were close.

Although I was short on siblings and parents' siblings, I had an abundance of other family when I started this journey at age ten: my paternal grandparents (the Crismans), my maternal grandmother and her second husband (the Rinards); my maternal grandfather and his third wife (the Devols); my mother's paternal grandmother (Grandmother Webb); my mother's maternal grandfather (Grandpa Tommy); and my father's paternal grandmother (Grandma Crisman), plus my "bonus" grandfather's mother (Grandmother Rinard), and my "bonus" grandmother's father (Grandpa Morgan) were all still living. I was so fortunate to know all of them, plus many of my grandparents' siblings and their families.

I was active in the Bluebirds beginning in first grade, growing into a Camp Fire Girl ("flying up", as it's called, in late grade school). I loved it! The group activities were fun, I went to summer camp several years (even learned to swim there), and I learned a lot. In Camp Fire Girls we earned awards (beads for ceremonial vests) by doing various projects or activities. One of my first projects was in the Homemaking category. The assignment was to create a library of recipes; I collected from

magazines, family members, and books — and I kept collecting all my life.

But my absolute favorite project was the one I started in 1960 (when I was ten years old) for a Citizenship bead. The assignment was to compile a listing of the descendants of ALL of your great-grandparents, with relationships. Sounded easy enough. I could get the information directly from family members. So far, so good.

I started on the project that summer. I began with the grandparents I saw most regularly: the Rinards and Crismans, since they lived about 60



Diana Crisman Smith in Camp Fire Girl vest

Family History

miles apart in Iowa (I lived in Kansas at the time, but we drove over to visit often), plus Grandpa Morgan and Great-Grandmother Rinard, who also lived in Iowa. That summer I spent several weeks in Iowa, so I was able to sit down with each of them to get the information on their parents, children (that was easy enough), plus their siblings and their descendants. At that time I did NOT realize that dates and places were also important (that wasn't in the project requirement). I ended up transcribing an outline-type report (this was all by hand, of course) into a spiral notebook, starting with my great-grandparents, then the first child with spouse and children and grandchildren, etc., then on to the next and so on - just names, no dates or places. That was pretty easy for my immediate family (the descendants of my grandparents - remember, at that time ALL of my six grandparents had a total of just three grandchildren).

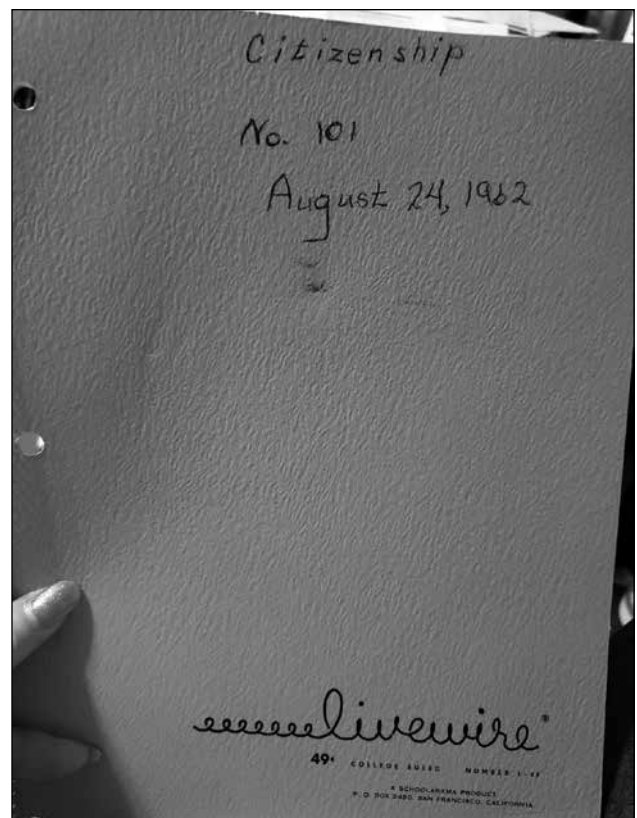
It got harder when I learned that my maternal grandfather was one of four children - that turned out to be the easiest. From there it got more complicated. My maternal grandmother was one of ten; my paternal grandmother was one of six; my paternal grandfather was one of twelve. Fortunately, I was one of the older great-grandchildren, so there weren't so many yet then. [Note: I have since learned of the family members who did not survive childhood — for example, my paternal grandmother was not one of six, but one of twelve; the other six died as infants — some before they came to America from Denmark. Each of the other families also lost several babies. As I have grown in genealogy I have documented them all.]

After I finished interviews with the grandparents in Iowa, we moved on (my mom and dad loved to travel). First we went to Florida that same summer (as we had done every two years for most of my childhood), so I could interview my Grandpa Devol and his wife (yes, I included the step-parents of my mother — fortunately they each had only one sibling). I was also able

to interview Grandmother Webb (my Grandpa Devol's mother) who was able to give me details about her other children and grandchildren.

The final piece was the following summer when we went to California to visit my father's paternal grandmother. Documenting her family was the toughest, since she had twelve children who had LOTS of children and even a few grandchildren (her great-grandchildren). Fortunately, she had a good memory, and several of her children lived near her in California, so I talked to them too. It seems the whole time we were there, someone came by nearly every day who could fill in gaps or names! We spent a week with her, then went to visit my maternal grandmother's brothers in northern California, with the same result - their children came by and provided more details. **If I had only known more questions to ask!**

Here's the cover of the book I used, with the date I completed the project (August 1962) - over a year after I started. Over the years I continued to accumulate information on the family members,



Family History

mostly from interviews, letters, birth/wedding invitations, funeral notices and obituaries, and occasional newspaper clippings. I still didn't know much about all the necessary research, but I was starting to do it anyway. I was hooked!

When I got married in 1972, my husband was as interested in family history as I was (part of the attraction, I think), so we began compiling our family information "for real." Three of his four grandparents were still living when we got married, so they were able to help us.

We started using a computer genealogy program (first, Personal Ancestral File, aka PAF - later we moved on to FamilyOrigins, and now I use RootsMagic) to organize what we knew. We attended seminars, conferences, meetings, and any other opportunity to learn. We moved to Ohio in 1979, and met some other people interested in family history. There was a Family History Center (now a FamilySearch Center) near us, and we started visiting every possible opportunity (usually two or three times a week). We found so much information, taking our families back through the generations. We also started visiting the Western Reserve Historical Society Library nearby, which was noted as one of the best genealogical repositories in the US at that time. It was even more amazing, since we could view the US Federal censuses there, browse books of all types, and keep learning more! We were there almost every week. I found I LOVED going through the census microfilms (they weren't online yet then), and it was actually the most efficient way to find our family members, since they were mostly farmers and often lived in close proximity to each other. My husband Gary found his own favorite records and we researched enthusiastically whenever we could.

It was wonderful! After about three years of practically living at the Family History Center we were asked to be lay librarians there, to help others do what we had been doing. It was even more fun to help people with other areas of

research - and continue to learn by helping. We did that for nearly 25 years!

Meantime, we learned of a company which sold genealogical forms and other supplies. It was like finding a home — this fit our styles and experiences to a "T" — and we were asked to become representatives of the company. We attended conferences throughout the northeast quarter of the United States! After a while, we were asked to speak about the forms we sold, and other aspects of genealogy (especially organizing) when we attended these conferences. When the company moved and changed structure, we moved on, but continued speaking at conferences — which I still do to this day.

We also started writing for genealogical publications, either single articles or sometimes regular columns — sometimes as a team, sometimes individually. Then online courses came along and I started writing and leading those around 2010. We also had the opportunity to lead several genealogy cruises — our love of travel, genealogy, teaching, and people all in one package! This became (and remains) my favorite thing (someday we'll be able to travel again).

Who knew that little Camp Fire project would lead to my lifelong passion for genealogy in all forms? I am technically retired, but still spend most of my days in the office working on projects, either personal or professional. It is an AWESOME way to spend my time!



Diana Crisman Smith has been researching since childhood and served as a lay librarian at her local Family History Center for more than 20 years. She has been active as a researcher, speaker, writer, and teacher since the 1980s.

She has written online courses as well as for numerous genealogical publications, including regular columns in the National Genealogical Society News Magazine and the Association of Professional Genealogists' APG Quarterly.

Roots for Kids: Finding Your Family Stories

by Melissa Barker

Author: Susan Provost Beller

Publisher: Genealogical Publishing Company

Publication Year: 2020

Pages: 68

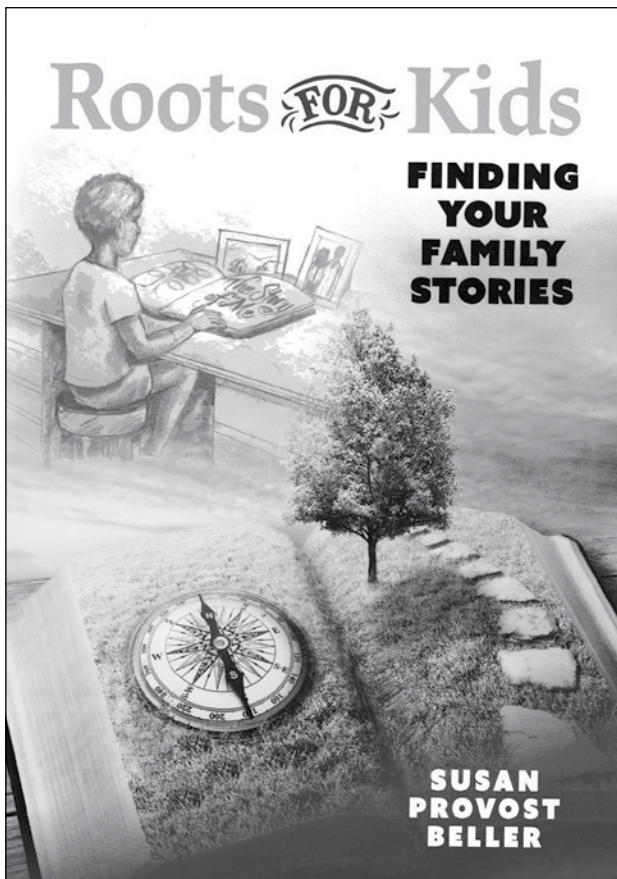
ISBN: 978-0-8063-2107-3

Price: \$18.50

Roots for Kids: Finding Your Family Stories is a companion book to the *Roots for Kids* book by the same author. This book was written for the young reader and helps children of all ages find the stories of their family and record them. Our ancestors' stories are the backbone of genealogy research, and Beller does a good job of sharing with young genealogists the importance of those stories. The author has included many stories from her own family to illustrate what kind of stories the reader should be looking for. Children reading this book should be able to pick up skills essential to genealogy research.

This is what many young readers would call a "chapter book," as it is divided into chapters with each chapter being four pages in length. The short chapters work well to keep the young reader's attention and can even be used as an after-dinner activity or a weekend project. In each chapter, Beller tells a family story and then proceeds to show the reader how genealogy comes into play. These stories are short and should keep the interest of the reader. Out of these stories the author talks about genealogy guidelines to help pique the interest of the young reader. The purpose of this book is to not only teach genealogy, but to also help the reader learn about themselves.

I genuinely enjoyed Chapter 1 where Beller shows the reader how to understand the relationships between those mentioned in the story and the family. She highlights each person and explains what generation they belong to in the family and how the women's names changed



On the Bookshelf

when they married. These are basic genealogy concepts that a young reader needs to know to help them on their genealogy journey.

Chapter 3 focuses on how to interview family members to get genealogical information from them. Beller gives the young reader tips on what to ask and how to ask it that will make this process smoother and more successful. One piece of advice that even experienced genealogists could use is on page 10 where Beller says "Listen carefully and let the person finish their story. Sometimes the best part of getting information comes when you are not asking question after question."

In Chapter 5 the author shows the reader how to use food to engage the family members and talk about food traditions and food stories. Chapter 14 is about visiting places where our ancestors lived and how the young reader and their family could take trips to these places and get an up close and unique family history experience.

At the end of each chapter the author includes an activity for the reader to do. This helps to put the knowledge they learned in the chapter into action, which in turn helps them to really understand the concept each chapter presents. Beller even includes an Irish Soda Bread recipe in Chapter 5 that can be made to share with the entire family. Chapter 12 includes genealogy charts the young reader can use to get started organizing their genealogy research. At the end of the book is a nice and easy to use Glossary for reference and an Index for quick lookups. The book includes nicely done illustrations that enhance the text.

Chapter 14 is all about Finding Your Family Stories and that is what genealogy is all about. Beller states on page 56, "The most amazing thing about collecting family stories is that it gives you the ability to make your ancestors real, living, breathing people for you to get to

know." This statement is so true and one that not only young genealogists should embrace but one that experienced genealogists should keep in mind. Beller places great emphasis on the stories of our family history and anyone who reads this book will get this message loud and clear.

This book is one I can highly recommend for parents to share with their young readers to get them interested in genealogy and family history. I would also recommend this book to home schooling parents who are doing a course on family history. It is written like most textbooks with reading and then an activity or homework after each chapter. Even though I am not a young reader, I enjoyed reading this book and even found a couple of Beller's tips a good reminder to me as a seasoned genealogist.



Melissa Barker is a Certified Archives Manager for the Houston County, TN Archives. She also lectures, teaches and writes about researching in archives and records preservation.

She writes her own blog and has written articles for several publications. She is affectionately known as The Archive Lady. She is also a Professional Genealogist that works with clients researching their Tennessee ancestors.



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A Genealogical Visit with P.J. Elias

by P.J. Elias

Hello, I'm P.J. Elias. I'm seventeen and in the eleventh grade and I'm a history lover. I've always loved history. In second grade, I was one of the rare kids who would rather read a non-fiction book than a fiction book. Outside of history and genealogy, I enjoy drawing, writing, reading, and my generation's pastime, video games. I love to draw my ancestors and scenes of Philadelphia. I'm not very good at it but I enjoy it. I mostly write about my family, but every once and awhile I work on a historical fiction world I've been writing about for a few years. Most of my reading is historical diaries and biographies. I'm particularly fond of reading about orphans and children who survived war. I love learning about culture, religion, and social history so it isn't a surprise that I became a genealogist.

My father owns a shell shop and my mother is a baker. Both of my parents are also history lovers, but definitely not to the degree I am. My mother attributed her love for history, to her unknown heritage. Growing up, her parents were ostracized from their family, leading my mother to have many questions about her family. I've been researching my family for six years, since I was ten years old (which is pretty young from what I hear). I became interested in my family history when my grandpa told me about his paternal grandparents who were orphans from Romania, and no one knew anything about them. From there I started out with the goal of finding my 2nd great-grandparents' birth and immigration. When I started, I didn't research my maternal side, because my grandfather didn't want to talk about his past. I mostly researched my paternal side, until around three years ago when my grandfather opened up and told me his parents' names and my grandma's

parents. Once he told me this information, it was like opening Pandora's box. I have been researching ever since then, and I don't plan on stopping any time soon!

I have learned about so many of my ancestors, so choosing a favorite ancestor is like choosing a favorite child. My favorite ancestor changes depending on who I'm researching at the time. I'd say right now that it's my great-grandpa James Iagovino. He was so pure of heart. I also like him because his maternal grandma was a foundling. A foundling is someone who is founded as a baby. James didn't let his environment dictate his life; he got out of his crime-ridden neighborhood in Philadelphia, unlike most of his siblings. Many of his siblings got arrested for selling illegal guns from across the border. He was a role model to everyone he knew. All of his nieces and nephews said he was their favorite uncle. It's odd that he married my great-grandma Janina. Janina was said to be the opposite of him. Everyone including her family described her as nasty and quite rude; they are each other's yin and yang.

I use Ancestry as my go-to website. I use Family Tree Maker to record my research because of its compatibility with Ancestry. Otherwise, I'm pretty bare bones. I use the Microsoft Office applications Word and Excel which I find extremely useful. What I can do with these tools is limitless. For example, I can easily look at a census and look for specific information by using the Excel filter tool.

I have so many projects! Obviously I have my family tree which I'd say I put thirty or fifty percent of my genealogy time into. I also research a specific location, known as a One Place Study, right now (and for the

Research



Janina Baginska and James Lagovino

foreseeable future). I'm researching Sanibel Island, Florida. There was once farming on this island but it ended with a twentieth century hurricane. My longest project is St Pete, Florida, which is my hometown. I have a particular soft spot for the African American community and their amazing history. Sadly, my research mostly stopped due to COVID. My last study is in the neighborhood of Port Richmond in Philadelphia. My whole maternal side is from this area, so it's very close to my personal research. Currently I've been working with some Jewish genealogists on the Jewish section of the neighborhood. Within each of these projects there are many mini projects. I couldn't do as much as I do unless I make everything into a smaller project that is more manageable.

There are so many ways to learn about genealogy. One of my favorites is by reading books. There are so many books on a multitude of genealogical topics, like how

to research African American ancestry and how to make a source citation. My personal favorite book is *The Family Tree: Polish, Czech, & Slovak Genealogy Guide* by Lisa A. Alzo. But there are so many other great books. Two of my favorite genealogy authors that I would recommend are Blaine Bettinger and Dr. Thomas Jones. Outside of books, there are amazing webinars from many different websites. I've recently started listening to podcasts and I'm particularly fond of Research like a Pro from Family Locket < <https://familyloket.com/the-research-like-a-pro-genealogy-podcast/>> and Amy Johnson Crow's Generations Café < <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/category/podcast/>>. Also, I recommend reading blogs and talking to genealogists. I've learned so much from genealogists who research in a similar location as I do.

As a young person and a genealogist, I have many goals. Some of these goals are long-term but a lot of them are short-term.

One of my short-term goals is to start a podcast so I can get more confidence in speaking and writing. I'd also like to graduate from high school, so I can go to college to get a higher education. I really want to start blogging by researching and getting better at writing. I think that's where I fail the most and can improve. In the near future I'd like to do some professional genealogy research. I would do this for free and try to get my name out in the genealogy community as a serious genealogist. In conjunction with the previous goal, I hope to start a small business to help pay for college expenses and other financial needs that I may have. One longer-term goal is to be a Certified Genealogist, I think this would propel me in the professional field. Before I become certified, I need to graduate college. I'd like get a lot of the skills I need for genealogy in college if I didn't already have them. I'd also like to write books about my ancestry, my One Place Studies, and what techniques I use, such as how to make a map based on the census, as

Research

well as many other tricks I've learned through my research.

I don't know whether young people are intimidated by genealogy or they think it's for old people, but I'd love to see more kids getting into genealogy and history in general. With organizations like The Hidden Branch < <https://thehiddenbranch.com/> > I think we'll see more kids getting into genealogy, and I'm super excited about that. I'm super interested in the future of DNA and encouraging more people to test. I also hope more records will become digitized and easily accessible. I get asked a lot about what I wish I did or what young genealogists aren't doing and should. And to answer that question, I wish I made more source citations! So many amateur genealogists don't cite their sources and later regret it. I know I have. I'd also recommend joining a community, whether it's joining the genealogical society in your area, or online. Having a community can help you learn a lot; you can learn about different research

techniques and different records that you might not have thought about. On a lighter note, never stop asking questions and wondering as William Ward said, "Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning." I recommend you look at different types of genealogy research and different cultures. If you don't have African American ancestry or Asian ancestry, then look into that type of research and records they use. Thinking outside of the box can often help in breaking your own brick walls.



PJ Elias is from sunny St. Pete, Florida. He's been researching since he was ten years old. He's traced his lineage back to the 18th Century! He has strong roots in Poland, Romania, Czechia, Ireland, Germany, Norway and Italy. PJ specializes in Polish-American research and Genetic Genealogy. He hopes to become a professional genealogist and teacher. One of his biggest goals is to become a recognized genealogist.

The Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) was formally organized September 25, 1971, by the State of Utah as a nonprofit educational organization. The Association's interests are worldwide: it is not affiliated with any religious or political organization.

Mission Statement: UGA provides genealogical information, sources and education through personal instruction and published media on state, national and international family history topics, while promoting high standards and ethical practices.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide education, instruction, and training that will raise the standards of genealogical and family history research through publications, classes, lectures, local workshops and seminars, and an annual statewide conference.
2. Publish instructional information of value to genealogists everywhere.
3. Provide information to the genealogical public relative to Family History Library collections.
4. Recognize the diverse genealogical interests in Utah and the Intermountain West by providing a worldwide focus when publishing or teaching information of interest to genealogists through vehicles such as Crossroads, other periodicals, and special monographs, as well as seminars, conferences, and institutions.
5. Locate, copy, index, publish, and otherwise make available to the public, genealogical records of Utah, including original records, compiled family genealogies, and similar records of the Intermountain West useful for Utah lineages.
6. Support the work of local, state, and national genealogical and historical organizations to promote and foster the active interest in and scholarly reputation of genealogy. Work cooperatively with these and other organizations to achieve mutual goals.
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