



The fine print in researching your family history ... **Be prepared!**

From hearing about surprise connections when a person enters their DNA information into a database to watching celebrities trace their family on a TV show, our journey into family history can take us down an unexpected path. How can we prepare for this? What should we do when we learn about a difficult story? How do we tell the rest of our family?

If you are researching a family story that has been passed down, some things to consider are:

1. Who is the source? Is this a trusted family member or someone that is "full of hot air" as one person remarked about a family member.
2. If this is a trusted source, does the story fit the family? One person trusted their source, but also knew her family well enough she wasn't completely sure.
3. Have others heard the story the same way? Sometimes there may be truth in the overall story, but not in the details.

When you come upon that difficult story:

1. Take time to review your findings and make sure the details work.
2. If it is hard information to process, take breaks from researching. Consider doing something that you enjoy and centers you in your current life.
3. Know that you are not alone. In that day and time, your ancestor may have felt their choice was correct. They may have been with a group that was targeted or in a community that had a disease pass through it. Even if the specific details are not the same, everyone has a family member whose story is hard to learn about. Some have written about it. In "My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me: A Black Woman Discovers Her Family's Nazi Past", Jennifer Teege learns who her grandfather was by chance and tells of her journey to understand her family and herself.
4. Talk to a therapist or a trusted family member.

My four times great-grandfather was a fuller. What is that !?!

As happens today, throughout time occupations become obsolete due to new technology and changing cultures.

A fuller cleaned, softened and thickened wool by using stale urine they collected. Their job entailed stomping on the fabric soaked in urine for hours.

Tony Robinson tried this job out in his series "The Worst Jobs in History". With the help of Ruth Gilbert, a textile historian, you can imagine the life of a fuller through this video clip:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb0V5NSg7o0>

When you want to tell other family members, remember that everyone takes news differently:

1. Make sure they are aware that you have been researching your family. Even if you have not come by your information deliberately, you can introduce the topic by mentioning that you are learning more about your family.
2. Ask if they are interested in your findings. If they are not, you can let them know that they can ask you at any time or maybe that the information is in a sealed letter. Some people have instinct on what they can handle.
3. Try to schedule enough time to talk in person or over the phone. Be open to stopping and picking up the conversation at another time.
4. Some people feel removed from what their ancestors have done, while others feel that what was done to their family was done to them or that they are responsible for what their family member did. If a family member's response concerns you, ask them to come with you to see a counselor and take that journey together.



Tools for your research

www.fultonhistory.com

In researching a family line from New York, references to content in a local newspaper were made by others who had previously looked at this family line. It looked like it would take a trip to New York to see the newspaper, but taking time to research the town's historical society led our research to information about a project to digitize the local newspaper.

In Thomas Tryniski's website, www.fultonhistory.com he has digitized many papers and they are stored and can be researched in a couple of ways. His FAQ page walks you through how to use the search features. Another way is to look through the papers in their file folder. Follow the steps to the right and then scroll through to find your paper of interest. It takes a little time to get your bearings as each page has been digitized sheet by sheet, so it could be every 3rd or 5th sheet that is that start of a new days paper.

Steps to find a list of the newspapers stored on this website:

1. Choose #2: "Go and Browse my Archives" from the home page.
2. Open the folder titled "Historical Newspapers United States and Canada" on the top row.
3. Open the folder titled " A Spreadsheet of Newspapers" on the top row

When was the first...

All initial consultations are free and a proposal of work will be agreed upon prior to any work commencing.

All books are commissioned work by the client and therefore all copyright privileges are the clients.

conflict over copyright?

In about 560 AD, the battle of Cúl Dreimhne (also known as the Battle of the Book) was fought in northwestern Ireland over St. Jerome's Vulgate, a Latin translation of the Bible.

The battle was unique for many reasons including the topic and the fact that a monk initiated it. The punishment was also unique, the monk was exiled and could not return until he converted to Christianity the same number of souls that were lost in the battle.

Contact Us

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