

Every Family Has A Story - Don't Let Yours Become Lost

10 Ways to Preserve Your Family History

1. Fill out Family Pedigree and Family Group charts with as much information as you know about your family.
2. Gather important family documents (Bibles; birth, death, and marriage certificates; school records; military records; deeds; old letters, etc), and put in a safe location. Make sure other family members know of their existence, and location.
3. Label old photographs with names and dates, and store in safe and appropriate environment. Share duplicate copies with family members to safeguard against loss.
4. If you have heirlooms to be passed down in your family, write a note with each explaining its history and relevance to your family.
5. Share your memories of your lifetime. Write them in a journal, tape record, or make a video recording. Include interesting details of your daily life – favorite childhood games, where you went to school, where you attended church, chores you were assigned, jobs that you held, travels that you took, etc. While they may not seem important to you now, your memories will be cherished by future generations.
6. Share your memories of your older relatives. You may be the last living person who had direct knowledge of your parents or grandparents. Write down what you remember about each of them, where and how they lived, and family stories you were told.
7. Organize and hold a Family Reunion.
8. Take younger family members along to visit burial locations of family members. This would be a good opportunity to talk about what you remember about their lives.
9. Organize your family history materials in a way that another person could easily understand and make use of them. Notebooks, file folders and boxes, and computer databases are some examples of ways to organize.
10. Make provisions to pass along your family papers at your death. If there are no interested family members, you might consider donating the materials to a local historical archive or genealogical society.



Topeka Genealogical Society
www.tgstopeka.org