**2022 Monthly Genealogy Projects**

Presented by Katrina Cooper, RCGS, February 12, 2022

This is based on a class I took through Family Tree University, January, 2022: Genealogy: A Month by Month Plan by Sunny Jane Morton. (University.familytreemagazine.com) See September for upcoming classes.

**January** – Get Organized.

* Photos, research files/notes, family trees, DNA matches
* Digitize, declutter, donate

**February** – Month of Love – Valentine’s Day

* Do you know how your parents met? How about grandparents, aunts and uncles
* Collect family wedding photos, newspaper write-ups, document when and where they got married. Write your Love Story.
* Visit the place your parents or family members were married.

**March** – Indiana Basketball time!

* Were any of your family in sports? High School, College or Pro? – not just Basketball
* Research how the game would have been played in their time – Wooden basket, Rules, Style of Uniform, facilities – don’t forget local leagues and women in your family

**April** – Look at family traditions.

* Religious affiliations? If so, attend church where your family attended.
* How did the family observe Easter and other Holidays? (My Mom colored our deviled eggs.)
* Family vacations? Did the family travel to see family or to Places of Interest?

**May** – Visit an Archive, Genealogy Library or Library in the area your family is from.

* Make travel plans in advance of course. At least plan to be in a location a few days.   
  These can be overwhelming and you want to give yourself time to absorb it all. If local, go early and plan to stay late.
* Look for Books on your family or vertical files. Take Family Tree information with you so you can look for names for other branches of the family easily.
* Naturalization records will give you the place where the family came from.

**June** – Occupation of your Ancestors

* Look into the occupation of your ancestors – census records, city directories, registration cards. Many times many of the family worked in the same line of work - glass factories, farmers, doctors, railroad, construction – plasterers, drywallers
* Arrange for a trip to ride a train and ask about the job your ancestor worked. Visit a hospital, farm, court, fire station or Museum to see more on how they dressed and what their job entailed. (places like Conner Prairie might be helpful.)
* Occupation often listed in obituaries and will even list the employers.

**July** – Reconnect with Family

* Host or attend a Family Reunion, Get-together – or two or three
* Print out a Family Tree Chart and hang on wall. Leave a pen for people to make corrections. Good to have a printed one as well. Bring Family Group Sheets and ask Family Members to bring their family up to date.
* Photos are a great conversation starter. You can leave a lap top running with family pictures or if you can put it on an overhead where people can watch together and tell about their memories from the photos. Or if you just want to bring family photo books or specific photos. You could decorate tables with photos and ask people to write down their memories from the ones at their table. Ask if they know who, what the day represented and when photos were taken.
* Record when you speak with family members if they agree. Take pictures of all who attend. Nice if could take family Units. You can place a sign to date the event in the picture.

**August** – Where did your family live?

* Make a time-line showing events of the family like marriages, births, changes of jobs, changes of location and deaths. You can color code it by colors if they moved several times.
* Visit the neighborhood where your family lived. Look in city directories, plat maps, Insurance maps and census records. Google Maps and simply typing in the address in the search bar can help you see the property if unable to travel there. Look in area for other family members. Where did they work, go to church or do their activities? Did several generations live in same home or did they pass the home down to the next generation? Look to wills – will tell the disbursement of property and may list property descriptions.
* Were they buried nearby? Do not just look for your ancestor’s tombstone. Family members may be nearby. Look in front, back and to side of your family members. You will be surprised who you might find. If the cemetery has an office, it can be very helpful to contact them and see if they can assist you in finding family members. Do not forget about children who died as infants.

**September** – Educate yourself!

* Take a genealogy class, attend a conference, join a society, listen to a podcast, watch a YouTube tutorial
  + Lisa Louise Cooke – How to Find Old Rural Addresses on a Map, 5 Top Tips for Searching at Newspapers.com, How to find School Records, etc
  + Crista Cowan, The Barefoot Genealogist, Ancestry.com - What’s New at Ancestry: February, 2022 (We Remember – Memorial – can now link to your Ancestry Tree, new Homepage, Improvements to Search – search wizard, quick fill, hint badges, smart filtering), Common Genealogy Mistakes,
  + Constance Knox, Genealogy TV – How to Create a Floating Tree on Ancestry, Grouping DNA Cousin Matches on Ancestry, Ancestry DNA: Cousin Matches: Next Steps, #1 Way to Bust Your Brick Walls
  + Family Tree University – 6 Ancestors in 6 Days, February 16, 2022 – February 22, 2022, $129.99 and Become a Family History Detective, February 14 – March 13, 2022, $99.00, Sunny Jane Morton, Instructor, www.familytreemagazine.com
  + Roots Tech Connect – entirely virtual, entirely free – Sign up at rootstech.org – sponsored by FamilySearch - March 3-5, 2022
* Practice a skill you have learned. Many times we take a class or listen to a podcast and never get back to using that skill

**October** – Make a contribution to Genealogy

* Make a donation to your favorite genealogical or historical organization
* Contribute to Find a Grave, Billion Graves – good suggestion by Jane Howard: check that information is correct on your family listed on Find A Grave. You can send in a request to findagrave.com so incorrect information will be corrected.
* Index records at FamilySearch, The National Archives, The World Memory Project, or ask about Local project

**November** – Document the Past

* Write a Family History, Make a photo book, other ideas for holiday gifts - Snapfish, Shutterfly, etc,
* Create a Calendar with photos of family and list Birthdays and Anniversaries –makes a nice gift.
* Make a creative display or shadow box to share with others when they come to your home during the Holidays (military, family tree, pictures)
* Interview a family member and share with others by adding it to Holiday Greetings –Google Questions to Ask Relatives About Family History, Story Worth.com– questions sent to relative on-line, they answer questions and company prints out a book. (On sale: 50% Off = $99) Write a Family Letter detailing activities of the year and photos.

**December** – DNA

* Create chart of DNA matches – color code for family affiliation – Thank you Randi James for your suggestion to use the Leeds Method for Organizing DNA Matches. I found it under a class at familytreemagazine.com about organizing your DNA matches!
* Download your information to another testing company
* Take a test from another group or gift a DNA gift to a relative so they can be tested
* Try to connect with your unknown DNA matches.
* Join a Surname Project/Group