Family History Presentation

Lynn C. Anderson & Craig Swan

University of Minnesota Retirees Association

October 7, 2020 10:00-11:00 am
You May Have More Family History Than You Know

Old Photos
You May Have More Family History Than You Know

Old Photos

Letters

Diaries, Scrapbooks

Reinbeck Dec 31 - 1906

Dear William,

We have almost decided to go to California next week (by we mean Jan 6th and thought that I would write you this while we are still figuring out how we will go and what route to take. Coming back to learn more. Jim says while he was up there in Canada there were chances to buy lumber yards straight without any taxes & unless things brighten up the railways get more cars in to move crops then dull times are likely to continue all winter. I think I told you that Jack Buchan's Standard's brother-in-law had been through Washington, Oregon & Western Canada & visited among the lumber yards & said that Canadian lumber can be bought very cheap.

Think you paid that 80 had a word investigating...
You May Have More Family History Than You Know

Old Photos

Letters

Diaries, Scrapbooks

Family Documents
You almost certainly you will need to start or update and maintain a family genealogy.
Family Genealogy

You almost certainly you will need to start or update and maintain a family genealogy

Otherwise it will be easy to get confused.

How detailed this information should be is up to you.
How to Find Missing Information?

Talk to/ask your relatives: parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins

If you show an interest, most people are quite responsive. You may also have relatives in the country/countries your family members came from and they can assist with finding documents, translating, and providing insights and context.

One-on-one Interviews with family members

Maybe you want to do some interviews or you want to get someone to interview you
Where to Find Missing Information?

Government Records, e.g.
Manuscript census data
Birth, death, marriage certificates, lists
Military records
Where to Find Missing Information?

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  Manuscript census data
  Birth, death, marriage certificates, lists
  Military records

Newspapers
  City Directories
Where to Find Missing Information?

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- Manuscript census data
- Birth, death, marriage certificates, lists
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Newspapers
City Directories
County and state historical societies
Ship manifests
Where to Find Missing Information?

Government Records, e.g.
  Manuscript census data
  Birth, death, marriage certificates, lists
  Military records
Newspapers
City Directories
County and state historical societies
Ship manifests
Church records, family bibles and findagrave.com
Books
How to find Missing Information

Many people start with on-line searches.

Web-based genealogy sites, e.g., Ancestry, FamilySearch, have links to millions of documents that automatically connect back to people in your family tree on their site.

Google and Google Books are often good sources and may surprise you.
George Swan Milk Tokens
Drawing of Craig’s great great grandmother from a Google search
In her defense one had to hold still for along time when this picture was taken.

Drawing of Craig’s great great grandmother from a Google search

The earliest ghostly sightings were reports of eerie lights and shadowy figures wandering in front of the third floor windows in 1911.

Since then, witnesses have reported flashes of light, slamming doors, and other unexplained phenomena.

It also seems that Alice had a penchant for electronic devices, which tend to move around or disappear.

The announcement of Chancellor Brown’s retirement triggered an uptick in reports of mysterious activity.

"Alice isn’t ready for new roommates."
Why share your Family History?

If you have more than one child or siblings and only have one copy of pictures and family documents, do you want your collection of pictures and documents divided into pieces?

At some point dividing originals may be inevitable, but sharing copies can give more people easy access to more of your family history.
What to share?

Genealogy information

Pictures and documents can often “stand alone” but please identify the people in them and where the picture came from if you can.

Family stories often come from an oral tradition and can easily be lost or misremembered if not written down.

Documents and letters may be of interest to some but not all family members. If they are in a language other than English, you may wish to provide a translation (if you can).
Genealogy Information

There are many ways to present genealogical information.

Some are more tabular.

Some are more visual.
Family Genealogy - Wheel

Family “wheel” that shows one couple and all of their descendants.

It allows you to see the connections between multiple generations on one page.
Descendants Wheel

After the “original couple” this wheel does not show spouses of descendants.
Cold Family Tree
Descendants Chart

Vertical format for a Descendants Chart
Starts with Craig’s maternal Great Grandparents
This chart includes six color coded generations
Descendants Chart

This descendants chart shows lifespans for individuals.
A chart that shows who lived at which properties in a relatively small Swedish community with many family connections.

This kind of document helps you trace family information using government land records.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESC#</th>
<th>DESCENDANT NAME</th>
<th>BIRTHDATE</th>
<th>BIRTHPLACE</th>
<th>DIED</th>
<th>OCCUPATION OR NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Anna Greta Alfredsson Husband</td>
<td>Jun 24, 1873</td>
<td>Hede, Sweden</td>
<td>May 29, 1954</td>
<td>Homemaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Axel Pettersson Hedman Children:</td>
<td>Feb 28, 1867</td>
<td>Hede, Sweden</td>
<td>May 02, 1946</td>
<td>Repairman Minnesota Power Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Carl Johan</td>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Peshtigo, WI</td>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Died in infancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Thure Alexander Wife:</td>
<td>Jul 28, 1896</td>
<td>Peshtigo, WI</td>
<td>Apr 17, 1971</td>
<td>Machinist DM &amp; IR Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Alma Victoria</td>
<td>Jan 21, 1898</td>
<td>Peshtigo, WI</td>
<td>Mar 27, 1985</td>
<td>Homemaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Martha Helena Theresa</td>
<td>Jun 04, 1899</td>
<td>Peshtigo, WI</td>
<td>Dec 01, 1991</td>
<td>Milliner - Homemaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Axel Erland</td>
<td>Jan 08, 1901</td>
<td>Peshtigo, WI</td>
<td>June 05, 1979</td>
<td>Deliveryman - Salesperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Hanna Linnea</td>
<td>Dec 22, 1902</td>
<td>Peshtigo, WI</td>
<td>Aug 10, 1944</td>
<td>Mpls. School of Art - Salesperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Waldemar Roland</td>
<td>Mar 21, 1904</td>
<td>Peshtigo, WI</td>
<td>Jan 21, 1944</td>
<td>Minnesota Power Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Carl Alfred Peter</td>
<td>Jan 30, 1907</td>
<td>Peshtigo, WI</td>
<td>Aug 30, 1960</td>
<td>Painting Contractor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Birger Adolph Napoleon</td>
<td>Oct 21, 1909</td>
<td>Peshtigo, WI</td>
<td>Oct 23, 1909</td>
<td>Died in infancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-10</td>
<td>Valborg Susanna Cecilia</td>
<td>Nov 22, 1910</td>
<td>Peshtigo, WI</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bookkeeper, Jewelry Store, Municipal Hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THURE’S FAMILY:**

12 | Thure Alexander Wife: | Jul 28, 1896 | Peshtigo, WI | Apr 17, 1971 | Machinist DM & IR Railroad |
24 | Alma Paatlow Children: | | | | |
121 | Geraldine Vivian Husband: | Aug 09, 1921 | Virginia, MN | Feb 10, 1983 | Nurse |
24 | Holden C West Children: | | | | |
1211 | Fred Gardiner | Apr 27, 1921 | Louisville, KY | | Retired Army Brigadier General |
1212 | Claudia Vivian | | | | |
1213 | Holden Claud | | | | |
1214 | Sally Claud | | | | |
1215 | Catherine Ann | | | | |
1211 | Fred Gardiner West, Sr. | | | | |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DESCENDANT NAME</th>
<th>BIRTHDATE</th>
<th>BIRTHPLACE</th>
<th>DIED</th>
<th>OCCUPATION OR NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1211</td>
<td>Fred Gardiner</td>
<td>Jun 02, 1947</td>
<td>Albany, GA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1212</td>
<td>Claudia Vivian</td>
<td>Jul 07, 1949</td>
<td>Macon, GA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1213</td>
<td>Holden Claud</td>
<td>Mar 30, 1952</td>
<td>Macon, GA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1214</td>
<td>Sally Claud</td>
<td>Mar 13, 1957</td>
<td>Macon, GA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1215</td>
<td>Catherine Ann</td>
<td>May 29, 1959</td>
<td>Macon, GA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1211</td>
<td>Fred Gardiner West, Sr.</td>
<td>Jun 02, 1947</td>
<td>Albany, GA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Family Tree Chart
A traditional linear family tree chart

Record the information you have even if it is not "complete." Use the name of the month rather than the number (September not "9") since the date and month can be confused in European and US documents.

Pedigree Chart showing ancestors
Pedigree Fan: Each color is different generation of parents, grandparents, etc.
How to Share Family History

**Write a memoir**  There are guides on the web to get you started. Do a Google search on “write a family memoir”

**emails** e.g., a weekly series of emails to children, siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles.

**Website** although maintenance of a web site is or will be an issue

**Make Copies**

  Xerox documents. Copy pictures.
How to Share Family History

Make a family history book

Books are an important way of sharing information.

They help to pull together separate pieces of information.

Creating a family history book can become a family project.

Putting things all together will make it easier for others to follow the story.
Lynn’s parents purchased a cabin on Bay Lake in the fall of 1967.

The family celebrated 50 years of memories through photos and text, put it in a spiral bound booklet and gave a copy to all immediate family members.
In 1967, we were seeking lake property within a two hour drive of our home in Roseville. Our first thoughts were to seek property in Wisconsin. There seemed to be many lakes within a two hour radius. One day when Marcia was at the Midway YMCA in St. Paul, she met Joel Anderson. He said he was a real estate agent on Bay Lake and had a property he could show us. Having heard good things about Bay Lake from Jane Crosley (Kneebone), Marci’s high school friend, we decided to look at the Bay Lake property owned by a Mr. Rasmussen. We met Joel Anderson on October 12, 1967. Keith, Jean and Roger were with us. After looking at the Rasmussen property, the three children went to the adjacent lot which was not listed for sale. They discovered and enjoyed 2 rope swings on two trees. We went over to this property, owned by Harry and Mary Porter and liked it immediately as did the children. Joel said he did not think the owner was using the property because of some health problems. He said he would ask the Porters if they would like to sell the property.

Joel found out that the Porters were interested in selling the cabin. On Saturday, November 11, 1967 he showed us and our 6 children the cabin. Joel said we should decide quickly since he and his wife would be going south very soon. We thought about it over the weekend and on Monday we told Joel we were prepared to purchase this property. We signed the purchase agreement on Monday, November 13” and put down $500. The warranty deed date was December 15th, 1967. Included in the sale were all of the household furnishings and a pontoon boat.

The land values on Bay Lake at that time were about $30.00 per front foot of shoreline. The property we were buying was about $30.00 per a front foot of shoreline. The property we were buying was 350 feet wide by about 350 feet deep from the shoreline to the Sand Beach Park Road. The original cabin was “T” shaped and had a floor area of 600 square feet. The cabin was set on concrete blocks, had no insulation and had a small gas wall heater. Barn sash was used for the windows.

We seldom stayed overnight in the time period from mid-October until May. The shallow well pump had to be shut off for the cold season. Three children slept in one bedroom. Marcia and I slept in the other bedroom and it had a cot for the youngest (Roger). We had a sofa bed in the living room to sleep two more children.

We lived this way and enjoyed it until 1975 when we added an addition to the cabin. This addition consisted of a living room, bathroom and a booth table and bench seats. We also built a sleeping loft and a basement to accommodate a laundry room, furnace and a sleeping area.

We raised up the old cabin and put an insulated, enclosed foundation around the crawl space. We also had a 70 foot deep well drilled and our septic tank and drain field reconstructed.

At the time we bought our property, the Rasmussen property was for sale for about $650.00 which included a summer cabin on a 150 foot lot. The property two doors east of us was also for sale for around $6,000 with a 50 foot lot width. Unfortunately, we could not foresee what was going to happen to the value of these properties. At that time, we could not afford any more than what we had already bought. Land values increased from $30 per front foot in 1967 to over $3000 per front foot in 1977.

Of the five owners of properties to our east in 1967, only one property (William Snyder) is still in the same family. Of the five owners of property to our west, only the Roy Swenson property remains in the family. Woodland Beach Road was a dirt road and one spring it was so bad that a fire truck got stuck.
The whole family contributed text, poems, and pictures.
Relatives can be very generous and helpful by translating documents for you.
A letter that went through German censorship during WWII but arrived in MN

Having the envelope that shows the censorship and stamps is fun.
Information about Lynn’s Grandfather’s service in WW I using military documents and what her Grandfather told her Father about his service.
Places where Lynn’s Grandfather had been during the WW I Army of Occupation in Germany

“I am sure he saw many of these same sights. I put together a book with pictures of the towns and countryside and included his "itinerary" from WW I.”
Three Generations

Antoinette Marie Cold and George Swan
Their Children and Grandchildren

Cover for a book Craig put together about his father’s family
Katherine Craig,
Her Parents and Grandparents

A story told in pictures, letters, remembrances and other documents

This book is about Craig’s mother’s family

Picture from Parsons College, Iowa, where Katherine’s parents, Jessie McKlveen and Hugh Craig, met.
Hugh and Jessie were Classics majors.
They are in the middle of the second row, sitting next to each other.
Thank you

Questions
Comments
Next steps?

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Craig Swan - swan@umn.edu