

Perfect Time To Set GOALS: *new year blessings if you establish realistic goals or see <http://www.kuzmich4.com/Facebook/Goals.pdf>*

Genealogy goal-setting is not as common as setting goals to get organized, lose weight, or advance your career. But if you are a genealogist it may be one of the best things you could do this year.



Productivity studies show that it is best to select 5 or 6 goals to act on at a time to maintain focus. Trying to accomplish too many goals at once can become discouraging. Your list should be short enough that you will be able to recite it nearly from memory.

In order for goals to be attained they need to be more than a wish.

- Write your genealogy goals down.
- Choose 5-6 genealogy goals to act on at a time.
- Review your genealogy goals at least weekly.
- Set specific dates to complete each genealogy goal.
- Share your genealogy goals with someone who might help you accomplish them.



Tips for your goals

- **Organize Your Paperwork:** Organized paperwork is the foundation for successful genealogy. The first step to organizing your genealogy is to bring all your papers into one area. Gather all the birth and death certificates, photos, maps, and stories. Label them and organize to the branches of your family line.
- **Conduct Interviews:** Set up times and appointments with your family members especially the older ones. Prepare your questions in advance.
- **Consider obtaining a DNA Kit:** Most online database companies that sell DNA kits have a section on their website for DNA matches, contact them. Work with those who are the closest relationship first. Share photos and stories with them.
- **Gather all your pictures:** Label the pictures, take them with you when you visit family to help you with those you can't identify.
- **Goals should be focused:** It's easy to get sidetracked. Use your research goal notes to better keep your work on-task and to stay focused on your goals.
- **Set a timer:** Set a timer to keep yourself on track. This will keep you from getting overwhelmed or sidetracked.
- **Don't procrastinate:** Set time aside and stick to your time line. Get family to help.
- **Keep a research log:** Keep a record of what you have already researched so you don't waste time repeating the same steps you have already taken. Use a 'To Do' list to help you start right off each session. List libraries, websites, and books that you have already searched. Also keep a record of phone numbers of people you have called, including relatives and DNA matches.
- **Road Trip:** Take a trip to your family's ancestral home, photograph headstones, visit relatives for your interviews. This not only advances your research but enables continued enthusiasm.
- **Be consistent:** Don't wait until you get older or retired. If you spent only 15 minutes a day that's 91 hours over a year. Remember, genealogy research is not a sprint, it is a marathon with small increments of time. Large projects look overwhelming, chose small tasks each session and accomplish them.

Closing Comments:

Family History pursuits can be life-time endeavor. [ABCNews suggested the hobby was second to gardening](https://abcnews.go.com/Business/genealogy-hot-hobby-worth-16b-mormons/story?id=17544242) at <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/genealogy-hot-hobby-worth-16b-mormons/story?id=17544242>. For neat presentations about the scope of family history as a hobby with both pro and negative viewpoints presented about the popularity of genealogical pursuits, peruse these links.

- <https://www.familytree.com/blog/genealogy-is-the-second-most-popular-hobby-in-the-u-s/>
- <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/genealogy-hot-hobby-worth-16b-mormons/story?id=17544242>

Genealogy is the study of families, family history, and the tracing of their lineages. Genealogists use oral interviews, historical records, genetic analysis, and other records to obtain information about a family and to demonstrate kinship and pedigrees of its members. Family history is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the United States. More and more people have discovered the fun of tracing their ancestors. With the advent of the Internet and technology, it has become easier than ever before. Genealogy is a versatile hobby. One's family history may be recorded with a simple pen and paper, or it can involve expensive computer equipment. With smartphone technology, multimedia can be bought in with priceless memories on a realistic budget!



