

[Collaborate with Others: A Time-Sharing Shortcut for Family History with Both Short-and-Long-Term Success!, Part 1](#)

Collaborating with others can be a key ingredient in conducting original family history research. It may be difficult or even impossible to find all the records and/or personal information about your ancestors without some collaborating from your older living extended relatives. No one person ever has all the pieces of a family history puzzle. Contacting people who may have personal knowledge that you're not familiar with is an invaluable step for additional research. Working with others helps you get more done on your own work, as well as giving you the chance to help others. In the process, your data usually becomes more reliable and accurate, and you may form lasting friendships with those you partner with in family history. In this installment, there are five areas of concentration that you should consider in enhancing your networking capabilities with your living ancestors even if they have never done any family history. Below is a five-point curriculum from the family history guide that will guide you on how to use your networking skills with your extended family. Sometimes we learn more from aunts and uncles than we may even learn from our direct ancestors such as parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

- Share your family history efforts
 - Work with others on your family history
 - Organize or participate in family gatherings that promote family history
 - Join an online user group or forum for a genealogy website
 - Create or join a family association
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There is strength in numbers. When you receive counsel from relatives, that can equate to shortcuts in finding more information about your family members who are deceased. While we all would like to see miracles happen and obtain information effortlessly, quickly and painlessly, it requires effort to fellowship and communicate with your living relatives with genuine interest in them as well as and in seeking out what information they have. This can be accomplished by telephone, email, text messaging, personal visits, letters and through social media. We know it is better to give than to receive and when contacting relatives, don't hesitate to express a sincere interest in them and you will be surprised how the Spirit of Elijah can work when people are genuinely kind with each other. The tragedy is if we don't network while our relatives are alive and well, circumstances will change later when some of them may pass away or their memories are no longer intact and every time a relative passes away, you have lost golden opportunities to shortcut your family history research. Another factor is that when relatives passed away, often times their photographs, written documents, family stories and other memorabilia can inadvertently be dispersed to others or even discarded. This can be particularly true among distant surviving family relatives who may not even know that you are interested. In other words, never procrastinate because there are golden opportunities to learn from others and networking is a prime tool for enabling new information to become shared. As the youngest person in my extended family, it was incredibly important that I started my family history pursuits 50 years ago because now I am very last of my family and extended family still alive. You'll never regret taking advantage of those opportunities to meet your extended family members and to interview them and converse about their family history memories for these memories can be recorded forever on FamilySearch.org.

The miracle is that relatives living can be your direct key to your past ancestry. Take heed of networking and hope that this installment generates some interest for you to not only identify who is still living but to interview those people and to do your preparation so that when they do share information you are ready and able to take advantage of it to lead you to more original research. The URL for this **The Family History Guide** Networking Tutorial for collaborating with others in doing family work is

<https://www.thefhguide.com/project-6-help03.html>

Working with others helps you get more done on your own work, as well as giving you the chance to help others. In the process, your data usually becomes more reliable, and you may form lasting friendships with those you partner with in family history.

Choices

A Share your family history efforts.

Remember to get permission from living individuals if you share their information.

1. Watch these videos for ideas on sharing your family history information with others.

▶ AC—Quick Ways to Share Family History—15:31 | FS—Share with Others—3:08

2. Learn how blogging and social networking can help you collaborate on family history.

▶ BYU—Blogging and Social Networking for Genealogists—62:53

📖 How to Network with Family Members Using Social Media for Genealogy Research

3. See also www.Family.me for building a collaborative family tree.

4. Join the [52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks Challenge](#). You'll receive weekly prompts on ways you can share your family history findings with others.

5. Use social media to share your family history efforts.

▶ AAC—Cousin Bait: Making Social Media Work for You—47:19

6. Here are some additional tips on sharing your family history.

📖 LDS—Sharing Your Family History



Exercises

B Work with others on family history.

Summary

1. Get family members or friends involved in collecting memories (photos, documents, stories, etc.) to be uploaded to FamilySearch.
2. Divide up family lines for research, to avoid duplication of effort.
3. Keep each other informed about progress achieved as well as roadblocks that remain.
4. Get help from others online who are researching the same names. Watch this video for tips.

▶ FS—Get Help from Others Researching the Same Name—3:59



5. Study these resources for additional ideas about working with others on family history.

▶ AC—Quick Tips for Increasing Collaboration—32:08

📖 FS—Crowdsourcing Collaboration