

## 22 Steps in Researching Your Family Tree

### 'Discovering Your Past Blog Series'

#### Student Notes:

#### **Step 5: Join an Online Genealogy Forum**

As a student of genealogy, you may have found yourself hitting a brick wall in your research or feeling isolated in your pursuit of your family history. Fortunately, joining an online genealogy forum can help you break through those walls and connect with other researchers who are interested in the same topics as you.

Benefits of Joining an Online Genealogy Forum:

1. **Connect with other researchers:** Genealogy forums are an excellent way to connect with other people who are interested in researching their family histories. By participating in the forum, you can find others who are working on similar lines of research or have expertise in the areas you're interested in.
2. **Share information:** Genealogy forums offer a platform for researchers to share their knowledge, tips, and experiences. By sharing your own research, you can help others who are just starting out or struggling with a particular research problem.
3. **Get help with your research:** If you're stuck on a particular research problem or have hit a brick wall, genealogy forums can be a great place to get help. By posting a query or asking for advice, you can tap into the knowledge and experience of other researchers and get fresh perspectives on your research.
4. **Access a variety of resources:** Genealogy forums often have resources and tools available to members, including databases, archives, and research guides. By participating in the forum, you can gain access to these resources and use them to enhance your own research.

Tips for Using Genealogy Forums:

1. Be specific when posting a query or asking for help. Provide as much information as possible about the person or family you are researching, including their names, dates of birth and death, and any locations you know.
2. Be respectful and courteous in all your interactions with other forum members. Remember that everyone is there to learn and share information, and that everyone is at a different level of experience.
3. Be proactive in your use of the forum. Don't just post queries and wait for responses - participate in discussions, offer your own research tips, and be generous in sharing your own knowledge and expertise.

Examples of Popular Genealogy Forums:

1. Genealogy.com Forum: <https://www.genealogy.com/forum/>
2. RootsWeb Genealogy Forum: <https://www.rootsweb.com/community/>
3. Genealogy Forum on Reddit: <https://www.reddit.com/r/Genealogy/>

As you continue to explore your family history, joining an online genealogy forum can be an incredibly helpful way to enhance your research, connect with other researchers, and build a sense of community around your shared interests. Remember to take advantage of the resources available on these forums, be respectful and courteous to other members, and actively participate in discussions to get the most out of your experience.

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Quiz: Step 5 - Join an Online Genealogy Forum

1. What is the primary benefit of joining an online genealogy forum?
  - A) Getting free access to genealogy databases
  - B) Connecting with other researchers
  - C) Finding living relatives
  - D) None of the above
2. How can you get the most out of participating in a genealogy forum?
  - A) Be specific when posting a query or asking for help
  - B) Participate in discussions and offer your own research tips
  - C) Be respectful and courteous in your interactions with other members
  - D) All of the above
3. Which of the following is NOT a popular genealogy forum?
  - A) MyHeritage Forum
  - B) Ancestry.com Forum
  - C) RootsWeb Genealogy Forum
  - D) Genealogy Forum on Reddit
4. What types of records should you obtain or locate in Step 6?
  - A) Birth certificates or baptism records
  - B) Marriage records
  - C) Death or burial records
  - D) All of the above
5. True or false: Genealogy forums are only helpful for advanced researchers.
  - A) True
  - B) False