



ONE YEAR OF GENEALOGY GOALS

JANUARY Get organized.

- Set up your computer file folders.
- Populate subfolders with files.
- Download raw DNA data for all tests you manage.
- Start a family tree online or in genealogy software.
- Back up your computer and external drives.
- Follow tips from a guidebook like *Organize Your Genealogy*.

FEBRUARY Reconstruct a family.

- Choose a family to focus on.
- Put a working family tree on genealogy websites to which you subscribe.
- Carefully review record hints for each nuclear family.
- Go to each family member's tree profile and search for records.
- Look for errors and fix loose ends.
- Identify other sources covering your ancestor's time and place.

MARCH Find female ancestors.

- Focus on a female ancestor or two. Dig into the records of husbands, siblings, parents and children.
- Take a mitochondrial DNA test to explore your maternal line.

APRIL Do more with DNA.

- Ask relatives to test.
- Message your DNA matches.
- Transfer your raw DNA to collaborative genetic genealogy websites.
- Explore health-related insights such as your genetic health risks, carrier status and more.
- Join a DNA study focused on a surname, haplogroup, ethnicity or geographic origins.

MAY Do a house history.

- Start online with the county clerk or recorder's website.
- Trace property transfers through deeds.
- Look for old maps.
- Document residents in records.
- Check out old newspapers for local history.

JUNE Go outside.

- Stroll through old family neighborhoods looking for landmarks from your relatives' day.
- Visit relatives' graves.
- Stop at the library in your family's hometown.
- Virtually visit ancestral towns with Google Earth <google.com/earth>.

JULY Reconnect with relatives.

- Host or help with a family reunion.
- Schedule time to spend with relatives.
- Ask a relative about family history.
- Use technology to keep in touch.

AUGUST Travel into history.

- Prepare for a library trip by identifying your questions and available resources.
- Tour a living history destination.
- Read a historical novel that's related to your family heritage.

SEPTEMBER Improve your skills.

- Go to a meeting of a local genealogical or historical society.
- Take an online class in a new genealogy skill.
- Listen to a genealogy podcast.

OCTOBER Give back.

- Contribute tombstone photos and inscriptions to crowdsourced collections.
- Respond to others' requests for tombstone images.
- Index or transcribe genealogical records.

NOVEMBER Tell your stories.

- Choose an ancestor you're excited to write about and review your research about that person.
- Gain a sense of your ancestor's story by creating a timeline or drafting a narrative.
- Rewrite, edit and proofread your work so it's ready to share.
- Work on an album, a family tree for display, or other another family story project.

DECEMBER Celebrate traditions.

- Enrich seasonal celebrations with favorite family traditions.
- Create a display that honors relatives who've passed.

ADD YOUR OWN GOALS HERE:

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