

January 23, 2024

President's Letter

Good morning fellow family researchers!

Today I've been thinking about the pictures I have...all of the many pictures. As technology keeps progressing, it seems that pictures from the past are getting more precious to me. When I see a new "old" picture, it seems very special. We just have to be sure we are keeping these pictures around so that they don't disappear. How can we do that? I'm trying several different ways to ensure that these pictures are around for a very long time. Here are some of my ideas:

1. Share, share, share. I'm determined not to be the family picture hoarder. I used to kind of covet that role, but not any longer. I have a Facebook group for my Dad's family and one for my Mom's family that I use to share pictures with cousins. I also encourage cousins to share their pictures in these groups so that we can all see new ones.
2. I've joined several Facebook groups for locations that my different family groups lived in. Just yesterday, I got a new picture that someone shared of a one room school that some of my Dad's brothers went to before he was born. There were six siblings and my Dad was the fifth one. I had never seen that picture before. So, I was able to save from Facebook to my computer and then attach to the people in my Family Tree Maker that were in the picture. It turns out, the person that shared it is my second cousin, someone I don't know personally, but he's in my family tree.
3. I realize that not everyone is as much into pictures as I am, but, everyone can do something to make sure their pictures will live on. If you don't have a scanner or a printer, you can make a photocopy at Office Depot or Staples of important pictures that you have. Another idea is to take a picture with your phone camera or use a scanning app on your phone. After you have this on your phone, you could have them printed anywhere that prints pictures, such as Walgreens, CVS, etc.
4. Make a family scrapbook. Scrapbooking is another hobby that I enjoy that goes hand in hand with family history. I have started

several scrapbooks for family members. I also share my pictures on Ancestry.com with my tree, which is sort of an online scrapbook.

So, the moral of the story is, it's not the person with the most unshared pictures that wins. Be the one to share what you have with others, and let your family pictures live on and on.

Don't forget to click below to answer our new poll question of the week.

Talk to you soon!

*Kim Van Vorst* President, TSGS