

Fun Ways to Create & Share Family History

By Mary T. Anderson

I. Introduction – Why I organize my histories this way.

II. What I do

- Four books - one for each of the four sides of my family. Next we well do the same for my husband's family.
- Each book has the following:
 - Pedigree chart at the first to refer to often and keep people straight
 - Family background-
 - Short Histories of ancestors
 - Each person's history has four or five components
 - Title page
 - Highlights
 - Stories
 - History or life sketch
 - Optional - other stories related to this person and church history
 - Family group sheets and pedigree

III. How to get started

- Start reading the histories and information that you have -
- Make a few bullet points about each ancestor
- Start gathering stories and pictures
- Contact relatives - cousin connection
- For pioneer ancestors - 1846-1868 visit DUP museum in SL or their web site
- Compile or write a short history

IV. How to get started from scratch –(no previously written histories in the family)

- Contact relatives
- Gather stories and pictures
- Find obituaries
- Go to the internet or Family History Center and do research
- Make a few bullet points about each ancestor
- Compile a short history

V. Other uses for these short histories and stories besides Preserving your Family History

- Reports
- Church Classes
- Talks
- Values lessons

- Turning the Hearts of the children
- Family Home Evening
- Reunion Entertainment

VI. Things we create for our current family history

- US Yearly-
- Calendar
- Thompson Tribune
- Digital Books using -Heritage Makers.com or Shutterfly.com
- Stories for children
- Web Sites – We use
 - DUP International - for histories and pictures
 - LDS.org - for trail journals
 - LuLu.com – for family magazine or shutterfly.com for hardbound copy
 - Shutterfly.com – for calendar

VII Rewards

This quote was in our Logan FHC Newsletter that Sherrie Lynn Lemon sends out:

"This packrat has learned that what the next generation will value most is not what we owned, but the evidence of who we were and the tales In the end, **it's the family stories that are worth the storage.**" Ellen Goodman, The Boston Globe

Contact Information - Feel free to e-mail me with questions or comments at marytan@comcast.net or you can see me at the Logan Family Search center on Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

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Here is an example of a "Highlight" page I put in my histories:

Daniel Thompson - Born in Canada in 1834

History Highlights

- only went to school until he was 12.
- converted to the church in Quincy, Illinois in 1850
- was Bishop for 20 years in Scipio.
- was a counselor to Ira Hinckley (President Hinckley's grandfather) in the Millard Stake Presidency for 14 years.
- built a room on his log house for Brigham Young to stay in when he traveled through to St. George.
- practiced Polygamy and had a second wife
- was involved with his ward in practicing the United Order from 1871 until it was discontinued.
- was there in 1865 when the Black Hawk Indians caused trouble and killed 3 men. He risked his life to get the bodies.
- carried the mail for a while and had to out run the Indians.

Stories-

The Peacemaker

When Daniel was Bishop in Scipio, Utah one man was quite disconcerted at his leniency in an important case. He said, "Dan Thompson would reach down to hell and pull every man out and send him to heaven if he had his way."

There was quite a rough element in Scipio in the early days. Two men got into a terrible fight. Each of them weighed about two hundred pounds and they were fighting to kill. Someone ran for father. Mother begged him not to go. "They will kill you," she said. He assured her he would be all right and rushed to the scene.

Walking up to them he said calmly, "Boys, don't you think you've had enough? I think you'd better quit now." One of them replied, "Dan, we'll quit for you, but for no one else on earth."

Black Hawk Indian Trouble

In 1865 the Black Hawk Indians were causing a lot of trouble. Captain Gunnison and three other men from the US army had been killed near Deseret. Bishop Thomas Callister sent Daniel and others out to get the bodies. It was a dangerous job, as the Indians were very hostile and the greatest precautions must be taken. After some maneuvering they succeeded in getting the bodies.