

Genealogy Rocks!

The Thrill of Genealogy

Many researchers are avid and persistent in collecting facts and stories, names and dates. Very few ever quit but continue to gather data for decades. What possesses them to spend hours in libraries, cemeteries, courthouses and travel eagerly to where their people once lived?



Ceil Damschroder

Consider the phrase, "Blood is thicker than water." Is "Family" so inherently powerful to keep the genealogist engaged? Often people

search for long lost living relatives, we hear accounts of joyful reunions and connections. Adopted children often search for their birth parents. Do we need a connection to family? I feel that connection to places my people lived, hardships they endured, wars fought, land they settled, and the joys they had. They are kin. They are my connection to history.

When you discover ancestors who participated in events such as the Revolutionary War, Civil War, traveled west in covered wagons, built the Erie Canal or a railroad, survived famine, or immigrated to find political or religious freedom in America, it gives a great feeling

of connection for the researcher to family and history.

Genealogists can be skilled puzzle solvers. The mystery, the clues, the "thrill of the hunt," the discovery drives them on, looking for more connections, and more family. They cling to things ethnic: St. Paddy's Day, brats and beer, sound of bagpipes, lutefisk. We need to belong, to connect to something larger than ourselves. We are part of our ancestry and a conduit to the future. Perhaps it is "Family!"

❖ *Ceil Damschroder is past president, researcher, and instructor. Ceil teaches basic genealogy classes at the senior centers starting at 4 pm in Fort Collins on 9/29 and in Loveland on*