



Carol Ostler

Carol was born in Bergen County, New Jersey. She attended business school in 1973 and learned to type 40 words a minute on an IBM Select electric typewriter. When she was 20, Carol married her high school sweetheart and moved to Vermont. She raised two children and managed a small family farm, all while working in the tourist trade outside the home.

Eventually, Carol found herself as a customer service representative for Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. That position quickly turned into a corporate training position for GMCR for 15 years.

Like riding a bicycle, she never forgot how to type. Carol came to understand how to move around software and how to teach it to others. She retired in 2011.

During Covid, Carol needed something to keep her busy at home. She decided to become a member of Ancestry.com and work on her family tree. This research opened so many doors and changed her life.

Researching Your Ancestry

Study Leader: Carol Ostler

Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

6 weeks beginning Sept. 18

AIL Classroom, Lethbridge Lodge, Colby-Sawyer College

Maximum number of participants: 20

Society is a reflection of its past. You are also a reflection of your past. Knowledge of your ancestors will give meaning to your existence and bring you closer to them. The knowledge gained from your ancestors' place of birth, census reports, immigration records and so much more, will be cherished, saved and passed down to future family historians.

Stories and documents will be shared to help inspire and guide you in the research of your ancestors. You will then watch a family tree being built using Ancestry.com. We will navigate slowly, as we learn this website and find actual documents from the past.

A journal and videos will inspire you to write your story. How will you proceed? Will you sit quietly and listen in class, be inspired to collect priceless photos and documents, and create a journal for future historians? Will you join Ancestry.com and start your printable online family tree? Will you discover living relatives via "DNA matches" and be invited to the homeland of your ancestors? With enough research over time, you could write a book!

I believe that after so many trips around the sun, there comes a time when everyone becomes interested in their family history. Take the time to enrich your life with amazing discoveries.

Trust that there will be other historians in your family, present and future, who will greatly appreciate your efforts today. Ponder how you will leave precious hints about the past to future generations, with your love and signature on it.

In short, let's learn how to find your ancestors for your enjoyment today, and let's discover what is important to document for those future family historians.

Suggested Materials

- Membership to ancestry.com (\$40) – membership is required to search public family records.
- DNA test will allow you to see your origins and DNA. Names and trees of living relatives who are also researching will be at your fingertips.
- A one-inch three ring binder and clear sheet protectors to create a family tree life story hard copy.