

FAMILY MATTERS

Reunion Fun Can Be Enhanced by Genealogy

(NAPSA)—Warm weather can be a good time to grow a family tree. That's because it's often the season for family reunions. Getting the whole clan together for a day or a weekend is a tradition in many families.

For some families, the reunion calls together a handful of people from around the state for a nice family meal at the house where they all grew up. Other families are so large that their get-togethers are held over several days at a state park or at a resort that is centrally located so that relatives from all over the country can attend. Big reunions like that may have activities for all ages so that there is fun for all.

A reunion is a chance to catch up on family news and renew old ties. It is also a chance to tell family stories and share memories with the younger generation.

A family genealogy can help people understand their place in their family and their family's place in history. Genealogy has become a wildly popular hobby that was made easier due to the vast amount of genealogical and historical data available on the Internet.

If someone has already started doing a family tree, it should be brought to the reunion so all can see it or even make copies of it and maybe add to it for next year.



A family reunion is both a good time to pass around a family tree or to get information for researching one.

If no one has done any genealogical research of the family, a reunion is an unsurpassed opportunity to have older family members provide as many names and dates as they can.

A good place to start genealogical research is with the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. It has a genealogical library at DAR Headquarters in Washington, DC, near the White House. The library has 170,000 books, 300,000 research files and thousands of manuscripts, along with special collections that focus on Native American and African-American history.

The DAR Library can also be accessed online at <http://www.dar.org/library/onlinelib.html>.