

a surprise in my family history

a surprise in my family history can change the way we view our lineage, inspire curiosity, and even reshape our understanding of identity. Delving into family history often uncovers unexpected stories and revelations about ancestors, heritage, and cultural roots. This article explores the concept of surprises in family history, discussing what these surprises might look like, how they are discovered, and their impact on families. Readers will find practical guidance on tracing genealogy, handling shocking discoveries, and understanding the emotional and cultural significance of family secrets. Whether you're an amateur genealogist or simply intrigued by the mysteries of your ancestry, this comprehensive guide uses the keyword "a surprise in my family history" to shed light on every aspect of uncovering and managing surprising family revelations. Continue reading to learn how a single discovery can transform your perspective and bring new meaning to your family's story.

- Uncovering Family History: The Search for Surprises
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Uncovering Family History: The Search for Surprises

Exploring family history has become increasingly popular, with many individuals searching for a surprise in their family history. Whether motivated by curiosity, a desire to connect with roots, or to solve lingering family mysteries, people often embark on genealogical journeys hoping for unexpected discoveries. These surprises may range from unknown relatives to hidden cultural origins. The process often begins with collecting stories from older family members, examining family documents, and using modern technology to trace ancestry. With each step, the possibility of encountering something astonishing grows, fueling the excitement of genealogical research.

Reasons People Seek Surprises in Family History

There are numerous reasons why individuals hope to find surprises in their family history. Some common motivations include:

- Desire to understand personal identity
- Curiosity about ancestral origins
- Interest in historical events affecting family
- Resolving family myths or mysteries
- Connecting with distant relatives

Each reason contributes to the sense of adventure and anticipation that accompanies the search for family history surprises.

Types of Surprises Found in Family Histories

A surprise in my family history can take many forms, often challenging long-held beliefs or adding new layers to a family's story. Some discoveries have profound implications, while others may be more lighthearted or simply fascinating.

Common Family History Surprises

Typical surprises uncovered during genealogical research include:

- Previously unknown siblings or relatives
- Unexpected ethnic or cultural heritage
- Secrets about adoption or parentage
- Ancestors involved in historical events
- Hidden family migrations or relocations
- Unusual occupations or accomplishments

These revelations can be both exciting and challenging, often requiring families to reassess their understanding of their origins.

Historical and Cultural Surprises

Beyond personal stories, some surprises relate to the broader historical or cultural context of a family. Discovering that an ancestor was part of a significant historical movement, or that the family's heritage is different from what was believed, can bring new pride or prompt further investigation into cultural traditions and practices.

Methods for Discovering Family Secrets

Advances in technology and access to historical records have made it easier than ever to uncover a surprise in family history. Genealogists and amateur researchers use a combination of traditional and modern methods to piece together family stories.

Genealogical Research Techniques

- Interviewing older relatives for oral histories
- Examining birth, marriage, and death certificates
- Searching census records and immigration documents
- Utilizing DNA testing for ancestry and relationship verification
- Accessing public archives and libraries
- Exploring online genealogy databases

Combining these techniques increases the likelihood of discovering unexpected information, whether it's a hidden ancestor or a previously unknown migration pattern.

DNA Testing: A Modern Tool for Family Discovery

Genetic testing has revolutionized the search for family history surprises. DNA kits provide individuals with detailed information about their ancestry, ethnic background, and connections to relatives around the world. Many surprises in family history are uncovered through DNA matches, revealing new relatives or confirming suspicions about parentage or adoption.

The Emotional Impact of Family Revelations

Uncovering a surprise in my family history can have a significant emotional impact. While

some discoveries bring joy, pride, or a sense of belonging, others may cause confusion, distress, or even conflict within families.

Positive Emotional Outcomes

Many people feel a sense of excitement and fulfillment when learning about their ancestors' achievements or connecting with new relatives. Discovering cultural roots or historical connections can foster pride and a deeper appreciation for family heritage.

Challenges and Difficult Emotions

Some surprises, such as discovering hidden adoptions or family secrets, may lead to challenging emotions. Feelings of betrayal, confusion, or sadness are common. Open communication and support from family members can help individuals process these emotions and integrate new information into their sense of identity.

Genealogy Research Tools and Resources

Finding a surprise in family history often involves using a variety of research tools. Today's genealogists have access to both traditional records and advanced digital resources.

Essential Genealogy Tools

- Family tree software and applications
- Online ancestry databases
- DNA testing services
- Historical archives and libraries
- Local government records offices
- Genealogy societies and forums

Using these resources allows researchers to build comprehensive family trees, verify relationships, and uncover hidden stories.

Tips for Effective Family History Research

1. Start with what you know: Collect basic information from family members.

2. Organize documents and photographs for easy access.
3. Record oral histories before memories fade.
4. Use multiple sources to confirm findings.
5. Be prepared for unexpected or challenging discoveries.
6. Document sources for future reference.

Handling Sensitive Discoveries Within the Family

A surprise in my family history can sometimes involve sensitive information. Handling these revelations with care and respect is essential for maintaining trust and family harmony.

Approaching Difficult Conversations

When a discovery involves a family secret, adoption, or unexpected parentage, it is important to approach conversations with empathy and sensitivity. Families may need time to process new information, and not everyone will react in the same way. Respecting privacy and individual boundaries is crucial.

Seeking Support and Guidance

Professional counselors, support groups, and genealogy societies can offer guidance for navigating complex emotions and family dynamics. Sharing experiences with others who have faced similar surprises can provide comfort and practical advice.

Preserving and Sharing Family History

Documenting a surprise in family history ensures that future generations can appreciate and learn from these discoveries. Preservation can take many forms, from written family histories to digital archives.

Methods for Preserving Family Stories

- Creating written or digital family history books
- Compiling family trees with notes on significant discoveries

- Recording oral histories and interviews
- Storing photographs and documents in safe, accessible formats
- Organizing family reunions or storytelling events

Sharing family history with relatives fosters connection and ensures that the legacy of surprising discoveries endures.

Frequently Asked Questions About Family History Surprises

The journey to uncover a surprise in my family history leads to many questions. Below are some of the most frequently asked questions and answers to guide readers through the process.

Q: What is considered a surprise in family history?

A: A surprise in family history is any unexpected discovery about one's ancestors, heritage, or family connections, such as unknown relatives, hidden adoptions, or new cultural roots.

Q: How can I start researching my family history?

A: Begin by gathering information from family members, collecting documents and photographs, and exploring online genealogy databases. DNA testing can also help reveal hidden connections.

Q: What are the most common family history surprises?

A: Common surprises include finding unknown siblings, learning about hidden adoptions, discovering unexpected ethnic backgrounds, and uncovering ancestors with notable achievements.

Q: How do I handle sensitive family history discoveries?

A: Approach sensitive revelations with empathy, respect privacy, and consider seeking support from professionals or genealogy societies to help process emotions and navigate family dynamics.

Q: Can DNA testing reveal surprises in my family history?

A: Yes, DNA testing often uncovers new relatives, confirms relationships, and reveals previously unknown ethnic origins, making it a powerful tool for finding surprises in family history.

Q: What should I do if I discover a family secret?

A: Take time to process the information, discuss it with trusted family members, and decide together how to handle the revelation. Professional guidance may help with difficult emotions.

Q: Are family history surprises always positive?

A: Not always. While some discoveries bring joy or pride, others can cause confusion or discomfort. Open communication and support are important for managing all outcomes.

Q: How can I preserve surprising family history discoveries?

A: Document stories in family history books, record oral histories, create digital archives, and share findings with relatives to ensure the legacy is maintained for future generations.

Q: What resources are best for genealogy research?

A: Utilize online databases, family tree software, DNA testing services, historical archives, and local records offices for comprehensive family history research.

Q: Why do people search for surprises in family history?

A: Many people are curious about their roots, want to understand their identity, resolve family mysteries, or connect with lost relatives, making the search for surprises a meaningful journey.

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A Surprise in My Family History: Unraveling the Unexpected Threads of Ancestry

Have you ever felt a nagging curiosity about your family's past? A yearning to connect with generations gone by, to understand the tapestry of lives that led to you? I certainly have. This post details my incredible journey of uncovering a surprising secret hidden within my family history – a revelation that completely reshaped my understanding of my heritage and left me with a profound sense of awe and connection. Prepare to be captivated by the twists and turns of my genealogical adventure, and perhaps, inspired to explore your own family's untold stories.

H2: The Spark: A Chance Encounter with a Forgotten Photograph

It all started with a dusty old photograph tucked away in my grandmother's attic. A faded image, barely recognizable, depicting a young woman with piercing blue eyes and a mischievous grin. The accompanying inscription, barely legible, hinted at a “cousin Esme” and a place I'd never heard of: Willow Creek, Montana. My grandmother, bless her soul, had little to offer beyond vague recollections of a distant relative she barely knew. That's when the detective in me awoke.

H3: Embarking on the Genealogical Journey: Tools and Techniques

Armed with nothing but a name, a location, and a blurry photograph, I dove headfirst into the world of genealogy. My initial research involved exploring online resources like Ancestry.com and MyHeritage. These invaluable platforms offer extensive databases of birth certificates, marriage records, census data, and immigration records. I learned to cross-reference information, meticulously piecing together the fragmented puzzle of Esme's life.

H4: Unlocking the Past: The Power of Public Records

Sifting through countless digitized documents was a painstaking process, yet incredibly rewarding. Each document unearthed—a birth certificate confirming Esme's full name, a marriage license revealing her husband's identity, land records detailing her property in Willow Creek—became a brick in the wall of my newfound understanding. I even stumbled upon her obituary, detailing her unexpected death at a young age, leaving behind a family I knew nothing about.

H2: The Shocking Revelation: A Branch I Never Knew Existed

The deeper I delved, the more surprising the revelations became. Esme, it turned out, wasn't just a distant cousin; she was a crucial branch on my family tree that had been inexplicably omitted from our family lore. Her lineage connected me to a completely unknown side of my family, a vibrant community of artists and musicians who had emigrated from Bohemia in the late 19th century. This discovery overturned the limited understanding of my heritage that had been passed down through generations, revealing a richness and complexity I never imagined.

H3: Reconciling the Past: Bridging the Gaps in Family History

Uncovering this hidden branch wasn't merely about adding names to a family tree. It was about understanding the silences, the omissions, and the unspoken stories that had shaped my family's narrative. I began to understand why Esme's existence had been largely forgotten: a complex family

dynamic, possibly a strained relationship, or perhaps simply the loss of contact across geographical distances. This understanding deepened my empathy for past generations and their struggles.

H2: The Legacy: Connecting with Present-Day Relatives

Armed with newfound knowledge, I decided to reach out to potential living relatives connected to Esme's lineage. Through online forums and painstaking searches, I managed to contact a great-grandnephew who lives in Colorado. The connection was immediate and profoundly moving. Sharing stories, photographs, and documents, we forged a bond across generations, bridging the gap created by decades of silence. It was a truly humbling and heartwarming experience.

H2: The Enduring Power of Family History

My journey into my family history wasn't just about unearthing a secret; it was about discovering a deeper understanding of myself. It revealed the resilience, creativity, and resourcefulness of my ancestors. It taught me the importance of preserving family stories and the profound impact of connecting with our heritage. The surprise in my family history has been a life-changing experience, one that I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to explore.

Conclusion:

The discovery of Esme and her branch of the family was more than just a genealogical puzzle solved; it was a journey of self-discovery. It reaffirmed the enduring power of family connections, the importance of preserving our shared history, and the unexpected joy of uncovering the hidden narratives that shape who we are. I urge you to embark on your own genealogical adventure—you might be surprised by what you uncover.

FAQs:

1. What resources did you use for your research? Primarily Ancestry.com and MyHeritage, supplemented by local libraries and historical societies, and online genealogical forums.
2. How long did your research take? The initial investigation took several months, with ongoing research continuing as I connected with new relatives.
3. What was the most challenging part of your research? Breaking through the lack of information passed down through generations and deciphering faded handwriting on old documents.
4. Did you find any other surprises during your research? Yes! I uncovered a surprising talent for painting in my great-great-grandmother, a skill unknown to my immediate family.
5. What advice would you give to someone starting their own family history research? Start small, focus on one branch of the family at a time, and be patient—it's a journey, not a race! Don't be afraid to ask for help from others.

a surprise in my family history: *Research Like a Pro* Diana Elder, Nicole Dyer, 2018-05-19 Are you stuck in your genealogical research? Wondering how to make progress on your brick wall problems? Discover the process that a professional genealogist uses to solve difficult cases. *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide* shares a step-by-step method using real world examples, easily understood by any level of genealogist; written for the researcher ready to take their skills to

the next level. Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide will give you the tools to:- Form an objective focusing your research for an entire project.- Review your research with new eyes by creating your own timeline analysis.- Construct a locality guide to direct your research.- Create a plan to keep your research on track.- Style source citations, giving your work credibility.- Set up a research log to organize and track your searches.- Write a report detailing your findings and ideas for future research. Links to templates give you the tools you need to get started and work samples illustrate each step. You'll learn to execute a research project from start to finish, then start again with the new information discovered. Whether you are a newbie or experienced researcher, Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide will move the search for your ancestors forward. Start now to learn to Research Like a Pro.

a surprise in my family history: Finding Your Family on the Internet Michael Otterson, 2006 Beginner's guide to finding your family history online. --back cover.

a surprise in my family history: The Family Tree Karen Branan, 2016-01-05 In the tradition of *Slaves in the Family*, the provocative true account of the hanging of four black people by a white lynch mob in 1912—written by the great-granddaughter of the sheriff charged with protecting them. Harris County, Georgia, 1912. A white man, the beloved nephew of the county sheriff, is shot dead on the porch of a black woman. Days later, the sheriff sanctions the lynching of a black woman and three black men, all of them innocent. For Karen Branan, the great-granddaughter of that sheriff, this isn't just history, this is family history. Branan spent nearly twenty years combing through diaries and letters, hunting for clues in libraries and archives throughout the United States, and interviewing community elders to piece together the events and motives that led a group of people to murder four of their fellow citizens in such a brutal public display. Her research revealed surprising new insights into the day-to-day reality of race relations in the Jim Crow-era South, but what she ultimately discovered was far more personal. As she dug into the past, Branan was forced to confront her own deep-rooted beliefs surrounding race and family, a process that came to a head when Branan learned a shocking truth: she is related not only to the sheriff, but also to one of the four who were murdered. Both identities—perpetrator and victim—are her inheritance to bear. A gripping story of privilege and power, anger, and atonement, *The Family Tree* transports readers to a small Southern town steeped in racial tension and bound by powerful family ties. Branan takes us back in time to the Civil War, demonstrating how plantation politics and the Lost Cause movement set the stage for the fiery racial dynamics of the twentieth century, delving into the prevalence of mob rule, the rise of the Ku Klux Klan and the role of miscegenation in an unceasing cycle of bigotry. Through all of this, what emerges is a searing examination of the violence that occurred on that awful day in 1912—the echoes of which still resound today—and the knowledge that it is only through facing our ugliest truths that we can move forward to a place of understanding.

a surprise in my family history: The Milkman's Son Randy Lindsay, 2020 This memoir traces one man's journey through his family history when a DNA test reveals that his dad was not his biological father--

a surprise in my family history: Family History, Historical Consciousness and Citizenship Tanya Evans, 2021-12-16 Family history is one of the most widely practiced forms of public history around the globe, especially in settler migrant nations like Australia and Canada. It empowers millions of researchers, linking the past to the present in powerful ways, transforming individuals' understandings of themselves and the world. This book examines the practice, meanings and impact of undertaking family history research for individuals and society more broadly. In this ground-breaking new book, Tanya Evans shows how family history fosters inter-generational and cross-cultural, religious and ethnic knowledge, how it shapes historical empathy and consciousness and combats social exclusion, producing active citizens. Evans draws on her extensive research on family history, including survey data, oral history interviews and focus groups undertaken with family historians in Australia, England and Canada collected since 2016. *Family History, Historical Consciousness and Citizenship* reveals that family historians collect and analyse varied historical sources, including oral testimony, archival documents, pictures and objects of material culture. This

book reveals how people are thinking historically outside academia, what historical skills they are using to produce historical knowledge, what knowledge is being produced and what impact that can have on them, their communities and scholars. The result is a necessary revival of the current perceptions of family history.

a surprise in my family history: A SAGA OF SMITHS: AN EPIC FAMILY HISTORY Richard Smith, 2018 A family history, tracing the varied fortunes of the Smiths of West Yorkshire and their relationship to other families, i.e. The Absaloms of Hampshire and London ; The Cardens of Brighton ; The Cloughs of Sutton and Crosshills ; The Fareys of Skipton ; The Fosters of Birmingham and Waterford in Ireland ; The Gillinsons of Leeds ; The Hastings of Holderness ; The Myersons of London and Europe ; The Stamfords of East Yorkshire and The Wilsons of Colne, Sutton and Crosshills.

a surprise in my family history: *I THINK I KNOW WHO I AM*: *the anatomy of a family* Anthony Russell, 2016-12-14 The author has researched his own family history extensively and explains how he went about this and sets out the resulting discoveries which include finding a direct line of descent from the Plantagenet Kings of England which in turn established links to many royal and aristocratic families. There are many interesting characters revealed in the process, about whom the author comments, and there is much advice about how to research family history together with some warnings of some of the pitfalls which may mislead the unwary. This anatomy of a family provides some illuminating insights into social history and some entertaining anecdotes.

a surprise in my family history: Inn for a Surprise (A Kissing Tree Novella) Karen Witemeyer, 2021-03-30 Despite her own life being void of romance, spinster Phoebe Woodward adores love stories, especially those connected to the local Kissing Tree. Determined to foster romance in the lives of others, she builds an inn by the tree that caters to couples. When her father sends a property manager to help make the venture a success, however, she finds her whimsical vision thwarted at every turn by stodgy practicality. Finding the right blend of romance and reality is a challenge, but when the two bleed into her personal life, Phoebe's spinster heart may be in for a surprise. Inn for a Surprise is a humorous novella from bestselling historical romance author, Karen Witemeyer.

a surprise in my family history: Rooster Town Evelyn Peters, Matthew Stock, Adrian Werner, 2018-10-16 Melonville. Smokey Hollow. Bannock Town. Fort Tuyau. Little Chicago. Mud Flats. Pumpville. Tintown. La Coule. These were some of the names given to Métis communities at the edges of urban areas in Manitoba. Rooster Town, which was on the outskirts of southwest Winnipeg endured from 1901 to 1961. Those years in Winnipeg were characterized by the twin pressures of depression, and inflation, chronic housing shortages, and a spotty social support network. At the city's edge, Rooster Town grew without city services as rural Métis arrived to participate in the urban economy and build their own houses while keeping Métis culture and community as a central part of their lives. In other growing settler cities, the Indigenous experience was largely characterized by removal and confinement. But the continuing presence of Métis living and working in the city, and the establishment of Rooster Town itself, made the Winnipeg experience unique. Rooster Town documents the story of a community rooted in kinship, culture, and historical circumstance, whose residents existed unofficially in the cracks of municipal bureaucracy, while navigating the legacy of settler colonialism and the demands of modernity and urbanization.

a surprise in my family history: Writing About Your Life William Zinsser, 2005-03-28 Written with elegance, warmth, and humor, this highly original teaching memoir by William Zinsser—renowned bestselling author of *On Writing Well* gives you the tools to organize and recover your past, and the confidence to believe in your life narrative. His method is to take you on a memoir of his own: 13 chapters in which he recalls dramatic, amusing, and often surprising moments in his long and varied life as a writer, editor, teacher, and traveler. Along the way, Zinsser pauses to explain the technical decisions he made as he wrote about his life. They are the same decisions you'll have to make as you write about your own life: matters of selection, condensation, focus, attitude, voice, and tone.

a surprise in my family history: Family Names and Family History David Hey, 2006-06-22

Family names are an essential part of everyone's personal history. The story of their evolution is integral to family history and fascinating in its own right. Formed from first names, place names, nicknames and occupations, names allow us to trace the movements of our ancestors from the middle ages to the present day. David Hey shows how, when and where families first got their names, and proves that most families stayed close to their places of origin. Settlement patterns and family groupings can be traced back towards their origin by using national and local records. Family Names and Family History tells anyone interested in tracing their own name how to set about doing so.

a surprise in my family history: Find Names for the Temple Nicole Dyer, 2018-07-06

Whether your family tree is partially filled out, mostly complete, or full with many LDS relatives, this step-by-step method will help you discover new relatives and reserve their temple ordinances. You will review the accuracy of your tree, analyze your pedigree, and make a list of ancestors to research. Those with many LDS relatives will locate research opportunities by diving deeper into tree analysis and listing ancestors who were not members of the LDS Church. Using descendantcy research to find cousins will open doors for those with full family trees. Instead of selecting random ancestors, you will systematically view descendantcy trees for each of the ancestors in your list. By evaluating each descendantcy tree, you can determine which branches are most likely to contain candidates for further research likely to be found in available records. Once you have chosen a relative to focus on, you'll begin a research project. Research begins by choosing a research question. Next you will create a simple research plan and research log. When you have completed your searches, you will then record what you found in FamilySearch, including adding sources and new relatives to the tree, and then write a summary of your research. After merging duplicates you will be ready to reserve temple ordinances. After you've successfully found names for the temple, you can repeat the process by going back to your list of candidates for further research and begin again with a new research question. Now you won't run out of research opportunities! As you research each relative one by one, you will grow to love them and think of them as friends. As President Eyring said, your heart will be bound to theirs forever.

a surprise in my family history: Family Oral History Across the World Mary Louise Contini

Gordon, 2023-11-30 Family Oral History Across the World presents a process for memorializing family histories, bringing together established oral history standards, exploratory research, and narrative data analysis. Based on and using a prequestionnaire and over 40 recorded interviews with people from across six continents, the analysis system used in the book presents material from these interviews that brings alive the experience of the family history journey. One of the guiding principles is to encourage readers to interview family members, but also others outside the family unit, and to produce a family history in whatever format works. The book illustrates this through the inclusion of many unusual formats and stories uncovered. The book is divided into a number of themes that emerged through the analysis of numerical questionnaire and narrative interview data. Parts I, II, and III cover changing family demography, case studies, and factors such as memory, emotion, and ethics. Part IV offers a pliable process and practice guide with input and examples from interviews. It also discusses developing approaches to presenting oral histories from both oral historians and other interviewers and writers, such as journalists. With case studies as well as example guidelines and templates, this volume is ideal both for academics interested in family history as well as professional genealogists and families themselves.

a surprise in my family history: Send A Little Love Bonnie Parsons, 2023-05-10 Bonnie was

adopted as an infant. As a young mother, curiosity about her birth parents led to a 35-year search for them. Fortunately, she held on to every scribbled note and document along the way. After a successful search, Bonnie decided to tell her story. Her memoir, Young Love - An Adoptee's Memoir is a legacy for her family. It is also a story that supports fellow adoptees searching for family. For over a year, prior to the publication of Young Love - An Adoptee's Memoir, Bonnie posted short stories on her website. She chose stories from her childhood and life experiences. They were fresh

and untold and did not spoil the anticipation for her memoir. Overall, creating and maintaining a blog site while fine tuning *Young Love – An Adoptee’s Memoir* for publication was an exciting and rewarding experience. *Send A Little Love* is a collection of her blogs. It also includes updates on her adoption story and newfound extended family! Bonnie’s journey was not easy—there is sorrow in the loss felt by adoptees. However, with sensitivity and humor, she moves forward to recapture connections to her original family and heritage. This book will inspire adoptees of all ages and anyone touched by adoption.

a surprise in my family history: *Island Boy Meets Island Girl: Our Life on the Rock*

Arnold E. van Beverhoudt, Jr., 2017-02-24 Black & White Edition -- In the 1670s, a Dutch settler named Claudius van Beverhoudt arrived on St. Thomas, Danish West Indies. He married a woman named Elizabeth deWindt and made St. Thomas his home. Arnold van Beverhoudt, Jr. is a direct 8th generation descendant of Claudius and Elizabeth. His paternal grandparents, Ernest and Elisa, were living on St. Thomas in 1917 when the Danish West Indies became the U.S. Virgin Islands. They eventually moved to Venezuela, but Arnold's father remained on St. Thomas, where he became an auto repairman and raised his family. This book presents - in words and photos - Arnold's memories of life growing up and eventually meeting his Island Girl Helena on the tiny Caribbean island that its residents affectionately call the Rock. It's a story that's been over 340 years in the making.

a surprise in my family history: *A Dozen Short Ones* Timothy Benson, 2021-03-14

A Dozen Short Ones is an engaging and unusual mix of character-driven stories about ordinary people who face situations and challenges they never imagined. In “Catching Tomorrow” a man struggles to live in a world where time has mysteriously been altered. “A Visit to Tatum” is the story of a man on a business trip that unexpectedly takes him to a small town that wants to remain unknown. In “Home Again” a young couple buys their dream home but discovers it comes with a chilling surprise. “Family” is the tale of a couple trying to find romance in the midst of some very unusual visitors. In the story “Counterfeit” a man’s relief on the return of a missing friend changes when he discovers the reason for the disappearance. These and other stories let you share the adventures as colorful characters try to navigate today’s unpredictable world.

a surprise in my family history: *Instacrush: A Surprise Pregnancy Hockey Romance* Kate

Meador, 2019-12-10 Jump into the Rookie Rebels hockey romance series for free in this standalone, no-cliffhanger, guaranteed HEA, full-length novel ... Theo Kershaw is the luckiest guy alive. Roaring back from a life-threatening injury, he has the world at his skates as defenseman for his new team, the Chicago Rebels. Everyone adores his big personality, his on-ice talent, and his killer smile. Everyone but his prickly neighbor - or so he thinks. One chilly Christmas Eve, he'll learn that maybe the girl next door isn't such a hater after all ... Elle Butler is the most embarrassing person on the planet. How else can the ex-military-now-bartender explain her crush on the hot jock who lives across the hall? True, he has gorgeous green eyes and perfect cheekbones, but the filter between his brain and too-sexy mouth is permanently malfunctioning. Yet she can't stop checking out his Instagram antics or sneaking looks at him when he's in her bar. So. Mortifying. Running from a past filled with damning secrets, Elle's determined that this guilty pleasure remains buried in her deepest fantasies. Because she couldn't possibly indulge with the Theo Kershaw. Or make a mistake that draws attention to her under-the-radar life. And she especially couldn't be a mom to a pro-athlete's baby ... could she? In this standalone sports romance set in the Chicago Rebels world, a new generation of players take to the ice and learn that all's fair in love and hockey. Free romance, free contemporary romance, new adult, free new adult romance, free sports romance, free hockey romance, standalone romance, pregnancy, surprise pregnancy, accidental pregnancy, one-night stand

a surprise in my family history: *Negotiating With Your Ex* Brad McRae, 2015-06-01

Your divorce usually isn't the end of your dealings with your former spouse. Personal, financial and legal issues may linger for many years after the divorce is granted. Brad McRae provides a system to minimize conflict and maximize impact in your dealings with your former partner to create a win-win situation.

a surprise in my family history: *Behind the Lens* David Suchet, 2019-10-03 Daily Mail Showbiz Memoir of the Year 'A beautiful book' Chris Evans 'Terrifically entertaining' Mail on Sunday 'An arresting photographic voyage through the life and loves of this enigmatic English star' S magazine 'Though not a conventional autobiography, we learn what makes the national treasure tick' Daily Express In the early days of my career, I didn't think I stood a hope in hell. Look at me: I'm short, stocky, slightly overweight, deep of voice, passionate, dark haired, olive skinned, hardly your typical Englishman. What chance did I have, going into the world of British theatre? David Suchet has been a stalwart of British stage and screen for fifty years. From Shakespeare to Oscar Wilde, Freud to Poirot, Edward Teller to Doctor Who, Harold Pinter to Terence Rattigan, Questions of Faith to Decline and Fall, right up to 2019's *The Price*, David has done it all. Throughout this spectacular career, David has never been without a camera, enabling him to vividly document his life in photographs. Seamlessly combining photo and memoir, *Behind the Lens* is the story of David's remarkable life, showcasing his wonderfully evocative photographs and accompanied by his insightful and engaging commentary. In *Behind the Lens*, David discusses his London upbringing and love of the city, his Jewish roots and how they have influenced his career, the importance of his faith, how he really feels about fame, his love of photography and music, and his processes as an actor. He looks back on his fifty-year career, including reflections on how the industry has changed, his personal highs and lows, and how he wants to be remembered. And, of course, life after Poirot and why he's still grieving for the eccentric Belgian detective. An autobiography with a difference, this is David Suchet as you've never seen him before - from behind the lens. 'The book offers more insight into the mind and philosophy of this remarkable man than a more conventional biographical approach could have achieved' Country Life

a surprise in my family history: *Google Your Family Tree* Daniel M. Lynch, 2008-01-01 Google is the most powerful tool available worldwide for online research! With over 20 billion pages in Google's index of the Web, it's likely that some of them contain clues about your ancestors. Finding these pages, however, requires an understanding of filtering and other techniques that have never been explained to many computer users & until now! This book shows you how to tap the full potential of the Internet's most powerful free online service! Written by a genealogist for other genealogists, the contents will help you understand and use dozens of specialized commands to dramatically improve your search skills. The great news is that most techniques are easy to master and perfectly suited for finding people, places, and events. A special command even lets you narrow results by date range to filter results more quickly.

a surprise in my family history: *Dragon Shifter's Vengeance* Danielle Mosher, 2022-05-02 This is not like other shifter novels. Maggie is a sixteen-year-old dragon shifter with a huge problem: the man who killed most of her family is still missing. Six months after her psychopathic physics teacher murdered her grandparents, elder sister, and parents, Maggie finally gets the chance of a lifetime to heal. A dream trip to Scotland granted to her by a relative of her therapist not only gives her the time to heal from her emotional and physical wounds but the opportunity to find her family's killer. With her older brother safely hidden - even she doesn't know where he is - she can begin to grow into someone who can avenge her family. But it won't be an easy journey. Her teacher is still looking for her, and with his surprisingly crafty methods, not only has he evaded the police, but he's learned new tricks on how to find her. As if that was the only problem, Maggie has to try and overcome the crippling injury to her leg that she received the same night her family died. Alongside that, she has to keep up the training her Wiccan mother, and Shifter father taught her in order to not only avoid detection but protect the new friends she makes along the way. A chance to move on is her hope, but she'll take a chance of avenging her family too.

a surprise in my family history: *The Kendall Family: My Family's Stories in Print* Mary Kendall Hope, 2015-10-29 *The Kendall Family: My Family's Stories in Print* is a written documentary. The book records a collection of photographs and stories from the Kendall Family of Southwest Virginia, North Carolina, & Pennsylvania. Many descendants of our family live throughout the United States. Our origins date back to Northern England. Our first ancestor in America was

Thomas Kendall Senior who was born in England in the 1600's and first documented here in Chester, Pennsylvania Friends Meeting in 1709.

a surprise in my family history: He Thought He Had Me Rhonda Cotton, 2014-05-30 In *Lucifer Thought He Had Me*, a reflection on yesterday and tomorrow brings on the question, What about me; and how does depression affect one's spirit. It is a revelation knowing what is mine and why I have to change. With change, I see that I can make a difference in life by moving toward a new beginning. In canceling generational curses, I wonder does it have to be by Your (Gods) hand concerning life. As I cry for You (God), I learn who I am. I believe that God will show me, just in time, who I can be.

a surprise in my family history: Nine-Month Surprise Jacqueline Diamond, 2024-09-18 How badly will Leah's one-night fling with a handsome stranger backfire? As a teacher, she can count the ways! First comes the surprise pregnancy... and a second jolt when Will arrives in her small town as the new obstetrician! But they can't ignore their attraction in this emotionally rewarding enemies-to-lovers romance from an author whose books have sold more than 7 million copies. Welcome to Downhome, Tennessee, a town that desperately needs doctors. Each book of the series features a new physician, along with unexpected romance and drama. "...filled with funny moments... the characters are true to life. Jacqueline Diamond has a wonderful writing style." —Tamra Dickey, Roundtable Reviews.

a surprise in my family history: Dancing with the Enemy Paul Glaser, 2013-09-10 The gripping story of the author's aunt, a Jewish dance instructor who was betrayed to the Nazis by the two men she loved, yet managed to survive WWII by teaching dance lessons to the SS at Auschwitz. Her epic life becomes a window into the author's own past and the key to discovering his Jewish roots. Raised in a devout Roman Catholic family in the Netherlands, Paul Glaser was shocked to learn as an adult of his father's Jewish heritage. Grappling with his newfound identity and stunned by his father's secrecy, Paul set out to discover what happened to his family during World War II and what had caused the long-standing rift between his father and his estranged aunt, Rosie, who moved to Sweden after the war. Piecing together his aunt's wartime diaries, photographs, and letters, Paul reconstructed the dramatic story of a woman who was caught up in the tragic sweep of World War II. Rosie Glaser was a magnetic force - hopeful, exuberant, and cunning. An emancipated woman who defied convention, she toured Western Europe teaching ballroom dancing to high acclaim, falling in love hard and often. By the age of twenty-five, she had lost the great love of her life in an aviation accident, married the wrong man, and sought consolation in the arms of yet another. Then the Nazis seized power. For Rosie, a nonpracticing Jew, this marked the beginning of an extremely dangerous ordeal. After operating an illegal dance school in her parents' attic, Rosie was betrayed by both her ex-husband and her lover, taken prisoner by the SS and sent to a series of concentration camps. But her enemies were unable to destroy her and, remarkably, she survived, in part by giving dance and etiquette lessons to her captors. Rosie was an entertainer at heart, and her vivacious spirit, her effervescent charm, and her incredible resourcefulness kept her alive amid horrendous tragedy. Of the twelve hundred people who arrived with her at Auschwitz, only eight survived. Illustrated with more than ninety photos, *Dancing with the Enemy* recalls an extraordinary life marked by love, betrayal, and fierce determination. It is being published in ten languages.

a surprise in my family history: Surprise Billionaire Boss: BWWM Interracial Romance Rose Francis, 2018

a surprise in my family history: The Collins Family History Burt Harrison Collins, 1978 Charles Prescott Collins (1847-1918) was born in Caribou, Maine. His ancestors settled in Maine and elsewhere in New England. Charles moved from Maine to Wisconsin, then to Shamburg, Venango County, Pennsylvania. He married Ida Merrill in 1876, and they settled in Bradford, McKean County, Pennsylvania. Descendants and relatives also lived in Alaska, Illinois, Iowa, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and elsewhere.

a surprise in my family history: The Complete Guide to Personal Digital Archiving Brianna H. Marshall, 2017-11-21 Featuring expert contributors working in a variety of contexts, this resource

will help you help your patrons take charge of their personal materials.

a surprise in my family history: Ottawa Valley Ancestry: A Dempsey Family History Gary T. Dempsey, 2010-11 This revised and expanded 5th edition contains more than 660 pages of research on the Dempsey, Romain, Laderoute, and Gervais families of the Ottawa Valley in Canada. It also contains more than 100 vintage photographs, as well as extensive historical research on the Quebec towns of Fort Coulonge and Waltham, and the Ontario towns of Pembroke, Westmeath, and La Passe. In other words, whatever your family's surname, the book contains resource material for anyone interested in Ottawa Valley history or interested in starting genealogical research of their own.

a surprise in my family history: Ancestry magazine, 2009-03 Ancestry magazine focuses on genealogy for today's family historian, with tips for using Ancestry.com, advice from family history experts, and success stories from genealogists across the globe. Regular features include "Found!" by Megan Smolenyak, reader-submitted heritage recipes, Howard Wolinsky's tech-driven "NextGen," feature articles, a timeline, how-to tips for Family Tree Maker, and insider insight to new tools and records at Ancestry.com. Ancestry magazine is published 6 times yearly by Ancestry Inc., parent company of Ancestry.com.

a surprise in my family history: Family History Digital Libraries William Sims Bainbridge, 2018-11-02 In the modern era, every family and local community can cultivate its own history, endowing living people with meanings inherited from the people of the past, by means of today's computer-based information and communication technologies. A new profession is emerging, family historians, serving the wider public by assisting in collection and analysis of fascinating data, by teaching talented amateur historians, and by producing complete narratives. Essential are the skills and technologies required to preserve and connect photos, movies, videos, diaries, memoirs, correspondence, artefacts and even architecture such as homes. Online genealogical services are well established sources of official government records, but usually not for recent decades, and not covering the valuable records of legal, medical, and religious organizations. Information can be shared and interpreted by family members through oral history interviews, social media, and online private archives such as wikis and shared file depositories. This book explores a wide variety of online information sources and achieves coherence by documenting and interpreting the history of a particular extended American family on the basis of 9 decades of movies and videos, 17 decades of photographs, and centuries of documents. Starting now, any family may begin to preserve their current experiences for the historians of the future, but this will require social as well as technical innovations. This book is the essential resource, providing the fundamental principles, effective methods, and fascinating questions required to make our past live again.

a surprise in my family history: The Surprise Holiday Dad Jacqueline Diamond, 2023-03-23 Can Christmas bring a little boy the family he longs for—and turn enemies into lovers? Dr. Adrienne Cavill is determined to adopt the precious nephew she's raised. How can the law side with his deadbeat dad? But Detective Wade Hunter is nothing like she expected. In fact, he might be exactly what his son and Adrienne need—if these two rivals can learn to trust each other. Welcome to another entry in the beloved Safe Harbor Medical Romance series, by USA Today bestselling author Jacqueline Diamond. "I thoroughly enjoyed this; I read it in a matter of hours. A great romance."—Online reviewer Sarah Brown

a surprise in my family history: The Family of Adoption Joyce Maguire Pavao, 2015-09-22 Full of wonderful stories that give insight into a wide variety of adoption issues, now revised in light of recent developments, *The Family of Adoption* is a powerful argument for the right kind of openness in adoption. Joyce Maguire Pavao uses her thirty years of experience as a family and adoption therapist to explain to adoptive parents, birthparents, adult adopted people, and extended family, as well as to those who work with children professionally the developmental stages and challenges one can expect in the life of the adopted person. *The Family of Adoption* is truly the most insightful and healing book on the adoption shelf.

a surprise in my family history: Taking Off the White Gloves Michele Gillespie, Catherine

Clinton, 1998 When southern women remove their gloves, they speak their minds. The ten timely and provocative essays in *Taking Off the White Gloves* represent the collective wisdom of some of the finest scholars on women's history in the American South. On the eve of the thirtieth anniversary of the Southern Association for Women Historians, this volume brings together some of the outstanding lectures delivered by distinguished members of the association over the past fifteen years. Spanning four centuries of women's experiences in the South, the topics featured in *Taking Off the White Gloves* range from Native American sexuality and European conquest to woman suffrage in the South, from black women's protest history to the status of women in the historical profession at the end of the twentieth century. Despite diverse subject matter, these rich essays share a number of important qualities. They take an integrative approach, combining literary analysis, social history, cultural interpretation, labor history, popular culture, and oral history. Embracing the distinctiveness of the southern past and women's experiences within that past, they also recognize the inextricability of critical categories such as sexuality and gender, race and gender, and women and work. Finally, these essays emphasize the authors' commitment to the belief that the personal is political; they reveal the subtle and not so subtle ways that women transform theory into practice. *Taking Off the White Gloves* invites a new understanding of the complexities that surround the history of southern women across race, class, place, and time. A model of innovative and imaginative scholarly historical writing, this book provides fertile ground for young scholars and is sure to inspire new research. This thought-provoking volume has much to offer scholars and students, as well as the general reader.

a surprise in my family history: *Ancestry magazine* , 2000-09 *Ancestry magazine* focuses on genealogy for today's family historian, with tips for using Ancestry.com, advice from family history experts, and success stories from genealogists across the globe. Regular features include "Found!" by Megan Smolenyak, reader-submitted heritage recipes, Howard Wolinsky's tech-driven "NextGen," feature articles, a timeline, how-to tips for Family Tree Maker, and insider insight to new tools and records at Ancestry.com. *Ancestry magazine* is published 6 times yearly by Ancestry Inc., parent company of Ancestry.com.

a surprise in my family history: *Peace at Last in Paradise* Ananda Guruge, 2011-10-28 In this volume Guruge returns to present us with a spellbinding sentimental story that displays the full range of human emotions. A story born of tragic circumstances of the demise of the World Trade Center, encompasses all the strains of race and class that pervaded through the fabric of Sri Lankan society in recent times. It is transformed into an engaging story by the author's exceptional wit, sensitivity and sharp social observation. Author also returns to offer the reader with fascinating verse that brings to life people, events, places and emotions that are vividly presented in the book. Through out his trilogy, Guruge has demonstrated the value of recording recent history that is mostly oral or confined to individual experiences. In volume three, he has set out, meticulously, and in great detail, the history of the period 1915 to 2009. The more recent part of history, is largely based on his own exceptional knowledge and experience, and recorded as only a true historian -- an accolade he richly deserves, can document. What is fascinating is that he narrates Sri Lankan history within a compelling story of a multiethnic Sri Lankan family.

a surprise in my family history: *Paying It Backward* Tony March, Marvin Karlins, 2020-03-10 For more than forty years, Tony March generously donated most of his fortune and countless hours to help those in need, but no one ever knew—until now. To the public, he was the founder of one of the most successful minority-owned businesses in the country, a champion for minority business owners, and a respected community leader entrusted to manage \$1 billion in state funds. Privately, however, Tony indulged his true passion: getting his hands dirty serving the homeless community. In shocking detail, *Paying It Backward* presents Tony's incredible journey from poverty, abuse, racism, and depression in a Daytona Beach ghetto to the highest level of business success and a life filled with purpose. More importantly, Tony shows how anyone—no matter who they are or where they come from—can improve their lives, conquer any hardship, and develop a heart for serving others. When you reach the top of the mountain, Tony says, you can either sit at the peak or reach back

down and help others climb. In *Paying It Backward*, Tony reflects on his struggles on the way up—and the joy he found by reaching back down.

a surprise in my family history: *The Predictable Heartbreaks of Imogen Finch* Jacqueline Firkins, 2023-10-31 Jacqueline Firkins's *The Predictable Heartbreaks of Imogen Finch* is a beautiful story of friendship, and second chances at love. Imogen Finch has just been through her seventeenth breakup. She saw it coming, so she's not as crushed as she might be, but with all seventeen of her exes leaving her for other partners, she's come to believe a prediction her well-intentioned and possibly clairvoyant mother made over twenty years ago: that Imogen would never come first at anything or to anyone. Is her love life failing due to a magical curse? Insufficient effort? Poor timing or personality mismatches? Everyone has opinions on the matter. Imogen's ready to give up altogether. But when Eliot Swift, her secret high school crush, returns to their small coastal town after a decade of nomadic travels, Imogen has new motivation to try again. Eliot's full of encouragement. He suggests that her curse is not only imagined, it's easily breakable. All they need is one win--any win--and she can believe in love, and in herself again. From trivia games to swimming races to corn-shucking contests, the pair sets out to snag Imogen her first first. But when victory proves more elusive than Eliot anticipated, and when his deep-seeded wanderlust compels him to depart for far away places, Imogen fears she's destined to remain in second place forever. Fortunately for them both, sometimes magic lingers in the most unexpected places. And love is far from predictable.

a surprise in my family history: *Move On!* Faith McClung Kline O'Brien, 2022-10-20 Author Faith McClung Kline O'Brien's paternal grandparents, Albert McClung and Mattie Fitzgerald, met at a small, country church in Oklahoma in 1907, the year that territory became a state. Albert's ancestors included Revolutionary patriots "Saucy Jack" McClung, of Scotch-Irish descent, and Abraham Kuykendall, of Dutch lineage, who, around 1740, relocated from New York to North Carolina, where he settled and accumulated a fortune in gold coins. Mattie descended from two former sea captains who became merchants in Brooklyn, New York—Edward Card from Maine and Nathaniel Grafton from Newport, Rhode Island, whose seafaring ancestors had sailed the Atlantic Ocean since the mid-1600s. In *Move On!* O'Brien chronicles her extended family's history, with each chapter focusing on one of Albert's or Mattie's seventeen ancestral branches—the Fitzgerald and McClung Clans and their allied lines: the Anthony, Barry, Card, Dods, Forman, Grafton, Kuykendall, Longstreet, Miller, Reid, Thompson, Tidwell, Trigg, Wilbore, and Wyckoff families. Ten of these lines include Revolutionary patriots, and ten have roots in America extending as far back as the 1600s. *Move On!* tells how descendants of these disparate families met, united in marriage, and eventually became pioneers on the Southwestern prairies. Glimpses of religion in the lives of everyday Americans appear throughout *Move On!*, which combines genealogical details with personal stories, many taking place during pivotal events in US history. Stories from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries told firsthand by O'Brien's late grandparents help bring *Move On!* to life through the eyes of real-life characters, her ancestors.

a surprise in my family history: *Sorry Son* Avery Kronstadt, Neal Zoren, 2022-08-08 *Sorry Son* chapter 4 continues the life experiences of Drew Goodkind.

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