

Foreword

Two of my favorite quotes are witticisms which were written by Doug Larson.

“Nostalgia is a file that removes the rough edges from the good old days.”

“The trouble with learning from experience is that you never graduate.”



Over ten years ago, my husband Larry and I began a journey which would ultimately transform our avocation into a vocation, and forever change our lives. It is the same type of journey which has been taken by millions before us and which will be taken by millions more in the future. It is not just the search for where we came from, but also what events have had an impact on shaping both our ancestors' lives and our own lives.

As our journey took us further back into time, we began realizing that our own nostalgic beliefs were probably altering the reality of what the good old days were really like. It was at that point that we began creating a history timeline so that we could have a better understanding of what life was like in the past. That simple timeline grew into a mammoth timeline of historical and cultural events beginning with the initial settlement of Jamestown, Virginia in 1607, and covering over 400 years of history to the present day. We are now releasing our work in four separate volumes with the hope that it will be enjoyed by others who share the same passion for genealogy and historical events.

Like most of you, we love everything about genealogy – from doing the research and searching for photos, to visiting our ancestors' cemeteries, and trying to understand what life was like for them so that we can become better storytellers. Putting this history chart together helped us better understand that last part and has definitely made us both better storytellers in the process. All of us who have been bitten by the genealogy bug share the same desire – to enable our descendants to have a richer understanding of our lives and those who came before us. To that end, this is definitely an easy-to-understand historical research piece which will help answer those questions, and something that you will want to keep with your family history and genealogy documents so that you can pass it along to your descendants as well.

Our timeline was not written or compiled to be a scholarly work, but rather as an entertaining, educational, informative, thought-provoking, and nostalgic look at the events of the past century which we could use to become more interesting and colorful storytellers in the field of family history. Because of the space limitations on our original 16 foot wide and two foot high, single-sheet chart design, we did not footnote our sources as our initial intent was that we would not be sharing or publishing our work.

Really great storytellers love to have an endless arsenal of colorful and interesting information that they can easily weave into fabric of the subject matter they love talking about most. We believe you'll find our history timelines totally unique because as family historians and avid storytellers ourselves, we've included the types of information and events that you and other family members will find the most fun, useful and interesting.

We live in such a fast-paced world these days that it has become harder to remember when, and how dramatically, things have changed in our own lifetimes; and that is also partly because we take so much of it for granted. As a result, we are going in reverse order and are releasing this timeline, volume 4, covering the years 1910 through 2011, first. Volume 4 is definitely a trip down memory lane that your whole family will enjoy.

I sincerely hope that sharing our learning experience with you will not only save you countless hours of research time, but will also increase the enjoyment you experience every time you study the lives of your ancestors and share that information with your family in your own stories.

This work is dedicated to the storyteller in every family who finds enjoyment revisiting the events that influenced their lives and the lives of those who came before them.

Cheryl Spiegel