

The Past Makes Us Stronger

We inherit from our ancestors gifts so often taken for granted. Each of us contains within this inheritance of soul. We are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories and future promise.

– Edward Sellner, Author

Since our inception we have been committed to the pursuit of unlocking family history. For more than 30 years we have been paving the way for people to learn more about themselves and where they came from. Ultimately, we are about bringing people together. Family history can bridge divides, open our eyes to unknowns and give us hope for the future. Even Congress recognized the universal meaning and importance of family history when it unanimously passed a bill in 2001 making October *Family History Month*. The [bill](#) states, “we look to the family as an unwavering symbol of constancy that will help us discover a future of prosperity, promise, and potential.”

We are in the midst of likely one of the most challenging times we will face as a collective people but family history provides a constant - in good times and bad - that tells us we will persevere.

Ancestry® recently uncovered new compelling data that further validates the value of family history across generations and its power to unite all of us and make us stronger. ***After learning stories about ancestors and exploring family trees, 78% of Americans polled felt a greater sense of connection and belonging****. And after learning about family history, nearly 40% of people polled indicated that they then ***felt a part of something bigger than themselves***. The progression of the study of family history has proven to inform our past, present and our future and connect us across generations. Knowledge of family history affects who we are as people and inspires us. ***Approximately half of Americans polled say they feel motivated (51%) and hopeful (50%) knowing how their ancestors overcame adversity.***

As we move forward, family history will bring new discoveries for the next generation and they will hopefully draw strength from those that came before them. We encourage everyone to discover your history.

*All survey results from The Harris Poll on behalf of Ancestry, May 2020 (conducted online within the United States among 2000 U.S. Adults 18+)