

The Genealogy Do-Over Workbook



The Genealogy Do-Over is a success-driven program created to improve your genealogy skills. Learn the latest technologies, tools, methodologies and more so you can share genealogy research with your family.

Get your genealogy and family history research
back on track and still have fun!
Are you ready to hit the reset button?

Thomas MacEntee

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Back in December 2014, I made a big announcement online and in social media: Genealogy and I are parting ways. Done. Finished. Game over.

Have you ever said to yourself, “That’s it! I’ve had it and it just isn’t worth it anymore!” Well, have you? Sort of like the character Howard Beale in the movie *Network* when he says, live on air, “I’m mad as hell and I’m not going to take it anymore!”

By the end of 2014, after more than 25 years of researching my own family history, that is how I felt.

My Past Genealogy Research Frustrates Me!

While many who read my post thought that I was leaving the genealogy community or closing down my genealogy business, I had to clarify what I meant by “leaving:” Starting in 2015, I planned on setting my 20+ years of genealogy research aside and starting over. From scratch.

Seriously. How many times have you thought about doing the same thing? Did you start your research the same way I did, by just collecting names, grabbing stuff from other online trees, or pasting text into your genealogy software? Lately, has the prospect of going back and citing sources or proving facts and evidence brought you down and ruined your genealogy buzz? Do you throw up your hands and say, “I give up!” only to return to the same review and edit process days or weeks later?

If you are like me, you need a genealogy makeover. Better yet, a Genealogy Do-Over. That is what I decided to call the journey upon which I embarked in early 2015. Now I want you to come along.

Genealogy Do-Over: A New Journey of Genealogical Discovery

Here is the short summary of The Genealogy Do-Over: I set aside everything* related to my genealogy research including notebooks, papers, and even digitized files and my genealogy database files and **START OVER**. I’m hitting the reset button. I’m allowing myself to have a do-over! (* certain items such as vital records ordered and paid for or research gathered on long-distance trips can be retained).

Since I started my initial research, much has changed in the areas of genealogy research methodology and education. I now realize the need to collect facts and track them properly, including the use of source citations. I now understand the process of analyzing evidence and proving facts to reach a conclusion. In essence, I know a lot more about the “process” of genealogical research and I want to put it to use.

This is not to say that I have not been following proven guidelines when it comes to finding family history. For my research clients (mostly pro bono), I actually employ all the methods advocated by many in the genealogy community. However, when it comes to my own research from years ago, I am not walking the walk . . . I have just been talking the talk.

It is not always easy to “walk backwards” and review every bit of information gathered over the years. Instead, I wanted to do more than re-walk a trodden path: I wanted to head out from the same starting point and see where the journey took me. I knew I would have access to better tools, better knowledge and be

better equipped for each twist and turn. Now, I encourage you to join me on this journey.

The Genealogy Do-Over journey is constructed of 12 mileposts or journey markers that are laid out over one year. You can choose to pace yourself differently. You can even decide to drop some of the less important tasks and add your own. Do whatever it takes to ensure that you are on a firm footing to finding your ancestors.

The Genealogy Do-Over Workbook Details

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From Reader Review The Genealogy Do-Over Workbook for online ebook

Barbara Butts-Harakal says

Great everyday read

I had participated in the initial genealogy do-over and so was pleasantly surprised when this workbook came out.

My best advice to anyone embarking on the do-over is to read the entire book and then go back and work month-by-month. This allows you to see what is in store and will ease the anxiety of what the do-over entailed.

As I prepare to open my genealogical business, this challenge has helped me to hone my research skills and insure my clientele that my research methodology is top-notch. I recommend that anyone starting a company or dream of their own genealogy business read and participate in the do-over. You'll truly be glad you did.

Lynda says

Awesome aid to ALL Genealogists

Incredibly good. If you are serious about your genealogy, this is one of the best books I now own. Recommend. Recommend. Recommend!

Medlibrarian says

If you are a genealogist, you probably wince when you think about how you performed your research when you first started. You are well accustomed to sitting down to work on one facet of an ancestor's life only to become distracted by some new, unexpected lead. Maybe you weren't so good at citing your sources. Maybe in your haste and excitement, you've made incorrect assumptions about dates or identities or relationships. And just maybe you proceeded to compound the last by adding ancestors to your tree that you never should have because of those assumptions.

MacEntee's approach--one he took himself--is to start fresh. He suggests taking a methodical approach, considering research goals, setting aside your source material, creating structures for file names, backing up your sources, and trying really hard not to be distracted by what he terms "bright shiny objects." For those people who aren't able or ready to totally start anew, he offers another alternative--going over your tree methodically.

This is a very slight, little book. As it was only \$6, I don't mind so much. Also, there are a couple of really good tips in here that I would not have thought of on my own. I suspect you can get the essence by reading his blog or joining his Facebook group, but if you do want to buy this, go for the e-version or the pdf copy because it should be easier to get to the resources he lists in the book.

Debra says

Excellent resource book - this one is good enough to stay in my private library!

Marie Birkbeck says

Excellent resource for anyone either just starting their genealogy journey, or as the title implies launching a DO OVER!

Tim says**Do-Over - Just Do It**

I am glad that I purchased this workbook. My Family History research has needed a reset for some time, and I found the tools to do my "Do-Over" here. Summertime second chance for my Genealogy/DNA/Family tree. Now I need to just DO IT!

Lillie says**Good information.**

Now know that I need to do a Do-Over. Know the rules but was no longer I need to go back and document my sources.

Linda Hartlaub says

Thomas MacEntee started a group on Facebook, along with posts from Geneabloggers and emails from his Genealogy Do-Over program. Basically, it is setting all of your research aside and start from square one (yourself) and recreating your tree, but this time doing it right, including scans of documents, proper sources and following the genealogical proof standard.

What was supposed to be a one time, 13 week process, was repeated four times during 2015. The interest hasn't waned and he created a one year Do-Over program.

I started the Do-Over last year.....four times. Life happens. I've got a good handle on setting my research aside. I'm beginning again - but this time at the second stage and proceeding according to plan. The book is an excellent guide to accomplish organization, sourcing, and proving who your ancestors truly are. An inexpensive investment in getting it done right!

Cynthia A. Manshack says**very helpful!**

I purchased this book in an effort to reboot my research - I had realized tackling my brick wall was hampered by messy files and missing documentation. Back to square one, but this time with a plan that is well-informed by Mr. MacEntee's excellent suggestions. Thank you!

Eyvonne says**Lots of good tips**

This is a good book even if you are just starting on your genealogical journey. It provides guidelines for documenting and preserving your research. I tried scanning pictures by trial and error different ways and this book includes a clear guideline. For those of us who just jump in then have to go back and organize this is very helpful.

TheKrazySheep says

All the "information" in this ebook is available online. It's essentially a \$3 collection of blog posts. Don't waste your money.

Sue says

Get this book if you need a plan and great sources to re-do your genealogy. Have you been collecting ancestors and pasting them Willy-nilly into your tree, then this book is for you.

Just says

I think this is a great book and is definitely a program I intend to follow at sometime in the future - just trying to find time at the moment. I only gave it four stars though as the majority of links are out of date and given I only bought the book a couple of weeks ago and some of them are a couple of years out of date I'm a bit disappointed. I found the Facebook group and they've shown me where to go but be prepared that they are out of date.
