

# RootsTech 2026 Resource Bundle

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YouTube Tutorials

A FREE WORKBOOK FROM





## The Next Chapter in Family History

Think of this as your trusted companion for growing your family history skills. With simple video lessons and hands-on guides, you'll learn how to uncover rich details, document discoveries, and tell fuller stories about your ancestors. Whether you're exploring newspapers, tracing connections, or building ancestor profiles, you'll find practical strategies you can use right away.

Your heritage is waiting — let's begin.

*Your Friends at Storied*

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# Short Tutorials

ROOTSTECH 2026  
AI Time Travel:  
How to Create  
Historical Context  
for Your  
Ancestor's Story



## **AI TIME TRAVEL**

How to Create  
Historical Content  
from Your Ancestor's  
Story.

Storyed

ROOTSTECH 2026  
How to Generate  
Better Story Titles  
with AI in a Minute



## **HOW TO GENERATE BETTER STORY TITLES WITH AI IN A MINUTE**

Storyed

ROOTSTECH 2026  
Smart Indexing  
for Genealogy  
Books—No Extra  
Work Required

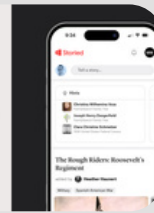


## **SMART INDEXING FOR GENEALOGY BOOKS**

No Extra Work  
Required

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ROOTSTECH 2026  
Family History  
Made Simple:  
Experience the  
Storyed Mobile App



## **FAMILY HISTORY MADE SIMPLE**

Experience the  
Storyed Mobile App

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ROOTSTECH 2026  
The Small Type  
Files: What to Do  
with the One-  
Sentence Mentions

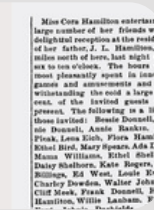


## **THE SMALL TYPE FILES**

What to Do with the  
One-Sentence  
Mentions

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ROOTSTECH 2026  
Neighbors &  
Networks: Stories  
Hiding in the  
Social Columns



## **NEIGHBORS & NETWORKS**

Stories Hiding in the  
Social Columns

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ROOTSTECH 2026  
Instant Story  
Material: Newspaper  
Items to Add to Your  
Family History Book



## **INSTANT STORY MATERIAL**

Newspaper Items to  
Add to Your Family  
History Book

Storyed

ROOTSTECH 2026  
The Easy Reunion  
Cookbook: Fast,  
Fun, Family  
Recipe Sharing

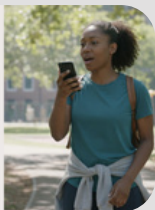


## **THE EASY REUNION COOKBOOK**

Fast, Fun, Family  
Recipe Sharing

Storyed

ROOTSTECH 2026  
The Five-Minute  
Story Habit: Mobile  
Journaling for  
Family Historians

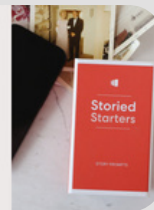


## **THE FIVE-MINUTE STORY HABIT**

Mobile Journaling for  
Family Historians

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ROOTSTECH 2026  
The Secret to  
Better Family  
Stories? Storyed  
Starter Cards



## **THE SECRET TO BETTER FAMILY STORIES?**

Storyed Starter Cards

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ROOTSTECH 2026  
Easy Newspaper  
Transcription for  
Family History



## **EASY NEWSPAPER TRANSCRIPTION FOR FAMILY HISTORY**

Storyed

# Classes

ROOTSTECH 2026

**A to Z Planning  
Grid: 26 Ideas to  
Fill Your Family  
History Book**

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## **A TO Z PLANNING GRID**

[26 Ideas to Fill Your Family History Book](#)

ROOTSTECH 2026

**Newspaper Search  
Secrets: Name  
Variants and Spelling  
Tricks for  
Genealogists**

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## **NEWSPAPER SEARCH SECRETS**

[Variants and Spelling Tricks for Genealogists](#)

ROOTSTECH 2026

**Create an Ancestor  
Podcast with AI:  
Turn Family  
History into an  
Audio Story**

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## **CREATE AN ANCESTOR PODCAST WITH AI**

[Turn Family History into an Audio Story](#)



## [Instant Story Material: Newspaper Items to Add to Your Family History Book](#)

- **Social & society columns (visits, hosting, parties, travel notes)**

*What to search for:* "social notes", "society column", "personals", "visited" + surname

- **Church news and religious activities**

*What to search for:* church name, "revival", "Ladies Aid", "Sunday school" + surname

- **Lodge, fraternal, and civic organizations**

*What to search for:* "Odd Fellows", "Masons", "GAR", "Grange" + surname

- **Club meetings and social groups**

*What to search for:* "club meeting", "literary society", "sewing circle" + surname

- **School news and student life**

*What to search for:* school name, "honor roll", "commencement", "school program" + surname

- **Youth organizations and fairs**

*What to search for:* "Boy Scouts", "Girl Scouts", "4-H", "FFA" + surname

- **Picnic, reunion, and community gathering announcements**

*What to search for:* "family reunion", "picnic", "ice cream social" + surname

- **Out-of-town visitors and travel mentions**

*What to search for:* "visiting", "guest of", "returned from" + surname

- **Hotel and boardinghouse registers**

*What to search for:* hotel name, "hotel register", "guests registered" + surname

- **Local business advertisements**

*What to search for:* surname + "proprietor", "dealer", "advertisement"

- **Professional cards and services offered**

*What to search for:* "Dr.", "attorney at law", "midwife", "teacher" + surname

- **Employment and labor notices**  
*What to search for: "help wanted", "situation wanted", "labor meeting" + surname*
- **Business licenses, renewals, and bankruptcies**  
*What to search for: "business license", "bankruptcy notice" + surname*
- **Merchant shipment notices and trade activity**  
*What to search for: "shipment received", "carload of" + business or surname*
- **Auction and estate sale announcements**  
*What to search for: "public auction", "estate sale", "farm sale" + surname*
- **Property and land records**  
*What to search for: "sheriff sale", "land transfer", "foreclosure" + surname*
- **Real estate advertisements**  
*What to search for: "for sale", "farm for sale", "house for rent" + surname*
- **Tax delinquency and poll tax lists**  
*What to search for: "delinquent tax list", "poll tax" + surname*
- **Road, railroad, and infrastructure mentions**  
*What to search for: "road petition", "railroad shipment", "right of way" + surname*
- **Unclaimed mail and lost-property notices**  
*What to search for: "unclaimed letters", "post office list" + surname*
- **Accidents and mishaps**  
*What to search for: "accident", "injured", "burned", "wreck" + surname*
- **Illness, recovery, and hospital notices**  
*What to search for: "seriously ill", "hospital", "recovering" + surname*
- **Court records and legal notices**  
*What to search for: "court docket", "fined", "case of" + surname*
- **Probate and estate notices**  
*What to search for: "executor", "estate of", "administrator" + surname*
- **Divorce, annulment, adoption, and guardianship announcements**  
*What to search for: "divorce filed", "guardianship", "adoption" + surname*

- **Jury duty call lists**  
*What to search for: "jurors drawn", "jury list" + surname*
- **Election and civic participation notices**  
*What to search for: "election notice", "candidate", "voted" + surname*
- **Naturalization and immigration notices**  
*What to search for: "declaration of intent", "naturalization" + surname*
- **Civil defense and wartime community notices**  
*What to search for: "civil defense", "ration board", "war bond" + surname*
- **Crime reports (big and small)**  
*What to search for: "arrested", "charged with", "police court" + surname*
- **Runaway spouse, apprentice, or missing-person notices**  
*What to search for: "runaway", "left his wife", "missing" + surname*
- **Charity, fundraising, and donor lists**  
*What to search for: "donors", "benefit", "fundraising" + surname*
- **Volunteer fire department and emergency service reports**  
*What to search for: "fire department", "responded to" + surname*
- **Weather reports and disaster coverage**  
*What to search for: "storm damage", "flood", "fire loss" + surname*
- **Hunting, fishing, and license lists**  
*What to search for: "hunting license", "fishing license" + surname*
- **Dog tax and animal registration lists**  
*What to search for: "dog tax", "licensed dogs" + surname*
- **Quarantine, poorhouse, asylum, and county home reports**  
*What to search for: "quarantine", "county home", "poorhouse" + surname*
- **Letters to the editor**  
*What to search for: "letter to the editor" + surname*
- **Thank-you notes and public acknowledgments**  
*What to search for: "thanks to", "public thanks" + surname*

- **Recipes and household hints submitted by locals**  
*What to search for: "recipe submitted by" + surname*
- **Grocery and shopping advertisements**  
*What to search for: "specials", "prices" + store name or surname*
- **Entertainment and cultural events**  
*What to search for: "entertainment", "program", "performance" + surname*
- **Amateur theater, music, and radio club mentions**  
*What to search for: "cast list", "band members", "radio club" + surname*
- **County fair and competition results**  
*What to search for: "county fair winners", "premium list" + surname*
- **Local authors, poets, and prize winners**  
*What to search for: "poem by", "story by" + surname*
- **Letters from abroad**  
*What to search for: "letter from" + location + surname*
- **People hosting or interacting with traveling workers**  
*What to search for: "entertained", "hosted" + surname*



## The Five-Minute Story Habit: Mobile Journaling for Family Historians

### About an Ancestor

- One small detail you know (job, address, habit, rumor)
  - Something that surprised you in a record
  - A question you wish you could ask them
  - A contradiction you've noticed in the records
  - A day in their life—imagined from what you know
  - A moment when their life changed (move, marriage, loss)
  - One object connected to them
  - How their choices still affect your family today
- 

### About Research

- What you worked on last and what you plan to do next
  - A record that confused you
  - A theory you're forming (even if it's wrong)
  - A missing piece you keep circling back to
  - Why this ancestor matters to you right now
  - A dead end—and what it taught you
  - A discovery that felt small but important
  - What you didn't expect to find
- 

### About Memory & Family

- A story someone told you once—imperfectly remembered
- A family phrase, habit, or tradition

- A story you wish had been written down sooner
  - A memory that surfaced while researching
  - How a discovery made you feel
  - What you want future family to understand
  - A story you're afraid you'll forget
  - Something you only know because you were there
- 

## **About Context**

- What was happening in the world during an ancestor's life
  - What daily life likely looked like for them
  - How place shaped their choices
  - A social or cultural detail that adds meaning
  - Why this time period matters in your family's story
  - Write about an address
- 

## **About Emotion**

- Write about a discovery that felt heavy
- Write about relief
- Write about pride
- Write about grief you didn't expect
- Write about empathy that surprised you
- Write about frustration
- Write about hope
- Write about connection

# Find Your Story | Planning Template

Theme:

Directions: In each box, include the idea for your story and image.

#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
#6	#7	#8	#9	#10
#11	#12	#13	#14	#15
#16	#17	#18	#19	#20
#21	#22	#23	#24	#25

## Find Your Story | Theme Ideas

- Childhood memories
- Newspaper clippings
- Wedding
- Baby's first year
- Military service snapshot
- Immigration or migration story
- Diary or journal entries
- Ancestor profiles
- Grandparent memories
- Letters
- Family traditions
- Quotes turned into stories
- Focus on one record type
- Family favorites
- Holidays through the years
- What I want the next generation to know
- Alphabet style
- Stories behind the names
- School years
- Recipes
- Homes and addresses
- Stories behind favorite photos
- Occupations of ancestors
- Heirlooms

## Name Variants in Newspapers Checklist

Print this page and check items as you review clippings.

Add page/date next to each box.

✓	Checklist Item	Notes / Page / Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Spelling shifts are normal.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Nicknames matter at every life stage.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Abbreviations are common in lists and briefs.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Middle names move around—full, initial, or first.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Initials vary in spacing and punctuation.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Inverted order appears in rosters and registers.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Married women show up under three patterns.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Titles and honorifics signal context and status.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Military rank can replace given names entirely.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Occupational titles tie people to networks.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. “Of this place” phrases distinguish locals.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Relationship wording builds family clusters.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Marriage items come in many layouts.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Particles and compounds change shape.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	15. OCR and typos happen—trust context.	

### Extra Notes

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## Variant Spotter — One-Page Reference for Newspaper Name Hunting

Use this to spot alternate forms fast—without relying on exact spelling.

### First-Name Abbreviations

Common clips you'll see in lists and briefs:

- Wm. (William), Geo. (George), Chas. (Charles), Jas. (James), Thos. (Thomas), Robt. (Robert), Benj. (Benjamin), Jos. (Joseph), Saml. (Samuel), Danl. (Daniel), Alex. (Alexander), Andw. (Andrew), Nathl. (Nathaniel)

### Nicknames & Pet Forms

Expect friendly forms in community columns:

- Elizabeth → Lizzie/Liz/Beth/Eliza/Bessie; William → Will/Bill/Billy; Margaret → Maggie/Peg/Peggy; John → Jack; Sarah → Sally; Mary → Polly/Mollie; James → Jim/Jimmy; Katherine/Catherine → Kate/Katie/Kitty

### Middle Names & Initials

- People appear as full middle, middle initial, or using the middle as the daily name.

Initials vary in punctuation and spacing across the same paper.

- Match by context (place, spouse, job) when initials are all you get.

### Surname Particles & Compounds

Particles shift in spacing/case: De/La/Le/Van/Von/Mac/Mc/O'.

- Examples of shape changes: De la Cruz / Dela Cruz / DeLaCruz; Van Buren / VanBuren.

Treat them as equivalent when evaluating identity.

### Married-Woman Formats (Use All Three)

Maiden surname (pre-marriage or her own family mentions).

Married surname (standard in later items).

Mrs. + Husband's full name (society and church notes).

### Titles & Honorifics

- Mr., Mrs., Miss, Messrs., Mesdames, Widow/Wd., Esq., Rev., Dr., Prof., Postmaster, J.P.
- Titles often replace given names in short notes; read surrounding context.

### Military Rank (Many Styles)

- Private/Prvt., Corp., Sgt., Lieut./Lt., Capt., Maj., Col., Gen., Adm.
- Rank can precede surname without a given name—use unit, war, or hometown to confirm.

## Occupational Labels

- Doctor, Attorney/Atty., Notary, Coroner, Sheriff/Deputy, Sexton, Postmaster, Minister/Rev., Professor.
- Jobs anchor people to networks (courthouse, church, market, school).

## Inverted Order in Lists

- Expect Surname, Given in rolls, registers, tax/voter lists, juries, school and club rosters, hotel registers, and sports lineups.

Scan both directions: narrative paragraphs vs. tabular lists.

## “Of This Place” Phrases

- Shorthand that signals locality: “of this city,” “of this county,” “of said township.”

Helps separate same-name people across nearby towns.

## Relationship Phrases that Prove Identity

- son/daughter of... • widow of... • consort of... • brother/sister to...
- Collect and map these; they rebuild family clusters from social notes.

## Spelling Drift & Phonetics

- Expect swapped vowels; doubled/dropped consonants; ph↔f, v↔f, k↔c/ck; Mc↔Mac.
- Think in sounds and shapes, not just today’s spelling.

## OCR & Typesetter Traps

- Look-alikes: rn↔m, cl↔d, h↔b, e↔c, S↔5, O↔0.
- If the name is “close,” verify with anchors (place, spouse, job, church).

## Context Anchors (Use to Confirm)

- Residence/street, occupation, spouse/parents, church/school/club, associates/neighbors, court/land references.

Three matching anchors usually outweigh a minor name mismatch.

## Quick Workflow

- 1) Skim the whole page (captions and side notes differ from headlines).
- 2) Check list formats for inverted order and abbreviations.
- 3) Trace nicknames, titles, and jobs through adjacent columns.
- 4) Log every variant you encounter—reuse for relatives with similar names.

Tip: When in doubt, trust context over perfect spelling. Save every variant you discover.

## A to Z Planning Grid

A	B	C	D
E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L
M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X
Y	Z	Notes	Notes

# Alphabet Book Ideas

## A

- Ancestors in this line (who they were)
- Addresses the family lived at
- Age at marriage or death patterns
- Apprenticeships or early training
- Ancestral photos or artifacts

## B

- Birth stories and birthplaces
- Baptisms or religious milestones
- Businesses owned or worked in
- Brothers and sisters
- Border crossings or boundary changes

## C

- Census records and what they reveal
- Children in the family line
- Causes of death
- Churches attended
- Community roles or reputation

## D

- Deaths and burial places
- Daily routines
- Draft registrations or military duty
- Deeds and land ownership
- Diseases or illnesses faced

# Alphabet Book Ideas

## E

- Education and schooling
- Employment history
- Economic ups and downs
- Emigration or immigration
- Events that changed the family

## F

- Family farms or homes
- Funerals and memorials
- Family stories passed down
- Friends and neighbors
- Financial struggles or success

## G

- Gravestones and cemeteries
- Generations overview
- Guardianships or orphan records
- Government records used
- Geographic movement

## H

- Homes and housing
- Health and medical issues
- Heirlooms passed down
- Holidays celebrated
- Household size and makeup

# Alphabet Book Ideas

## I

- Immigration stories
- Inheritances and wills
- Injuries or accidents
- Institutions (schools, churches, asylums)
- Important individuals in the line

## J

- Jobs and occupations
- Journeys taken
- Judges, courts, or legal issues
- Joint households or extended family
- Juvenile records or schooling

## K

- Kinship networks
- Known nicknames
- Key documents
- Kitchens and food traditions
- Keepsakes and objects

## L

- Land owned or rented
- Letters and correspondence
- Lawsuits or legal disputes
- Life events timelines
- Local newspapers

# Alphabet Book Ideas

## M

- Marriages and spouses
- Military service
- Migrations and moves
- Mortality patterns
- Maps of family movement

## N

- Names and naming patterns
- Naturalization records
- Neighborhoods lived in
- Newspapers mentioning the family
- Notable family members

## O

- Occupations across generations
- Orphan records
- Organizations joined
- Ownership of property or businesses
- Obituaries

## P

- Parents and parent-child relationships
- Photographs
- Property and land
- Places of worship
- Pensions or benefits

# Alphabet Book Ideas

## Q

- Questions still unanswered
- Quirks or unusual facts
- Quarrels or disputes
- Quoted sayings or expressions
- Quality of life indicators

## R

- Residences over time
- Religion and faith
- Relationships within the family
- Records gaps
- Remarriages

## S

- Schools attended
- Siblings
- Social status
- Stories tied to this line
- Sources used

## T

- Timelines
- Traditions
- Travel
- Trades or skills
- Tax records

# Alphabet Book Ideas

## U

- Unusual occupations
- Unexpected events
- Unknown ancestors
- Urban vs rural living
- Upward or downward mobility

## V

- Voters and voting records
- Veterans
- Values passed down
- Vital records overview
- Visits back to ancestral places

## W

- Wills and probate
- Women in the family line
- Work life
- Wars and conflicts
- Wealth or poverty

## X

- X marks the spot (maps, land, locations)
- X-factor moments
- Crossroads and turning points
- Extraordinary events (use creatively)

# Alphabet Book Ideas

## Y

- Years of change
- Youngest and oldest generations
- Youth experiences
- Year-by-year snapshots

## Z

- Zeroing in on one person
- Zigzag migrations
- Zest for life moments
- The line “as it stands” today