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Genealogy is the study of the ancestry of a person, family or group, bringing out its lineage, progeny, pedigree etc. With the increasing tendency in human beings to go back to the past and to find their own family history, the science of genealogy is seen to be gaining unprecedented importance. The motivation for this search of ancestry varies from case to case but it is seen that the whole branch is gaining more relevance with time. The reasons to go in search of family history or cultural heritage varies from research to land disputes .There is a lot of contemporary research happening in this realm, most of them inspired by the urge to trace the origin of some special traits, be it physical or that of the character.

The attempts made to trace the past with the help of studies in genealogy are seen to be triggered by few common reasons. Very personal reasons like the urge to earn social significance for oneâ€™s family history by tracing personalities of historic importance among the previous generations of the stream are common. This is done with the desire of carving out a special slot for oneâ€™s family in a historic perspective. In some cases, the motives differ from being personal intentions and are much more of a sense of social responsibility. The feeling that it is the duty of the present generation to preserve the past in a reliable and accessible form for the future generation also leads to such efforts through studies in genealogy.

Genealogy and genealogical surveys are seen to be taken up for simpler reasons as well. Genealogy is used to help story telling with a high degree of reliability. In countries, states, cities, towns or villages which are known to have a rich cultural heritage, genealogy has proved to a very important tool in identifying the present day descendants of a particular clan or group. By studies conducted with the help of genealogy the researches on subjects like health, martial arts, medical science and art forms have been made possible. Genealogy has also been of help find out the successors of families with historic importance and the legacy of certain exclusive artistic or scientific practices.

The basic function of genealogy, which is to trace the history of families, has been done through many methods. Genealogy relies on methods like oral traditions and genetic analysis to go back in search of roots. Historical records are also referred so as to trace the trails to the past. Once the studies were completed the results of researches in genealogy are generally depicted as charts or stored as narratives.

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