

# family ties

A kin-do guide to researching roots:

# STEP 1: Interview relatives.

Get a snapshot of the era they lived in by asking targeted questions like "What did you collect as a child?", suggests Jennifer Worick, author of Beyond the Family Tree, which includes 1,000 sample questions.

# STEP 2: Set the records

**straight.** FamilySearch.org, a free genealogy organization, allows you to search census documents and marriage and death certificates.

# STEP 3: Check the National

**Archives.** Submit a relative's name to the Archives (archives.gov/ genealogy) and for \$75 you'll get copies of draft cards and pension applications filled with letters, testimonials and marriage licenses, says Jan Alpert, president of the National Genealogical Society.

STEP 4: **Hit the road.** Visit your relatives' hometowns to find wills and property records. Can't make it? Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (raogk.org) has 4,000 volunteers willing to do the legwork for you; you just pay expenses like postage fees. Brooke Nevils

#### **TECH CONNECT**

These cutting-edge gadgets are the future of connecting—no time machine required.

### **HP Photosmart** e-All-In-One Printer

D110a: This genius printer has its own email address, so once it's been set up, your friends and relatives can send you photos, recipes, coupons and more from their phone or laptop—and you'll have a high-quality printout almost instantly. It also copies and scans. (\$129.99; hp.com)

**Skype TV:** The computerbased video chat program is now available on select Panasonic Viera Cast and Samsung LED highdefinition televisions. Dial using your remote and you're connected to fellow Skypers through software in the TV. The service is free when you purchase the television, but the cameras range from \$99.99 to \$169.95.

# **Kodak EasyShare** M590 Digital Camera:

Want to share a picture or video from your trip to the Caribbean the minute you get home? The M590 can transmit it directly to your Facebook, Flickr or YouTube account. It will even send the shots to a list of specified email addresses. (\$199.95;

kodak.com)

Brian Barrett



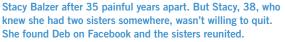




# online miracles

In Facebook Fairvtales, author Emily Liebert offers 25 stories about the remarkable ways the social networking site has brought people together. Three standouts:

- Beth Abramowitz, 36, needed a kidney transplant to save her life. There were no family matches, so her friend Scott wrote a Facebook message explaining her situation. Enter Cathy Schroeder, 37—Scott's ex, who donated her kidney after reading his post.
- Deb Balzer, 49, and Renee Butorovich, 47, had given up on finding their half-sister



 At age 4, Daniel Mulvaney lost the ability to speak due to a rare disorder. His mother, Barbara, 55, worried he'd never connect with anyone. But in 2008, when he was 21, Barbara showed Daniel Facebook. The short text and photos of familiar faces have allowed him to communicate in a new way. B.N.

For more stories of how social media have changed lives, visit womansday.com/change.



# 1973 The cell phone is first demonstrated. It is 11 inches long, 11/2 inches wide, 4 inches thick, and weighs 21/2

pounds.

1983 The first cell phone is sold in the U.S. It costs \$3,900. By 1995. 13% of the U.S. population have one. By December 2009, that number is 91%.



1991 The World Wide Web is developed as a way for people to share information. By 2010 there are 310 million users in the

U.S. alone.



to Trapter

1993 The first Instant Message is sent from AOL vice chairman Ted Leonsis to his wife: "Don't be scared...it is me. Love you and miss you."



1993 The first commercial text message is sent. It reads "burp." By December 2009, 152.7 billion texts are sent per month in the U.S. ahead of its time.



1997 The first social networking site, SixDegrees.com, is launched. It attracts millions of users but is shut down in 2000 for being



2003 Skype is established. Today at peak times, there

2006 The first Twitter message is sent. Today Twitter has 75 are up to 23 million million users who people around the post 50 million world on Skype. tweets a day (600 per second). Anita Badeio