

Now I lay me down to sleep....

A different take on this familiar prayer by: Howard Maynard Faulkner

Most know this 18th century child's poem/prayer. *Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.* Procrastinating genealogists may think this is the ending: ***I pray the Lord my Genealogy to take.*** Do you really want to take that chance friends?

So what will **you** do with all this accumulated *stuff*? Those primary source vital records, the military documents of your great great grandfather from the civil war, all collecting dust, all *somewhat* (wink) organized. And how about the tons of family photos *somewhat* neatly packaged in a *non-acid free box in a humid cellar*. And that nice genealogy software program you bought *about a decade ago*. It suggested simple organization of all of your *stuff*. Slick ads promised your own website, ease of printing your families' genealogy to share with relatives etc., etc., etc.

Surely, I don't need to spell out the fact that the *clock is ticking* and if it is going to get done, you better get started. If you need further motivation just think of what will likely happen if you *don't* complete this task and get it into a safe place where it will be respected. Don't think you are alone in not having done justice to the wonderful work *you have started*. I can only imagine, even in my own large and happy family, that **MY STUFF** will not survive the first cut unless I get with it!

So 2009 is the year for me, and it could be the year for you, to put what has been collected in some orderly form that makes sense to anyone who might be interested. I know, you will say, "but I still don't have an obituary for grandmother" or "Who did Aunt Sue marry?" Folks, genealogy is an *endless* game! Simply put there is no END to a genealogy pursuit. Besides it might be nice to leave something for the next generation to figure out. So please no further excuses. ***Just do it!!***

Once you have prepared your genealogy in a format that can be easily shared with family and others it is important to do just that! You may think some in your family are uninterested in all your efforts. I'll bet you are wrong. It is likely you will find more relatives who want copies of your *project* than you ever dreamed of. Many are aware you have been working for some years on this major effort and will be thrilled to see the results. And they will likely pay a fair price to get a copy. Conversations will spring up where you never expected. Phone calls from across the country...even from *the old country* perhaps. Some relatives will want extra copies to share with their immediate families. When thinking about how many copies to prepare think beyond your siblings, issues and close family members. (*Today using CD's, DVD's or Printing On Demand publications, great copies are easy, fast and inexpensive*).

In addition to family members it is highly recommended that your work be shared with certain organizations. Please consider the following for distribution of your work.

- A. **Libraries** where you now live or have lived in the past for many years or where you were born. Other family members with the same surname may wish a copy for their local library. Also the Library of Congress would be interested.
- B. **Local Historical Society**
- C. **State Historical Society and State Libraries.**
- D. **State/Local Genealogy Chapters**
- E. **The Local Family History Center of the LDS church** where you live.
- F. **The LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah**
- G. Others that may be interested could include the **DAR, SAR, Mayflower Society**, and certain other societies/associations which have your family surname.

Remember this is the year to get it done. Now is the time to start!