

Connecting Generations:

How to share family history with your children

Knight Family Reunion 2016: Liz and Cameron Shellum

Photos:

- Use Shutterfly/Costco photo books to create small collections of photos: cousins, women/men of the family, pioneers, immigrants, professions, wedding dresses, graduations, facial hair, homes, holidays, headstones, vacations, proms, etc.
- Create photo family trees
- Frame maternal or paternal line photos together
- Hang individual photos of grandchildren
- Take professional photos of Grandma and Grandpa while you still can
- Document heirlooms with labels in the photo; upload to Family Search
- Enlarge photos to create paper dolls
- Use photos as Christmas ornaments or hang on a wreath
- Find personal resemblances in ancestral photos
- Professionally frame or shadowbox old photos and heirloom items
- Recreate old photos, awkward photos
- Create slideshows of living family members
- Use photos to create a life-history video
- Transfer old home videos to DVD format; save a digital copy

Books:

- Create a cemetery guide with maps to headstones, photos and biographies of deceased
- Collect, test, and print up family recipes
- Write the history of your parents or grandparents; have it published with photos
- Write your own personal history or journal
- Copy, transcribe, and bind journals or collections of letters
- Gather vital documents: birth certificates, death certificates, wedding licenses
- Collect diplomas and professional certifications
- Collect military paperwork: draft letters, awards, discharge papers
- Create photobooks with family stories to be used as bedtime stories for kids

Online:

- Manage and share photos on Dropbox, Flickr, Picasa, or Google photos
- Create a private family blog to share photos/stories of the living
- Webcam together at a regularly appointed time
- Write and email a family newsletter at regular intervals
- Upload photos, stories to Family Search
- Create a family website to share information about ancestors
- Email or text grandchildren individually

- Create/join Facebook groups for family organizations
- Request ancestors' patriarchal blessings on lds.org
- Use Waterlogue app to create watercolor paintings out of photos
- Use storyworth.com to solicit stories via email or phone message from a group of family members
- Use KinMapper app to see geographically where your family has lived
- Use billiongraves.com and findagrave.com to locate family headstones; contribute your own photos
- Use pixlr.com or Photoshop to make coloring pages out of family photos; make your own coloring book
- Create a group on relativefinder.org to see your relationships with each other, famous figures
- Use chatbooks.com to print up your Instagram photos into an album
- Use pinholepress.com to make puzzles or memory games with photos

Celebrations:

- Take a group photograph at holiday parties
- Host "Grandma Camp" in the summer or on school breaks
- Play musical hats with family hats
- Serve heritage recipes
- Eat Sunday dinner together
- Teach your family to prepare traditional favorite foods
- Celebrate ancestral birthdays or choose an ancestor of the month
- Use or display heritage items at milestone celebrations like weddings, ordinations, baby showers: dishes, clothing, photos
- Turn photos into Go Fish cards; collect all the members of one family to create a set
- Use family members' names as Bingo numbers
- Create a family trivia game with information about the living
- Visit graves together; take supplies to maintain stones, information about the deceased
- Go Christmas caroling to family members
- Travel to heritage locations: find homes, churches, schools, workplaces, cemeteries
- Host a family fashion show with clothing from other generations
- Host a family talent show
- Host a family athletic event
- Attend large family reunions together; get involved with teaching and hosting
- Share spiritual feelings: family testimony meeting, Easter-themed FHE, nativity pageant
- Attend funerals together; send flowers or food
- Sing traditional family songs, or songs in a heritage language
- Give family history items as gifts: perfect for birthdays, Christmas, weddings, Valentines!

Other:

- Create a family medical history for cause of death
- Share current medical information: chronic illness, mental health, dental health, fertility issues, elective procedures, accidents, required medications, etc.
- Collect family obituaries
- Plan for your own funeral; make any pre-arrangements known
- Create a family logo or crest; have it printed on t-shirts, water bottles, tote bags
- Choose a family theme, scripture, or motto
- Test your DNA
- Share your hobbies, handicrafts, and skills with younger generations
- Interview each other using audio, video, email, or paper