

Countless Fun-loving Ideas

Collected and added to by the Sudweeks family

First and foremost, pray for the Spirit of Elijah. Pray to be guided in your quest to learn more about your ancestors. Follow the promptings you receive and consecrate time to this work.

Record all inspiration and findings.

Remember and Serve your Ancestors Now

Remember them. Ponder what their lives were like.

Search for a new name or for missing information of one of your kindred dead and then go to the temple and perform ordinances in his/her behalf. Families can and should research together. Keep a journal of your experiences. Also keep a notepad beside your bed to record any promptings you get in the night.

Have a family endowment session. It is especially moving when family members proxy for a family. (For example, mom and daughter can proxy for sisters.)

Have a family temple day. The youth in the family can do baptisms for their ancestors and the adults can do the other ordinances. You will never experience a more bonding family experience, or create a stronger bond among friends. It is a great idea to have the Family Home Evening previous to your temple trip as a night to learn about the specific ancestors you are serving. And follow the trip with a family testimony meeting.

Name your children after ancestors. Tell them about his/her namesakes when they are old enough.

Get patriarchal blessings for your ancestors from Salt Lake City (the Church Office Building). There also many other interesting early Mormon collections of letters, pictures, callings, etc. (Website coming)

Visit your ancestors' graves. Make a family trip to family cemeteries on Memorial Day or maybe on the birthday or death day of an ancestor.

Care for your ancestors' graves. Make sure the things around them haven't grown over. For tipped over headstones, carefully turn them (if possible) so they can be read.

Some families save up to put a new headstone on a grave to honor their ancestor. This can be a great extended family project.

Search the Internet for Genealogy about your family, for information about the history of the area they lived in, and for historical facts - Check genealogy search engines and homepages. Make queries about your ancestors to see what others know.

Make your own family history homepage and share what you know with others!!!

Submit your family history records to the Church (not for temple work) via the Pedigree Resource File online at the Church's family history website www.familysearch.org.

Make a Family Calendar. Use an old calendar that you can keep each year. Fill in birth and important dates for ancestors and family members. See Debbie Davidson, "Calendar for Yesterdays," Friend, July 1990, 36.

Learning the Doctrine

Make a Family History & Temple Service Quote Jar. Make a list of quotes and scripture verses (or get one from us). Cut them into strips (a quote or verse on each strip). Put the strips in the jar. Each day draw one out and read it. You will be inspired at the power of this great redemptive service. Your desire to move forward to help your own kindred dead will grow immensely.

Study the scriptures and search for quotes about this work. You will be amazed! Try looking up genealogy or related subjects in the Topical Guide.

Attend conferences, classes, and/or firesides that will teach you and inspire you more.

Listen to general conference and then read the conference issues of the *Ensign*.

Attend the temple regularly. Take an ancestor's name.

Read articles from the Church magazines about family history and temple work.

Family Home Evening Lessons

Use your Family Home Evening Manual.

Teach lessons about:

- The plan of salvation. Explain where our ancestors have gone and how they are really living.
- Heavenly Father's family. Explain how missionary work, family history work, and taking care of each other are all basically the same – ways to love our brothers and sisters and to gather Heavenly Father's family together.
- The promises we made before we came to earth. Teach how we are blessed to have the gospel when so many before us did not. Explain how we can bring the gospel to those who lived on earth without it.
- The temple. Explain how we receive both halves of the blessings if we go through for our family members. Share spiritual experiences you have had with your kids.
- Elijah and the spirit of Elijah.
- Abraham and the tribes of Israel. Spend several lessons on this subject. Eventually teach about the Abrahamic covenant and the promises (that Elijah talked about). This would be great preparation for an upcoming patriarchal blessing.
- Responsibilities of the lineage mentioned in your patriarchal blessing.
- Early temples/tabernacle.
- Consecration. Explain the importance of the principle and how we will be blessed for consecrating our time to this work. – Read the children's book *The Daffodil Principle*, by Jaroldeen Asplund Edwards, and Alma 37:6-7.
- Symbolism. Find examples in the scriptures.
- Recognizing answers to the spirit. (D&C 6:23, D&C 8:1-2, D&C 76:12, John 14:26, Helaman 5:30, D&C 1:38, 3 Nephi 11:3, D&C 128:1, & D&C 9:9)
- The blessings of family history and temple service (to see quotes, go to sudweeksfamily.com and click on the link to class handouts).
- The importance of regular temple attendance. There is great story in the Old Testament in Ezekial 47, where Ezekial tells of a vision about the river rising. Each time you go to the temple, your understanding gets a little deeper. There is a great, simplified explanation in the *House of Glory*, by S. Michael Wilcox, pp. 40-43. (Read also D&C 63:23.)

Other ideas:

- Use the Topical Guide and Bible Dictionary to look up topics like genealogy, book of remembrance, temples, Elijah, etc..
- Tell family stories or have lessons about individual ancestors or families.
- Do some real research.
- Bring some census sheets or other documents. Bring some blank pedigree chart and family group forms. Practice finding and interpreting information from the documents and teach your family how to enter that information on the blank forms. (THIS IS ALSO A GOOD QUIET SUNDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITY.) Maybe the kids could even enter the information on the computer. – A *simple version*: have a few documents about a family. Tell your kids to look and see what they can tell you about that family. Point out things they've missed. Bring the names to life and imagine what they were like. (Great with a 1900 U.S. census)

- Try to verify some of the information on your pedigree chart. This is a good way to teach how to use a record type and/or how to evaluate previous research and/or webpages.
- Spend an evening showing some of the information on your computer. Maybe everyone could learn how to use PAF or do some Internet family history.
- Introduce lessons about Noah and Abraham with a line like, “We’re going to talk about one of our great-great-great-great-great grandfathers.”
- *Receive a mission call to your ancestor’s homeland. Send a “mission call” letter to each child (maybe one each week). Have a lesson about the country. Find it on a map and learn about the culture and traditions. Tell about the ancestors who lived there. Make it a really big deal!
- Role Play Activity
 1. Before FHE, assign 2 people to be ancestors who have died and are in spirit prison. Assign another team of 2 to be missionaries, who are descendants of these ancestors, in spirit prison. Tell them that they will pretend to be teaching the 2nd missionary discussion which talks about the importance of baptism. When the ancestors hear about baptism they are very excited and wish to be baptized. Then the missionaries explain that baptism is an earthly ordinance, that can only be done by someone living on earth. The missionaries pull out the records to see if the work has been done for their ancestors, it hasn’t. The ancestors ask why their descendants didn’t do the work for them while they were alive ... what can the missionaries say?
 2. Discuss it as a family. How would you feel if you were the ancestor in spirit prison? How would you feel if you were the missionary who hadn’t done the work for your ancestors?
 3. Have a lesson on Temple work and Family History.
 4. In conclusion, act out the role play again. This time when the missionaries check their records they realize that they did the work while they were on the earth and can tell their ancestors that they have been baptized, given the priesthood, endowed, and sealed together for all eternity. Isn’t that a happier ending?
- Act out family history stories with family puppets.

Activities

Make your own “Legacy” television program. Find a good-sized box and two dowels or wrapping paper tubes. Cut a hole to represent the tv screen. Draw pictures in a sequence to tell a story of an ancestor or family experience. You can even have pages with credits and titles if you so desire. Tape/glue the bottom of the first picture to the top of the second, and so forth. Put the dowels/tube through holes cut on both sides of the box. One dowel should be put through near the top middle of the box and one through the bottom middle. Tape the top of the first picture to the top dowel and the bottom of the last picture to the bottom dowel (inside the box). And don’t forget to roll your story up onto the bottom dowel. Then just roll the top dowel to make the pictures pass in front of the screen. (Not hard to do, but complicated to explain without a visual!)

Make a chain from paper links with each ancestor written on individual links (and possibly dates such as birth or sealing) and connect them together as they are sealed to your family. You could also write both names of a couple on the same link.

Read the Parable of the Keys and make a key chain of paper keys with ancestors’ info written on them. You can find the story in the book *House of Glory*, by S. Michael Wilcox, pp. 90-93.

Guess who’s coming to dinner? Set an extra place at the table for a “guest”. Maybe you could make a meal from his/her home country. At dinner tell the family what you know about that person. It might be fun to do it on an ancestor’s birthday, for family home evening, or on Halloween.

Turn apple boxes (or other boxes) into a train, a ship, a covered wagon, a car and a plane. Teach the kids about the form of transportation your ancestors used to immigrate. You could draw rough outlines of continents on large butcher paper or make rough tape outlines on a large

open floor. Have the kids put the boxes “on” and follow the immigration route your ancestor used. Help them to understand which modes of transportation were used. You could also pretend to go visit a relative far away.

Make snowmen to represent ancestors.

Let your kids/grandkids dress up in your clothes, shoes, and accessories. Or find some old clothes (like pioneer clothes) to let them dress up in. Maybe you could keep a chest or box for dress-up clothes.

Share memories of your ancestors.

- Make a spinner (or use an old one from a game). Put the names of ancestors around the spinning needle (pie chart fashion). Each person can spin the spinner and tell a memory or story about the person the spinner landed on.
- Make a poster of a tree with empty branches. Have everyone pick some leaves and take turns taping them to the poster on the branches as they tell a memory of a family member or a family trip. (This is great for the outdoors, camping, at a park or in your backyard.)

Make a time capsule. See “Time Capsule,” *Friend*, Dec. 1976, 15.

Help a friend with his/her family history.

- Teach him/her how to use PAF.
- Show him/her how to do research on the Internet.
- Take him/her to the family history center or Salt Lake Family History Library.
- Brainstorm together to come up with solutions to problems.

Find out if there are any Family Organizations for your ancestors. If not, start one!

Boy Scouts can earn the Genealogy or American Heritage merit badges. For eagle scout project ideas, go to www.geocities.com/genealogy4kids/eagle.html

Cub Scouts can earn the Heritages and Cultures belt loop and pin. There are also requirements related to family history in the Wolf, Bear, and Webelos books.

For Young Women Value Project ideas, visit www.geocities.com/genealogy4kids/yw.html

Art & Craft Projects

Make a family tree.

- Draw one.
- Buy a printed one and fill it in. Sometimes you can find them in the style of a house rather than a tree.
- Make a quilt family tree.
- Make a mural of one on your wall.
- Tole paint a wooden tree.
- Cross-stitch a family tree (or embroider or whatever handy work you are good at). I did one for my nephew when he was born.
- Adapt any other art or craft form.
- Make a nicely framed pedigree chart (or fan chart or other format).
- Make a cardboard one for the kids to write all over.
- Get a long piece of paper. Draw a trunk with lots of branches. Have the kids find some leaves and put them under the paper near the drawn branches. Let them do crayon rubbings of the leaves on the paper. Then they can write names on the leaves of ancestors’ names they can think of. (Don’t worry about the order!) The kids could use the leaves as stamps to put paint on instead of doing crayon rubbings.

- Decorate your Christmas tree with family pictures and/or family ornaments.
- Design a family Coat of Arms (if you don't have one already) or a family flag.**
- Paint, fingerpaint, color, sketch, or trace a picture of an ancestor or one of their homes or favorite places.** Maybe you could try it in a mosaic collage. There are no limits!
- Make a silhouette cut out** of a living grandparent. Remember? Shine a light on a person (sitting sideways is best). Then trace the shadow on the wall onto a black piece of paper.
- Sculpt a bust or make a carving of an ancestor or family member.**
- Use plaster of paris to take a mold of a hand or foot.**
- Make a stained glass window that has some reminder of your ancestor(s).**
- Make a paper mold of a family temple.**
- Do a cross-stitch (or other handicraft) pattern of a temple.**
- Decoupage pictures (and maybe postcards, letters, or other memorabilia) onto a piece of furniture or a serving tray.**
- Build a birdhouse that resembles an ancestral home.** If you are really a craftsman and have the space and resources, make a playhouse that resembles an ancestral home.
- Make paper dolls that represent your ancestors at the time period they lived.**
- Make a real doll to represent an ancestor.** I wouldn't try to match the face, rather the hair color, the clothing, and accessories that match that person. For example, my mom's nickname was Bunny. So I found a bunny doll, stitched brown hair onto it, put some glasses on the bunny, stitched a small quilt square to it's hand, put a small dog in her lap, and set a miniature trunk next to it with some small samples of things she loved (fabric, scriptures (tiny painted wooden books – you can find anything these days), and a tiny basket). Make it as simple or as complex as you would enjoy.
- Make a remembrance quilt.** There are fabrics available with paper backing that can be used in copiers and printers (color copy or scan pictures and transfer to the fabric) or there are iron-on pages that can be used. Be creative in what you add: copy pictures (of people, houses, etc.), letters, postcards, stamps, documents, etc.; find fabric with motifs that relate to your ancestors (like sewing prints or an oriental design if they liked Oriental decorations); find interesting buttons, use remnants of fabrics, ribbon, or lace from your ancestors; pin medals or religious pins to quilt; stitch on other small items; etc.
- Along the same idea, **make a memory pillow.** Put a transferred picture onto the pillow and embellish with a trim frame and other knick-knacks.

Games

- Play Ancestor Catch.** Make a small circle of people. Toss a ball to another person in the circle. Each person who catches the ball must say the name of an ancestor or he/she is out. (It also works well using prophets and people of the scriptures.)
- Adapt games to a family history theme.**
 - Charades
 - Family Pictionary (make your own card stack using family names, places, or other family info)
 - Family Jeopardy (make up questions in categories of family lines or in categories such as events, pictures, places, doctrine, stories, & time period)
 - Family Pursuit - make up new categories & questions
 - Family Taboo (make your own cards)
 - Geneapoly (turn properties into family sites, etc.)
 - Name Balderdash (make your own cards)
 - Name Scrabble (use family names instead of words)
 - Name Boggle (same idea)
 - Family Twister: Family lines=colors, for example Rogers=blue. Stick a family name on each color on the spinner.

- Duck-duck-goose: Pick your two main family lines, mom's and dad's. In our family, duck would be Sudweeks and goose would be Gibb. (For especially young children)
- Fruit Basket Turnover = Family Frenzy: Each player in the circle chooses an ancestral surname. The player in the middle calls out 2 surnames. As those players trade places, the player in the middle tries to take a spot first. When the player in the middle calls family frenzy, everyone trades places.
- Sometimes computer games will let you add in questions (like Carmen Sandiego Think Quick Challenge).
- Adapt any other game you wish.

Make up a family board game. For the die, take a cube-shaped box or large block. Place an instruction on each side of the box. (For example, "Name an aunt, uncle or cousin on your mom's side.") Roll it like a die. The person must successfully complete the instruction to "move ahead one space". Make a simple board with as many spaces as age-appropriate to your family. Use your own body or other items as game pieces.

Make up your own "Happy Memory Game" (from the *Family Fun* magazine, Feb 2007, p.41). Print up cards on the computer (one subject per card – can include a picture or clipart) with family locations (family history sites, places you've been as a family), people you know (friends, relatives, close ancestors), holidays, seasons, and whatever else fits your family. To play: each person takes turns drawing a card and sharing a memory related to the card within a set amount of time.

Have a scavenger hunt. Have a list of things to find that somehow relate to your family history.

Have a treasure hunt. Make the clues family clues. Each clue should lead you to the next clue. It would be best if it was necessary to work together as family members to figure out the clues.

Maybe there could be an old family recipe as the treat at the end of the hunt.

Play "Do You Know Your Ancestor?" You can represent this idea in many ways.

- One idea is to set a group of objects (or pictures of objects) that represent various ancestors (one item per ancestor). Then say the name of the ancestor and race to get the item that is associated with that ancestor. For example, in our family a train could represent David Rogers because he worked on them, or a bunny could represent my mom, or a small green toy tractor would remind us of Grandpa Sudweeks.
- Or make a tray of items that represent an ancestor or family. Show the items for 1 minute (more or less – your choice) and then cover up the items and tray. Give each person a piece of paper and have them write down everything he/she remembers. Then show the items one by one, asking why each item represents that ancestor. See what memories come up and share your reasons for including each item.

Play Family History Bingo.

- Each family member writes names of family members from the 5 generation pedigree chart in random order on their own blank bingo sheet. Put slips of paper with each of the names in a hat (or whatever) and play.
- Ask grandpa or grandma 25 one word-answer questions. Read the answers to the family and have them put each answer randomly on his/her own blank bingo sheet. Put the questions on slips of paper to be drawn out randomly. Each family member can put a marker on the answer.
- Use a computer to make a family picture bingo. Remember that each card has to have the pictures in a different order.

Teach your kids/grandkids games you played with your parents or grandparents.

Make a Family Portrait Puzzle.

- Mount an 8x10 black & white (or color) COPY of a family portrait onto construction paper or cardstock (laminated if desired). Use the enclosed pattern to cut the portrait into puzzle pieces.

- Pass out pieces of the puzzle to family members, withholding one piece. Put the puzzle together as a family. Point out that like the incomplete puzzle, your family would be incomplete in the eternities if everyone didn't keep the commandments and seek the Celestial Kingdom. Finish the puzzle by adding the missing piece. Emphasize the good feeling it is to see the family all together in the puzzle.
- We have also used this idea with a temple picture with important things we need to understand about the temple written on the back of each piece. We discuss each thing as we add the pieces to the puzzle.

Search for family history games in the Friend or on the Internet. One example is a game by Corliss Clayton, "Family History ABCs," *Friend*, Feb. 2002, 24.

Play the Family Service Game. (This game works well for service in general.)

- Cut out several pairs of feet (outlines for footsteps). The number depends on how long you want the game. Lay them out in a path in a yard, park, or some large room like a gym.
- Place a square at the end with the words "Our Heavenly Home" or "Celestial Kingdom". Make a square at the beginning with the word "Today".
- Make up statements on cards, with instructions to go ahead or back so many footsteps. There should be more good cards than bad cards. Some example statements:
 - "You thought about great grandma Sudweeks today, go ahead 1 footstep."
 - "You ignored the prompting to help your sister today, go back 2 footsteps."
 - "You prayed for the spirit of Elijah, go ahead 2 footsteps."
 - "You spent an hour researching today, go ahead 2 footsteps."
 - "You were baptized for several ancestors today, go ahead 5 footsteps."
 - "You had a dream that you knew was prompting you to work on your Wheeler line and you brushed it off, go back 3 spaces."
 - "You called Aunt Ila for some information and had a wonderful visit, go ahead 3 spaces."
 - "You put flowers on grandma's grave today, go ahead 1 footstep."
 - "You left the family reunion early because you heard they were going to tell family history stories, go back 3 footsteps!"
 - "You sealed several families together in the temple today, bring all players to the footstep where the player in the lead is located."
- The object of the game is to get all of the family (players) to the heavenly home together. Each player is allowed to use the footsteps they gain for him/herself or to give to any other player. Don't give away lost footsteps!

Play the pedigree game.

- Draw a blank pedigree chart (don't worry about dates and places) on a poster board or large paper.
- Have the names from your child's chart on strips of paper. Stick the names on in order the first (or first several times).
- Then, try taking turns putting names up randomly in their correct positions.
- Use a timer and see how fast your family can do it.
- Have 2 posters and have a race.
- Use blank pedigree charts (regular 8 1/2 x 11) and race.
- Using the same ideas above, use your family history picture cards (see next section) instead of names on paper (or use both).

Play the Ancestor Game (*Ensign*, September 1995, p.73)

- Prepare a 5-6 generation pedigree chart on posterboard or butcher paper. Fill in the names of children only, leave the rest blank. Make a key for yourself to be sure the chart is accurate after you've finished the game.
- For each blank space on the chart, make a card listing important information about that person. See enclosed master for cards.

- Pass out cards to the members of your family until they've all been handed out. Explain the rules to the game: Using the information on the card, each family member will deduce where that person belonged on the chart. At each turn, family members can ask yes or no questions to further clarify the position of that person. As long as the answer to their questions is yes, they may keep asking more questions, but as soon as they get a no answer they must let the next person go. Their turn is also over if they put their card in the wrong space.
- Once the chart is complete, the family will have a better understanding of their ancestors and where they fit in their family tree.

Educational Tools

Make photo cards of your ancestors.

- A double set could be used to play a matching game.
- You could make 2 (or more) sets of pictures – at different ages – and see if your kids can match the younger to the older picture.
- You could include a set of name cards to be matched with the picture.
- How about “Go Fish for an Ancestor”? (Your kids must know who the pictures are before you can play this game!)
- You can use the same cards for file folder ideas or for the pedigree game listed above.
- People who love flash cards could even use these cards for that purpose.

Make a timeline. One idea is to hang a clothesline and use clothespins to hang pictures in order. My kids drew pictures of their ancestors, of various inventions, and various big events in history (church and world – there are so many timelines about anything available on the Internet). Ancestors were placed at the birth year, inventions at the year of invention, and events when they first started. It gives perspective to what was going on in their lives.

Chart the birthplaces of your ancestors on a world map.

- Write your ancestors names and birthplaces on small strips of paper and pin them to your map.
- You can mount the map on a bulletin board, foam board or put it up on a wall.
- For states or countries where many ancestors are from, put a larger map up that state/country beside the world map to make it easier.
- You could also mark where family members served missions, currently live, or whatever else.
- Our daughter even adapted her salt dough map required for a school project to include little toothpick flags put in the countries of her ancestors.

Make “scrapbooks” focusing on a theme.

- In a book with a color theme, choose a picture for each color that has a lot of that color in it.
- In a numbers book, there might be one person, then a wedding couple, then a family of 3, and so forth.
- In an animal book, collect pictures with a family member and individual animals and write on the page about the sound the animal makes.
- In an alphabet book, put family members that start with each letter. You'll have to be creative with some letters!
- If your love is cars, do a book on different cars your family has had (if there are pictures).
- It works for jets too. (My dad was in the Air Force for a number of years.)
- You could also make a book of family pictures in front of temples you visit.
- A baby book would be great for the true beginner! Put the baby's picture with his/her name on the first page. Then make very simple pages for the parents, grandparents, & great-grandparents.

Make file folder activities for quiet times.

- Make a folder where a child can match the flag of an ancestor's birth country with the name of the country or with the name of the ancestor from that country. For extra interest, put a copy of a map on the front or back cover. (Flags are easy to find online.)

- Draw a family tree in a folder and write the words father, mother, grandfather, great grandmother, etc. in their right places on the tree. Copy pictures (or print the names) of the people on the tree and let the child put them in the right place.
- You could do the same with a blank pedigree chart lines as opposed to a tree.
- Be creative – make one about matching family members with their mission places, family members matched to pictures/names of occupations, etc..

Reading

Read sections of journals/diaries, biographies, histories, or stories of your ancestors

- With your family, maybe as bedtime stories.
- You can retell them in your own words or read them as is. Become a good storyteller.
- Let the children read parts to you or take turns as a family reading.
- Maybe an avid reading child would like to read one of these on his/her own.
- Sometimes you can even find a biography or a fictional novel about your ancestor (*Exiled* for all of you Rev. John Lothrop descendants – not for the youngest readers due to the scary things that happened when people rebelled against the Church of England).
- Read fictional works that will help your kids get the feel of life at the time of your ancestors (like *Little House on the Prairie*).

Read books written or illustrated by a family member (if there are any),

Read your favorite childhood stories to your kids/grandkids.

Learn nursery rhymes or children stories told by ancestors.

Read books about temple work. We highly recommend *the House of Glory*, by S. Michael Wilcox, and *the Holy Temple*, by Boyd K. Packer.

Read and study how-to books on genealogy. There are some available for kids doing genealogy.

Read articles on family history and temple service from the *Friend, New Era, Ensign, Church News* and other Church curriculum.

Read about the places or customs of your ancestors. Find a community history or a book about Scottish clans or pioneer life or whatever fits your family's history.

Read picture books with family history themes (like *They Were Strong and Good*, by Robert Lawson).

Check out books that teach you how to find clues in pictures from different time periods or about fashions from different time periods, or even about homes & architecture from different time periods.

Hobbies & Skills

Start a hobby you have learned an ancestor loved. If your ancestor loved to garden or farm, grow a garden and maybe include that rhubarb he/she loved so much. Take up quilting or horseshoeing or story-telling or whatever it may be.

Use your own hobby to remind you of your ancestors.

- Trains: Build a train city to represent one of your ancestral hometowns. My Rogers' family worked on the Rogers' locomotives. I'd love to get a miniature replica of the train for our train tracks.
- Cooking:
 - *Call family members. See if there aren't some memories of favorite foods.
 - *Maybe put it together in a cookbook or computer or card recipe file.
 - *Maybe ask for just your siblings' and cousins' favorite recipes.

- *Try to figure out how to make something you remember from your childhood or from a visit to grandma's.
- *Do a thematic dinner for a particular ancestor or country he/she is from. For example, Italian, Mexican, or regional American (barbecue in the south, seafood from the coast, TexMex, California fresh, etc.)
- Dance:
 - *Enroll your child in a class that teaches the dance of an ancestral country.
 - *Perhaps take the whole family to one class or a performance.
 - *Ask a relative to come perform a dance (or any talent) for your family. (Scottish dancing, square dancing, ballroom dancing, etc.)
- Collections: Can you get items for your collection from the place an ancestor lived? (spoons, thimbles, stamps, coins, dolls, plates, books, etc.)
- Treasure chest: Your kids favorite thing can be a great way to get them interested. I made a treasure chest (a small chest box) for my neighbor boy who loves pirates. The chest contains gold coins with pictures of his ancestors' faces.
- For a little girl make a princess veil.
 - *Take or make a princess veil.
 - *Print a picture pedigree chart or scan pictures and shrink them.
 - *Cut out circles of faces & glue onto flat buttons.
 - *Cover with circles of clear contact paper.
 - *Sew onto veil as jewels.
 - *Now you have a princess with her royal lineage!
- Etc., Etc., Etc.

Learn a skill your ancestor would have needed or enjoyed.

- Make soap.
- Make a broom.
- Churn butter.
- Bake bread.
- Make ice cream.
- Tie knots. Lash something together.
- Learn to weave or spin wool.
- Milk a cow.
- Ride a horse.
- Learn to sew by hand.
- Learn to can and preserve foods.
- Quilt a quilt.
- Do a sampler (quilt, embroidery, etc.)
- Make some of your own clothes.
- Try archery.
- Make an antique toy, doll or game.
- Build a piece of furniture.
- Whittle something.
- Learn about or to play an instrument an ancestor played.
- For other ideas, go to the Internet or the library and look for books on pioneer crafts (such as *Pioneer Crafts*, by Barbara Greenwood)

Use a skill you already have to creatively remember your ancestor (cross stitch, sculpting, drawing, writing, computer, etc.).

Photographs & Scrapbooks

Put small pictures of your daughter's namesake in a locket for her.

Make a special framed picture or collage of pictures of your child's namesake for him/her to keep in his/her room.

Take a roll of black-and-white pictures of your family each year. They last longer!

Color copy favorite photos to share with your kids or others. Or burn a CD/DVD/the latest technology to share with other family members.

Make family calendars for yourself or as gifts. Enlarge your favorite 12 photos for the year and print calendar pages of the back. Make sure to list the family birthdays and anniversaries.

Learn how to preserve photos and to restore them with them help of a computer.

Enlarge favorite snapshots of your kids when they were younger and frame them.

Collect old pictures from family members and make copies for other family members (make great gifts). If family members won't let the pictures out of their homes, you can:

- Take a camera and photograph the pictures (black & white film is helpful & PRACTICE on other pictures before you go).
- Use a digital camera.
- Take a portable scanner with a laptop.
- See if the individual will copy them for you.
- DON'T FORGET TO SHARE YOURS AS WELL!

Put together scrapbooks or memory books.

- You can do it for your family or each individual child.
- Make one about your parents' or grandparents' families or an ancestral book.
- There are many styles from fancy to letting the kids write their own captions and put it together in their own way.
- Now with new technology, it might be fun to scan the pages into the computer to be able to share some pages with others. ... Or make the pages on the computer.

Scan pictures into your computer.

- You can share them over e-mail.
- You can attach them to each person in your family history program.
- Print picture pedigree charts and picture family group records for your Book of Remembrance.
- You can put together a video slideshow of a family or individual. You can include video or sound clips with music and/or interviews. You could also include computerized effects, home movie clips, historical info about time period and place, etc..

Collect pictures of your family temples. The prophet has counseled to display a picture of the temple in our home.

Preserving Other Memories

Have your child/grandchild/self/parent/grandparent talk into the microphone on your computer or tape recorder. If it's on your computer you can attach sound (or video) clips to each person in your genealogy program. We've recorded our kids saying how old they are and some other sentence each year. It is fun to go back and listen to their voices when they were younger.

Do the same thing using a video camera. We have priceless short, video clips of our grandparents attached to their information on our PAF program.

Home movies (and slide shows):

- **Make them!** Kids love to see themselves on tv.

- Watch old home movies. It's fun to see grandpa as a kid, even if there is no sound!
- Convert old home movies to the newest technology. Maybe have slides put onto a video or DVD or the latest technology.

Watch old family favorite movies together. Rent some of the old musicals. Five year olds especially love to act them out.

Sing!

- Sing the songs your family loves.
- Learn songs that have been passed down or are about the places or time periods connected to your ancestors.
- Learn each family member's favorite songs.
- Sing hymns or primary songs about families, temples, and family history.
- Photocopy songs (keep it to yourself for copyright reasons) and make a family songbook.
- Write or compose a new song as a family or individually.
- Join the ward or community choir as a family.
- Learn about ancestors and family members with musical gifts.
- Sing together often, even if your ancestors didn't! And even if you're tone-deaf!

Learn the music (and maybe the dance) of the era and place of your ancestor (lots of fun Scottish and Irish dances, and many, many others).

Just like you should pull out your patriarchal blessing every once in awhile to remember, **pull out your pedigree chart every now and then and think about the people on it.** Let your mind wander to childhood memories or stories you have been told. Say a prayer of gratitude and request blessings on your ancestors' behalf. Remember they are still living. And they do pray for you.

Collect heirlooms -- Make a shadow box that tells about your ancestor (maybe include a picture in it) or display the heirlooms in some other way.

Use or display a family quilt.

Books of Remembrance

Put together a book of remembrance. Each month every family will add something to their book of remembrance. Each month there will be examples and simple explanations of how to accomplish the month's goal. Here is a suggested order (you don't really have to start in January):

- **January:** Get a Book of Remembrance/Notebook, Design Title Page & Family Crest
Here are a list of questions to help your family design their "**Family Crest**" if you want to include one in your Book of Remembrance:
 1. What does our family stand for?
 2. What are our family goals, talents, standards & values?
 3. What is our family known for?
 4. What are our family traditions?
 5. What are some of our family characteristics and traits?
- **February:** Pedigree Charts (4 or 5 generations, or more as desired)
- **March:** Family Group Records (your own family & your parents' families)

- **April:** Photographs
- **May:** Certificates (Birth, Blessing, Baptism, Marriage, & Death)
- **June:** Life Histories of Ancestors
- **July:** Priesthood Ordination Certificates & Mission Calls
- **August:** Priesthood Line of Authority & Patriarchal Blessings
- **September:** Record Spiritual Experiences
- **October:** Complete Your Personal History (include your testimony!!)

Histories, Journals, Interviews, & Videos

Make a Journal Jar. Make a list of questions (or get one from me). Cut them into strips (a question on each strip). Put the strips in the jar. Each day draw one out and write in your journal or personal history your answer to the question. You or your child can decorate the jar. You could send a jar to a relative to learn more about him/her.

If a full family history seems daunting, **write a poem** to describe memories of people or their personalities.

Write short stories about family members. You could start them with a memory trigger like, “When I was a boy about your age, ...”, or “We were poor, but I always felt rich because ...”

Write a children’s style book about a favorite family story. (For example, “When Grandpa Shot the Bear” or “Mom’s First Day at School” or “Great Grandpa and Those Missionaries”.)

Make a coloring book based on a favorite story.

Keep a birthday video journal. (From the *Family Fun* magazine, Feb 2007, p. 67) “Inspired by a photo project she saw on TV, Laurie Sovich of Aurora, Ohio, created a video scrapbook for each of her four children. Every birthday, she brings out that child’s tape and with the camera rolling, asks about his or her goals, friends and party plans, and the highlights of the last 12 months. The back-to-back interviews provide an entertaining record of how her brood has changed through the years. ‘My kids love this,’ says Laurie. ‘We watch them over and over. On their birthdays, they all say, ‘Can we show my tape now?!’” This would be a great personal history! And this could be a great idea for grandparents to do to help out their busy kids.

Fix those old faded histories. Retype them into the computer, so others can read them more easily. One of our friends had her children retype their collection into the computer. She gave them incentives to help her finish this project. It was amazing to listen to them retell the stories with such enthusiasm afterwards. The process of typing these stories had not only committed them to their memories, but had made their ancestors real and interesting, even exciting.

Write a personal history for an ancestor who doesn’t have one.

- Use the time line idea to put things in order.
- Search for letters, diaries, heirlooms, family Bibles, for your ancestor, his/her friends and his/her neighbors.
- Interview family members who may know about him/her.
- Find documents and records about him/her (censuses, vital records, land & probate records, etc.).
- Read social histories about men/women of his/her time and place

Collect stories of ancestors (conversion stories good too), put them together in a book, and share copies with other family members as gifts.

Tell stories around a campfire.

Interview a family member. Plan ahead which questions you would like to add. (See the tips pages.)

Interview other family members and friends about the individual you want to write about.

Keeping in Touch

VISIT RELATIVES! The best way to keep in touch is to visit. The next best thing is to call, write letters, or email. Let your family get to know the people you love!

Make a family website that only allows selected individuals to see the page. You can swap research information, family news, recipes and pictures.

Send a regular newsletter by mail or e-mail. Enclose a picture when you can. Collect them and put them into a book to keep a family history.

Create yearly family personal history page books. One of our friend's families does this well. Each member of the extended family makes a page telling about their life that year. They use the computer and include pictures on the page. At a certain time each year, the pages are all sent to one person who copies them, organizes them into a notebook, and distributes a book to each family each year. They are so much fun to read and a great way to catch up with cousins. And everyone in the entire extended family has their personal history done.

Write to your missionary or college student or other far away child. Include short stories about an ancestor, especially if you can find one that shows that ancestor meeting a challenge or one that can make the ancestor real to your child in some other personal way, or maybe the conversion story of an ancestor he/she might not know.

Family Traditions

Remember ancestors on their birthdays, anniversaries, & holidays (some examples)

- New Years - set resolutions dealing with family history & reflect on what they have made possible for you
- Valentine's Day - Turn your heart to your ancestor and take her to the temple!
- St. Patrick's Day - especially fun to celebrate if you have Irish ancestry
- Easter
 1. Write the names of ancestors on eggs with crayons
 2. Dye them
 3. Write a fact about each ancestor on separate slips of paper.
 4. Hide the slips of paper with the corresponding eggs (or hide the notes with the names in plastic eggs) and Hunt for Your Ancestors!!!
- Memorial Day - visit the graves of your ancestors and read stories about them
- Mother's Day - remember your grandmothers and great grandmothers
- Father's Day - remember your grandfathers and great grandfathers
- Independence Day - Remember ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War and any ancestors that made the journey to this country
- Halloween - Tell "ghost" (ancestor) stories. Invite an ancestor to dinner!
- Veterans Day - remember those who have served in wars
- Thanksgiving - Be thankful for your ancestors. Also you can research what the pilgrims actually ate and have a real Thanksgiving dinner. Or you could put 5 kernels of corn on each plate to remember their limited rations.
- Christmas - ***Learn and try the Christmas traditions of your ancestors.*** Cook a meal like they would have had.
- Learn about the holidays of the countries &/or religions of your ancestors.

Learn and follow family traditions.

Create new family traditions.

Make up a family cheer.

If you have Scottish ancestry, you might obtain a kilt or something in your clan's plaid.

You might want to find out about community events dealing with your cultural heritage. My kids took up Scottish dancing.

Stop bad family traditions or habits and continue good ones!

Make quilts for your children and grandchildren.

Family Trips

Take a family vacation to a place where your ancestors lived.

- Visit their homes (if they're still standing), places of occupation, churches, or other important places in their lives.
- Think about your ancestor actually being where you are standing and what their lives must have been like.
- Visit any relatives that may still live there. It would be great if you or your kids could interview them about the family, the town, and/or heirlooms that have been passed down.
- If you're brave and you don't already know any living relatives, look in the phone book for possible relatives still there.
- Visit public libraries, genealogical libraries, historical societies, museums, courthouses, and/or cemeteries in the towns your ancestors lived in.
- Take lots of pictures, some with the kids standing in front of the old house, etc.. Photograph all of the headstones of your family. (Digital cameras and camera phones are great for this!)
- The kids could make crayon rubbings of the headstones' inscriptions.

Go on a family pioneer trek. Help children to understand what our ancestors did to bring us where we are today.

Go on a family church history tour.

Attend historical reenactments that represent a place and time your ancestors lived. (For example, a Civil War reenactment or the Nephi pageant which reenacts the Willie and Martin handcart companies.)

Visit other places with great genealogical sources:

- Washington, D. C.: National Archives, Library of Congress, Smithsonian, War Memorials
- Barnstable, Massachusetts: The Sturgis Library is oldest genealogical library in the country. It is also the home of Reverend John Lothrop. Many early pioneer lines (including Joseph Smith) and early American lines (several U.S. presidents have traced their lines through him) come through this man. (My parents took me there as a child, before we knew it was his house. I still remember the feeling of finding out it was the home of my 11th great grandfather and seeing the Bible he had restored from memory, due to a candlewax mishap. At BYU in a class taught by Susan Easton Black, I learned there is evidence he knew the fullness of the gospel would be restored through his lines. It's inspiring.)

Take a day (or even shorter) trip:

- Go to the Salt Lake Family History Library with your family, or the Utah Valley Family History Library (in the BYU library).
- Go to our family history center as a family.
- Take a tour of the granite vaults in Salt Lake. (Read "Special Witness: To Save Our Ancestors", *Friend*, August 2002, p.7)
- Go to the Daughters of the Pioneer museum in Salt Lake. Ask to see if they have any pictures of your ancestors.
- Go to the Church History Museum. There is always an interactive display for children.

Attend family reunions / Plan a family reunion.

Start a tradition of going on a vacation as an extended family each year or as often as possible. Even if you don't go to ancestral towns, this will be a family history making experiences. The memories will be forever treasured.

Website with more ideas

- www.cyndislist.com/kids/ will lead you to many different kids webpages.
- <http://www.geocities.com/genealogy4kids/genealogy4kids.html> (163 more ideas for kids)