

# Inspiring Ways to Captivate the Non-Genealogists in Your Life

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Ask yourself: What is the purpose of your research?

If you want it to last after you're gone, then your goals needs to be to help the next generation:

- Understand it
- Value it
- Want to protect it

They do not need to be a genealogist for you to achieve your goals!

Two important concepts:

- 1) Children are **never** too young to get interested in family history. Through the years we talk to our children about what matters most to our family. Include your family's history. Don't approach your kids with the expectation that they will want to do genealogy. Instead, teach them to value and protect it.

**Truth:** Like all parenting and grandparenting, it's an investment! Include family history in your home and conversation.

- 2) Your goal is not to get your kids interested in genealogy. You want to get them interested in their family history. Rabid genealogists typically skip generations. The in-between generation is often the "passer-on-ers."

When it comes to sharing our family history research, we must shift our focus from what *we* are doing to what our intended audience can understand and appreciate. We must give them "new glasses" with which to see the information. Usually, we share in ways that makes sense to another genealogist. We need to change that.

## **My goal in this presentation is to inspire you to inspire them!**

What follows are projects and ideas that you can do to make your family history more interesting to your descendants. I'm sharing ideas with you that fall within my personal skills and abilities, and that have been successful with my family. As you review these, think about what *your* personal skills, interests and abilities are. Then come up with ideas that capitalize on them. Do what works for you, and what will be of interest to your family.

If we only collect data on our ancestors and don't creatively share it, we are missing out on half of the joy of genealogy. Here are four projects that will honor your ancestors and captivate the non-genealogists in your life.

## #1: Decoupage Plate

### Supply List:

- Clear glass plate with a smooth finish (available at kitchen outlet and craft stores)
- Sponge craft brush
- Decoupage glue
- Fine paper cutting scissors (cuticle scissors work well)
- Small bottle of acrylic craft paint in a color you would like for the back
- A flat paintbrush
- Brush-on clear acrylic varnish for a glossy finish on the back of the plate
- A selection of photos. You can also use other images that compliment the photos.



### Assembling Your Plate:

1. Lay out your design to fit the plate
2. Add words if desired. You can draw directly on the copy or print it out and cut it to fit.
3. Put an even coat of glue on the front of each photo. Don't worry about brush strokes, but be careful not to go over it too many times, which could cause the ink to run.
4. Apply the photos working in reverse. The first images placed on the plate will be in the foreground of the design. Apply the photos to the back of the plate. Glue the edges firmly. Turn the plate over to check the placement of images. Smooth using the craft brush.
5. Brush glue over the back of each photo.
6. Turn the plate around so you can see the image from the front and work out the air bubbles.
7. Continue to place the images until the entire plate is covered. Let it dry 24 hours.
8. Use painters' tape to tape off the edges before you apply the acrylic paint to the back of the plate. Paint the back and let dry. Apply a second coat. Let dry.
9. Apply an acrylic varnish for a glossy finish on the back. Let dry.

## #2: Family History Christmas Wreath

Listen to Genealogy Gems Podcast Episode #32 at <http://www.GenealogyGems.com/podcasts>

View the four-part instructional video series at the Genealogy Gems YouTube channel at [www.YouTube.com/GenealogyGems](http://www.YouTube.com/GenealogyGems) (click *Playlists* and then click *Family History Craft and Display Projects*)



### #3: Family History Wall Displays

Instructions for Picket Fence Display:

1. Purchase a pre-built section of fence.
2. Add wood shelves to the top and bottom.
3. Paint it the color of your choice.
4. Use thumbtacks to attach items to the fence.
5. Place items until you find a balanced and pleasing arrangement.

Search [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) for family history related keywords to locate items. Sign up for a free account and you can save your searches to run automatically!

### #4: Sweet Memories Candy Bars

Supply List:

- (1) Chocolate bar (approx. 3.67 oz) wrapped in foil with a paper wrapper
- A couple of sheets of high bright white printer paper. (I use HP Premium Choice ink jet paper 98 brightness, 32 lb. weight)
- Computer & printer
- A software publishing program that you can create your label in. I use Microsoft Publisher. You could also use a word processing programming using the text box feature.
- Double sided tape
- Scissors
- Scanned Family Photos
- Template (attached)

Assembly Instructions:

1. Scan the photos you want to include on the label.
2. Open a new page in Microsoft Publisher (or other program)
3. Use the page margins to create an approximate 7 ¾" high and 5 ¾" wide rectangle with the Rectangle Tool.
4. For the background image you can scan a piece of scrapbook paper that you like or any other image. Whatever image you choose, from the menu use the INSERT IMAGE function to get it onto your page. Resize it to fit just over the rectangle that you created.
5. The other option for the background is to select the rectangle and use the FORMAT FILL COLOR function to color the box with the color of your choice. I used green and then chose a gradient that went from light to dark for added interest.
6. Use INSERT IMAGE to add your photos and resize them to fit. For the front side image, I measured down approximately two inches from the top of the label, and that is where the top of the photo was placed. I set it ¼" from the left edge. Both photos are about 2" x 2".



7. The backside photo begins 5” from the top of the label and is set ¼” from the left edge. You may also want to include a small text box that states the date and location of the photos and the names of the people.
8. Insert the text boxes. Both the “Sweet Memories” text box and the “Ingredients” text box are about 3” wide and 1 ¼” high. You can format them with the borders and colors that you want. In my example, you’ll see that I took the color cues from the colors in the photos – the crimson red and soft green.
9. Add an “Ingredient” label, such as: Love, Family, Attention, Politeness, Smiles, Caring and Time. Feel free to reflect your own family values in the list.
10. Once you’ve got everything laid out on the screen the way you want it, it’s time to print. From the menu, click FILE then PRINT and then click the PROPERTIES button. From this window be sure to select “high resolution paper” or “high brightness” as the media type, and select HIGH for the print quality to make sure you get the best, most professional looking label. Print the label onto your high brightness 98 paper, then carefully cut it out.
11. Follow the folding guidelines shown on the attached template, although your candy bar is going to dictate your actual fold lines. The first fold line is 1 ½” from the top of the label and the second fold line is 4 ¼” from the top of the label.
12. Use a small piece of double-sided tape to stick the label to itself on the backside snugly. Make the labels now while you have the time and buy the candy closer to the holiday to ensure the candy’s freshness.

## #5: Family History Photo & Video Creativity

<http://www.shapecollage.com/> (free) (and the Pic Collage app)

Apply Shape Collage to a collection of family photos for an instant fun display. Adjust the collage size, size of the photos, number of photos, and spacing between photos. Change the background, the color of the border, and more. Save as JPEG, PNG, or Photoshop PSD. Use apps like *Retype* and *Over* to add stylish text and filters to images (photos, documents, etc.). Try [Animoto](#) (website and app) for creating family history story videos. (Free trial, monthly or yearly subscription) Learn more: <https://lisalouisecooke.com/family-history-videos/>

## #6: Google Earth Family History Tour

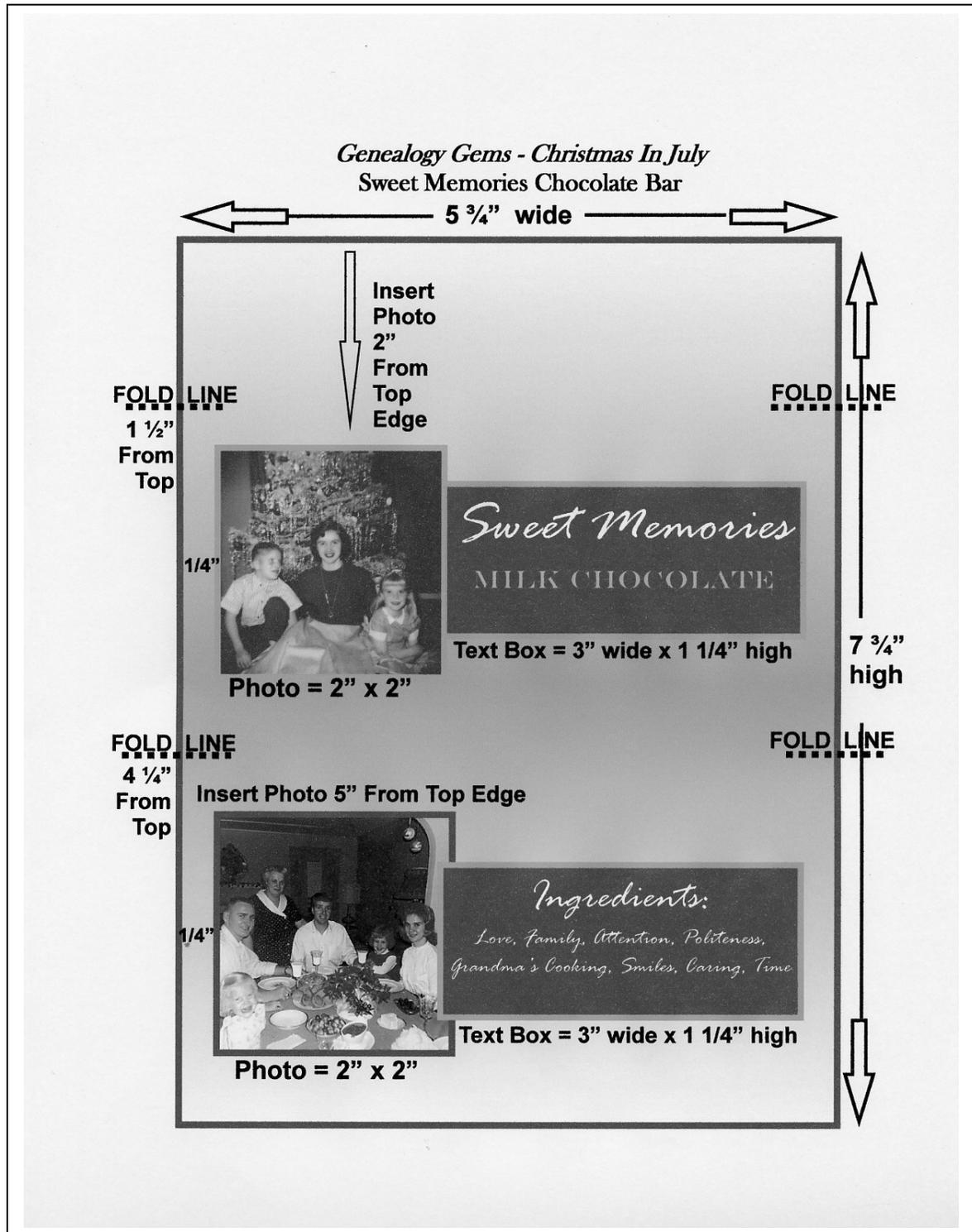
Download Google Earth Pro free from <https://www.google.com/earth/download/gep/agree.html>

Record a Family History Tour that includes:

- Old Family Photos
- Videos
- Old Historic Maps
- Old Postcards and Ephemera
- Genealogical Documents

Focus on telling one specific story. Set a placemark in the desired location and add genealogical content. Content is hosted on the Cloud (YouTube, PhotoBucket, your own website, etc.) and “pointed to” with HTML embed code (provided by websites mentioned) or by copying direct link from your website into the Placemark’s Properties box. For more info on using Google Earth watch the free video: *Google Earth for Genealogy* at <http://tinyurl.com/op8pxk2>

## Sweet Memories Wrapper Template



### Bibliography

Cooke, Lisa L., *Genealogy Gems: Ultimate Research Strategies*, 2007 (eBook)

Cooke, Lisa L., *Google Earth for Genealogy* (Video Tutorial Series)

Cooke, Lisa L., *The Genealogist's Google Toolbox*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 2015 (Print & eBook)

All available at <http://shopgenealogygems.com>