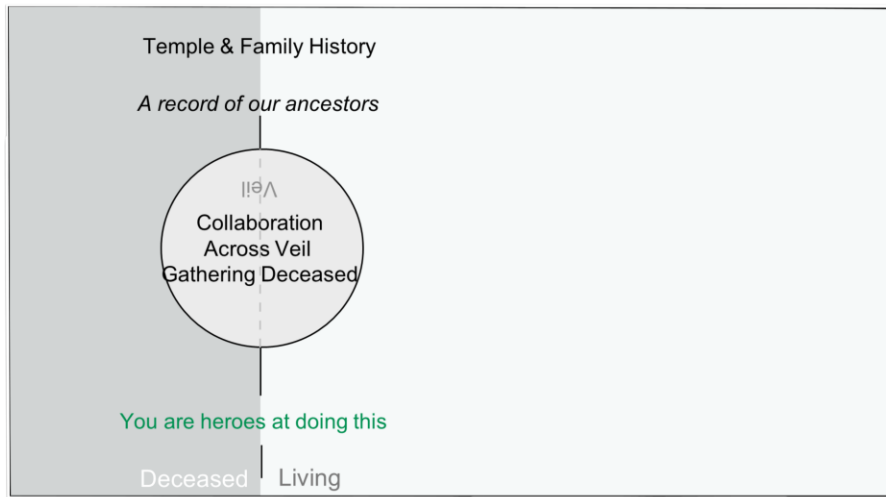




YOU ARE ALL HEROS: Faithful, believe promises of the father, worthy or revelation and help from beyond the veil. You are the Lord's strategic tool in bringing the blessings of Genealogy to the His family



Like every good story the hero has a goal, and you have been magnificent in delivering on the goal of finding ancestors, building a record of those ancestors to qualify them to receive saving ordinances and carrying out that work in the temples. A wonderful and important work it is too.

We are all aware that the great war for the souls of men has not ended. It has merely changed venue to this earth. It has also changed it's nature from a "war of words and ideas" to something much more bloody, violent. Not just spiritually destructive, but also physically destructive.

You are the Lord's Seal Team on special ops in a war torn city. All around you are spiritually burned out spiritual vehicles of pornographic addiction, spiritually bullet pocked walls of lust for wealth and power, smoldering rubble of anger and hatred. Every doorway, every corner, you pass may be full of barbaric vicious and completely evil insurgents both mortal and unembodied seeking spiritual death and destruction. You are in the war zone. There is an ongoing firefight all around us. This earth life is the war zone.

In every good hero story the hero has a goal, but they also have a problem that they can't easily overcome. Every hero also has a mentor who gives them the tools they need to achieve success and avoid failure.

Luke had Yoda
James Bond had Q
Mr Incredible had Edna Mode
Rocky had Micky
The Karate Kid had Mr. Miyagi
Cinderella had a fairy godmother

Unfortunately, like all heroes, YOU HAVE A PROBLEM and need a mentor to give you the tools required

to achieve success and avoid failure.

I am not your mentor.

I am only here today to help you see that 1) you have a problem and 2) point you toward the mentors who can help you

What evidence is there that you have a problem? Only a very small percentage of those you try to engage in Family History work actually end up loving it and sticking with it. However this is just a symptom.

The problem you have is that you may not properly understand the full scope of the Goal.
Let's see if we can clarify the problem a little.

I'm afraid of losing my family to temptation, distraction, and outside influences

Motivations

The mothers of Zion, and our communities, should be the most motivated to seek the blessings of Family History for their families. Their divine role and natural inclination is that of a nurturer. Their children are under attack in this war zone. Unfortunately, many of them look at us in disbelief when we try and teach genealogical principles and work.

When we ask mothers to tell us their most significant concerns for their family this is what they tell us. (Read Quote on slide).

Figuratively, many of them are saying....

"Do you realize that I am in the midst of a violent ongoing firefight for the spiritual lives of my family. Do you see that burned out hulk of vehicle to your left? That is the soul of my son struggling with pornography. See that rubble to the right? That is the soul of my daughter struggling with self esteem and testimony issues. My husband is at risk. There are spiritual bullets hitting the ground all around their feet and light ordinance going off every time they step on the bus, every time they step into school, every time they go to a friends home, with every song, with every movie, with every news report. I'm fighting against the most barbaric and pure black evil beings both seen and unseen. In the midst of this battle you want me to take my eye off my family and worry about the name, a birth date and a death place of someone who left the war zone 200yrs ago and is currently safe in the Lord's protected compound miles away from the enemy lines? ARE YOU SERIOUS? If that is all this weapon of Family History has to offer me...I'M A NUTURER....GET OUT OF MY WAY!!!

What if we are not fully and accurately representing the power of this tool called Family History to bless nor it's full and proper use in the work. Lets see what some of the mentors have said about the role of Family History in this special operation...

A Shield and a Protection



Boyd K Packer
The Holy Temple

“No work is more of a protection to us than...genealogical research. No work is more spiritually refining. No work we do gives us more power...Our labors cover us with a shield and a protection”

Note that Boyd K Packer was speaking of a shield and protection TO THE LIVING. Those around us in this war zone that we are called to help.

But we need to understand HOW it provides that “shield and a protection”

Helpers Known to Us



Joseph F. Smith
Gospel Doctrine p. 435

“When messengers are sent to minister to the inhabitants of this earth, they are not strangers, but from the ranks of our kindred, friends, fellow-beings, and fellow-servants”

What if the work of the deceased isn't to just sit around and pray that we remember them and do their ordinances.

What if the work of the deceased, in which we are supposed to “Help” them according to Elder Widstoe is to minister to us.

Help from Beyond the Veil



John A. Widstoe
July 1931

“Whoever seeks to help those on the other side receives help in turn **in all the affairs of life...** Help comes to us from the other side as we give help to those who have passed beyond the veil.”

Elder Widstoe speaks of “Helping” those on the other side.
What if we have not understood what they need us to help them with.
What if we have, at least partially, misinterpreted their work.

Whatever it is we must help them in, somehow liberates them to help us - in ALL THE AFFAIRS OF LIFE...not just in finding their records.

Elder Widstoe also alludes to the principle of AGENCY. The Lord will never impose himself into our lives uninvited. There is no compulsion or coercion in His kingdom and “Amen to the priesthood” of anyone who tries to behave that way. I don’t think he allows those who minister in His behalf to impose themselves uninvited either.

If we want our ancestors to be free to minister to us we must first act.

What do they do? I have no idea, bless, protect, inspire, guide? I suspect that when we each walk back through the veil we will be shocked at the amount of help we received unseen and unrecognized.

Alma 37

2 I ...command you that ye keep a record of this people,...it is for a wise purpose that they are kept...

A record of the living

5 And now behold, if they are kept they must retain their brightness;...

Frequent use

6 ...ye may suppose that this is foolishness in me; but behold I say unto you, that by small and simple things are great things brought to pass; and small means in many instances doth confound the wise...

So simple, almost
foolish

8 And now, it has hitherto been wisdom in God that these things should be preserved; for behold, they have enlarged the memory of this people, yea, and convinced many of the error of their ways, and brought them to the knowledge of their God unto the salvation of their souls.

Remembering
together

Strengthen & Convert

Alma also spoke of the power of Family History to bless the living.
He is not speaking of a record of the dead meant to bless the dead.

When we invite people to document their lives one of the most frequent responses is "My life is pretty boring, no one will care about me" It seems foolish to them.

Alma speaks of a record of the living meant to enlarge the memory and save the souls of the living.

Find more closeness and joy in their families.

Conversion to the Savior will become more deep and abiding.

Increase knowledge and faith in the Savior.

Gain personal power - power to change, power to repent, power to learn, power to be sanctified, and power to turn the hearts of your family together and heal that which needs healing.



Have profound heart-turning experiences.

Protected from the intensifying influence of the adversary.

Every one of these promises and prophecies of modern mentors also speak of blessings to the living.

The Plan



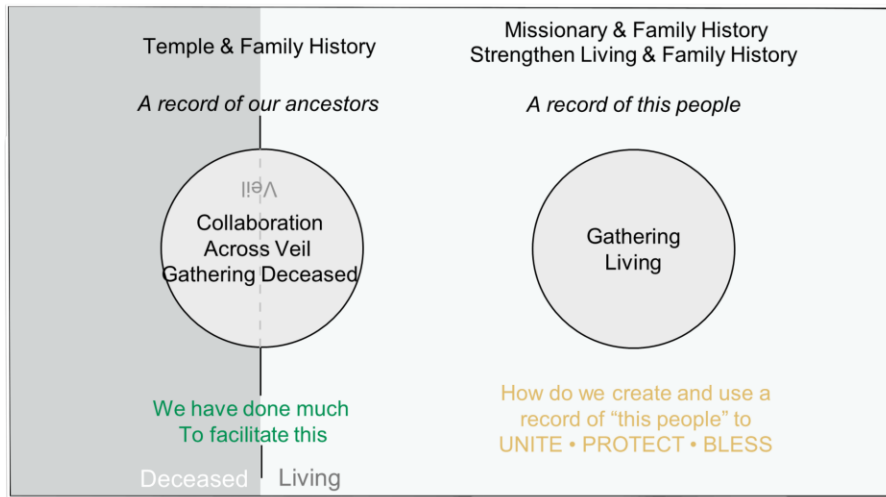
Multi-generational families on both side of the veil working together...

...so each family member is identified, sanctified, and sealed up unto exaltation through the saving ordinances and covenants.

All are gathers

What if one of the primary works of our family members on the other side is to protect, inspire, guide, bless and in whatever way they can help their family members get through this mortal war zone safely and successfully.

What if documenting our lives, sharing our stories, sharing the stories of our ancestors all constitutes “helping” them in the work of getting all their family members through this war zone with as little damage and as much exalting growth as possible.



Perhaps as "Helpers" in your family, ward and community the most critical thing you do is help those you serve to use their agency to engage in the work to unlock unseen help from the other side of the veil ... in all the affairs of their life.

If as a Seal Team on operation in a war zone all our focus is only on those who have already left the war zone and who are safely back in the protected compound - we may be failing to help all those who are around us here and now in the middle of the war zone from realizing all the blessings that family history can unlock for them.

The record of THIS PEOPLE must be used frequently to enlarge the memory and save souls.



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News Release: Research

Mar. 3, 2010

Children Benefit if They Know About Their Relatives, Study Finds

Contact:

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From Journal of Family Life

Children who know stories about relatives who came before them show higher levels of emotional well-being, according to Emory University researchers who analyzed dinner time conversations and other measures of how well families work.

The research, by Emory psychologists Robyn Fivush and Marshall Duke, and former Emory graduate student Jennifer Bohanek, was recently published in Emory's online Journal of Family Life.

"Family stories provide a sense of identity through time, and help children understand who they are in the world," the researchers said in the paper "Do You Know? The power of family history in adolescent identity and well-being".

Researchers have theorized that family stories are a critical part of adolescents' emerging identity and well-being, but they haven't been able to measure how much kids know about their family history and intergenerational family stories. In this study, Emory researchers developed a "Do You Know? (DWK)" scale to test to measure that. The DWK scale has 30 items and



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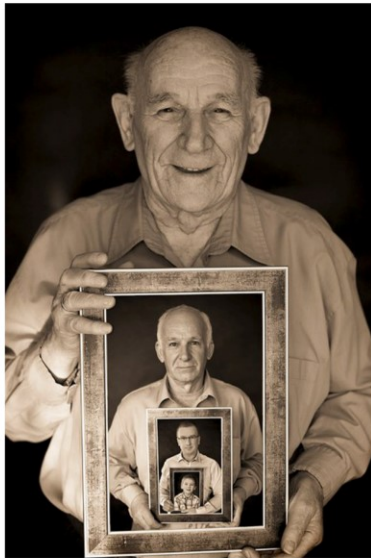
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In a beautiful scientific confirmation of inspired promises researchers at Emory University recently conducted a study with a large number of teens 14-16 yrs old. After controlling for many personal and family variables they found the following:



Teenagers who know stories about those who came before them are more likely to show higher levels of social and emotional health



Knowledge of family stories was associated

with:

- better measures of self-esteem,
- a stronger belief in their capacity to control the future,
- lower levels of anxiety,
- fewer behavioral problems,
- more resilience in the event of hardship,
- better academic performance, &
- better relationships with their parents.



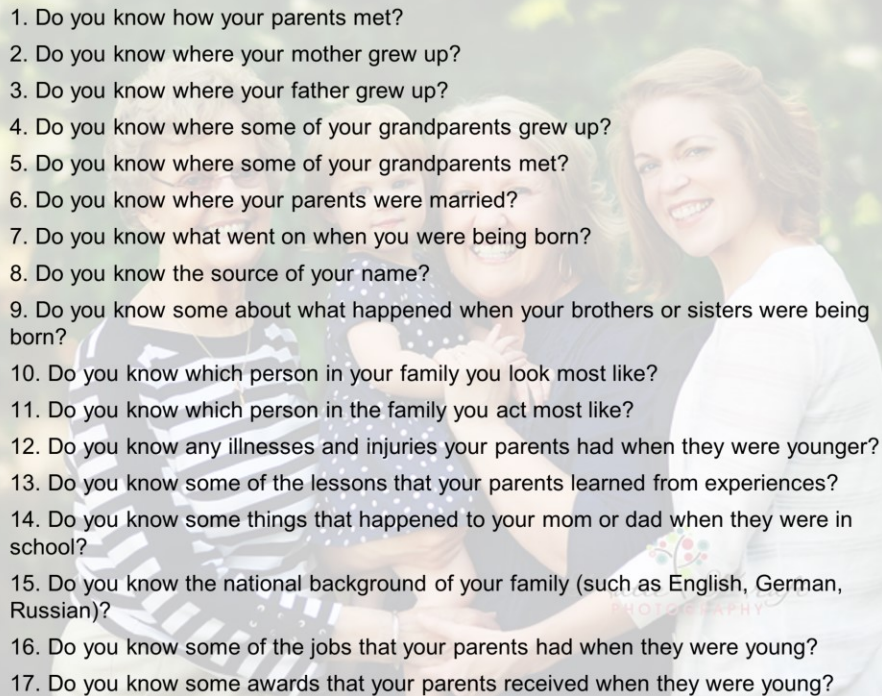
"Family stories provide a sense of identity through time, and help children understand who they are in the world,"

"There is something powerful about actually knowing these stories,"



It is our belief that knowledge of family history reflects certain processes that exist in families whose members know their histories.

One such process is the communication of family information across generations

- 
1. Do you know how your parents met?
 2. Do you know where your mother grew up?
 3. Do you know where your father grew up?
 4. Do you know where some of your grandparents grew up?
 5. Do you know where some of your grandparents met?
 6. Do you know where your parents were married?
 7. Do you know what went on when you were being born?
 8. Do you know the source of your name?
 9. Do you know some about what happened when your brothers or sisters were being born?
 10. Do you know which person in your family you look most like?
 11. Do you know which person in the family you act most like?
 12. Do you know any illnesses and injuries your parents had when they were younger?
 13. Do you know some of the lessons that your parents learned from experiences?
 14. Do you know some things that happened to your mom or dad when they were in school?
 15. Do you know the national background of your family (such as English, German, Russian)?
 16. Do you know some of the jobs that your parents had when they were young?
 17. Do you know some awards that your parents received when they were young?

They used questions similar to the following to measure how much information had been passed across the generations.

I want to strengthen our family relationships and stay united

"When the kids move out, I want them to remember where they came from, what we stand for, and who to turn to when they struggle"

Motivations

At FamilySearch we have also conducted lots and lots of user interviews. The following are some of the things that users tell us motivates them to create "a record of the living for the use of the living".

The following part of the presentation is meant to inspire by providing, not only some motivations, but also some examples of how Family History by the living for the living can be deployed.

Parents, especially empty nesters, want to keep the family close and keep them together as they grow, move out and confront the world without direct parental oversight.

Our experiences protect us against adversity

*"I want to instill good principles in my kids
through what I share so they will stay strong
when they leave my house"*

Motivations

By sharing experiences, both happy and sad, we teach principles in a way that can be remembered and used in life's daily decisions.

Through remembering we are blessed with increased love and gratitude

"There's great benefits of awareness, gratitude. You get into a habit and train yourself to see things and not just cruise through your life on autopilot"

Motivations

Does this "awareness" quote sound a lot like Alma's "enlarged the memory" comment. Enlarging the memory increases love and gratitude. These are protective.

I feel the need to capture and preserve experiences before they are lost

"I was raised by a grandmother who never stopped talking. As a child I thought: we need to write down these charming and funny stories. We'll never be able to remember these when she's gone"

Motivations: Capture

There is a time critical nature to these stories. Continual procrastination results in a tragic loss.

**Our experiences need to be discoverable
and available when and where I need them**

Motivations: Availability

The accessibility of the stories and artifacts that we gather is vital to transmitting the stories across the generations.

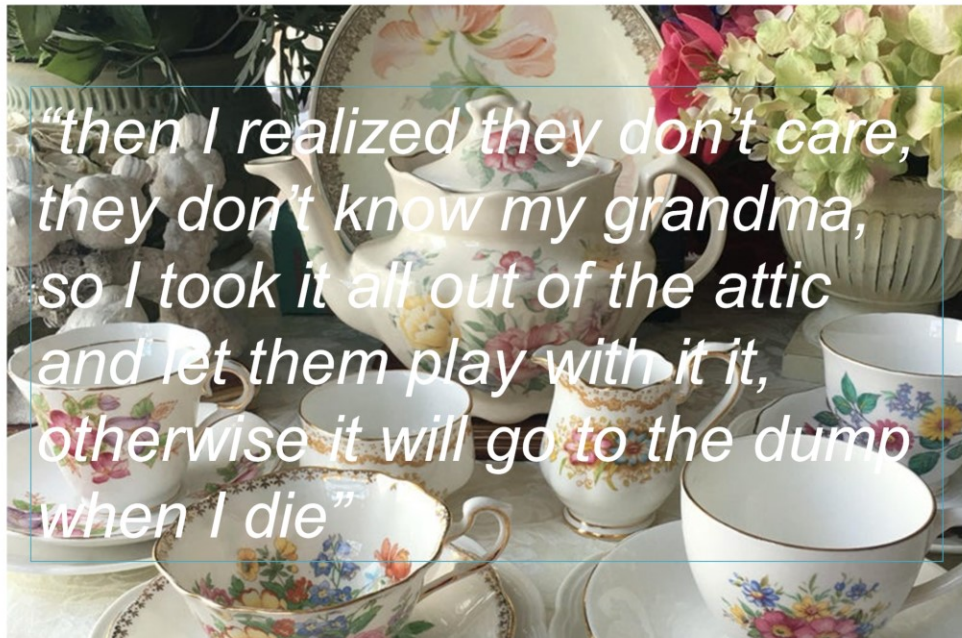


One mother trying to protect her children covered the walls of the bathroom with ancestor photos, a story was printed and pasted to the the back of each photo and the kids we encouraged to read them. One frame contains a mirror so the child can see themselves among their ancestors.

One day as she walked through the living room she came across her 16 yr old son leaving the bathroom. He stopped and said "The bathroom is my favorite room in the house. Those are my people on the wall in there".



One mother realized that she has a typewriter that her grandfather used to write mission letter to his son serving a mission. It was gathering dust in the attic. She brought it down. Her daughter had a new missionary serving. She encouraged her daughter to write her mission letter to her grand-daughter using the same typewriter - this continuity mentally strengthens and helps us love our ancestors.



Another young mother kept a cherished china set that she had inherited from her grandmother packed carefully up in the attic. She looked forward to the day when her young children would grow up and she could pass along this precious china set to them as a prize heirloom.

One day it occurred that her children did not know her grandmother. They won't care. If I don't get it out of that attic and let them play with it while I share stories and photos about grandma this china set is just going to go to the dump when I die.

She took it down and it became cherished by the children too, but more importantly it helped make their great grandma real to them.

I want to tell my own story how I experienced it

*"Our family stands for certain things! I want
that to be how we are remembered"*

Motivations: Personalization

Being in control of how the memories and stories are presented gives family a greater ability to teach through experience. Let me tell you how one mother chose to do it....



She gathered several dozen instructive family stories and found a small toy artifact to represent each story. These she placed in a jar. She then created a small book where the left side of each page had a picture of the toy and the right side had the family story associated with it. Cross generational learnings would be transmitted as the children played.

When we share our experiences together they spark more stories and memories

"Every night we'd show photos or journal entries and everyone would tell more about what they remembered. We spent hours each night talking it through and had a blast"

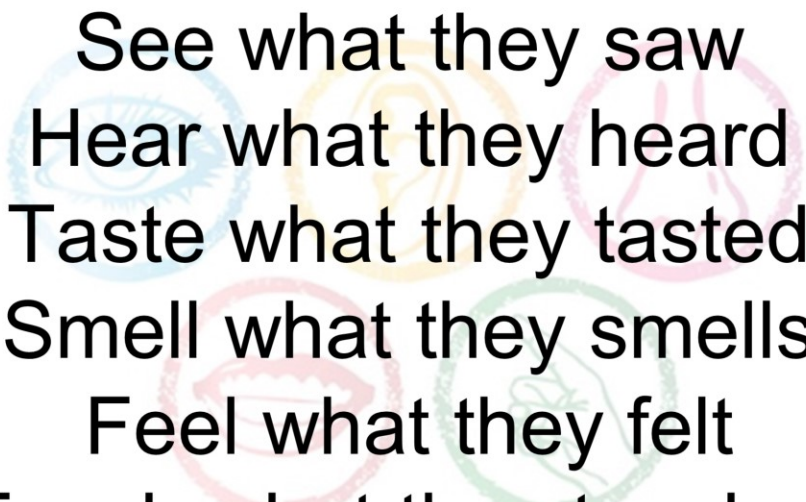
Motivations: Collaboration

Something magical happens when family memories are shared as a group, especially if some of the participants lived the memories. They serve as a catalyst drawing out more and more memories.

One of our interviewees recalled a cruise that the family (aunts, uncles, cousins, etc) took together. Her most powerful memory of the whole cruise experience was sitting around each evening listening to one story draw out the next.



One of the people in my neighborhood hosts a large family dinner every 3rd Sunday. After dinner she uses an online system called Kahoot! to craft surveys around family stores and values. They put the quiz up on the big screen and everybody pulls out their mobile device to race and answer the questions. They have had some great times with everyone laughing and talking about their nicknames and the questions.



See what they saw
Hear what they heard
Taste what they tasted
Smell what they smells
Feel what they felt
Touch what they touched

Our research at FamilySearch has taught us that stories are more powerful when the one receiving them can See, Hear, Taste, Smell, Feel or Touch what the family members did.

Example of an email written to my kids with links to many online resources

Goal was to answer the Emory University
questions & help them see and experience what
we did

I have been taking a crack at answering some of the Emory University questions for my children in email. Since email tools allow you to select specific words and link them to URLs out on the internet I litter the email with easter egg links to help my kids see what I saw.

And sharing it with the family Example of documenting my grandfather's WWII service
in a screen share teleconference.

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A Shield and a Protection



Boyd K. Packer
The Holy Temple

“No work is more of a protection to us than...genealogical research. No work is more spiritually refining. No work we do gives us more power...Our labors cover us with a shield and a protection”

His life has become a shield and protection for me in the midst of this war zone we live in.

Helpers Known to Us



Joseph F. Smith
Gospel Doctrine p. 435

“When messengers are sent to minister to the inhabitants of this earth, they are not strangers, but from the ranks of our kindred, friends, fellow-beings, and fellow-servants”

I'm sure that he is aware of me and I fully expect that helping me, and the rest of his posterity, get through this life successfully is part of the work he is engaged in. By sharing his story I have helped him accomplish that work.

The Plan



Multi-generational families on both side of the veil working together...

...so each family member is identified, sanctified, and sealed up unto exaltation through the saving ordinances and covenants.

All are gathers

The tool of Family History has a great power to bless the living. It has much to offer the mothers of Zion who were never meant to try and accomplish the plan all by themselves without help.

Let us recognize it's full power to enlarge the memory and save souls.