
Tracing **PASTS**

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Most fishermen rely on a hook to catch their fish. The more attractive and the more delicious-looking, the better chances the fisherman has of catching that fish.

The same is true, if you want your children, grandchildren or cousins to be interested in your family history. You need a hook.

For pictures, you might want to make a scrapbook or a digital slideshow. Just the other day, my

oldest offspring said he remembered the fun he had at Granny's, looking through the old scrapbooks and photo albums. Neither has to be fancy, but the more information you tell about the picture, the more meaningful it will be to the observer. Do you remember the "who, what, when, where, how, why" of interviewing? Ask yourself those questions with each picture to help jog your memory. Put the information in a caption or text box.

Another interesting way

to catch their attention is to write down your memories, both good and bad. One time when visiting the last living sibling of my mother's, I gave her a spiral notebook and some pens and asked her to write down her memories as she thought of them. The stories she told are priceless to me.

Were you the lucky recipient of Grandma's recipes? Make mini-scrapbooks for each of the family members you think would give their eyeteeth for her favorites. Include pictures of the family

around the table.

Was a diary or memoir passed down to you? Give copies to family members. Have you worked hard on your genealogy? Put into words your ancestors' life stories. Have you written your own memoirs? Think how valuable it would be for your descendants, to learn about you. Did you receive ancestral artifacts? Photograph each one and tell all you know about it. Display your family photos. Don't forget to digitize everything. As Monk on TV would say, "You'll thank me later."