



University of California
Cooperative Extension
Tulare County

Agriculture and Natural Resources



Prepared by: *Cathi Lamp*

WHAT ARE YOUR HAPPIEST HOLIDAY MEMORIES?

Gathering together during the holiday season gives Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Sisters, Brothers, Moms and Dads a chance to share the traditional family stories with those that will be responsible for preserving their family history—the children. The history of your family is a unique treasure that will be lost if not passed down. Consider creating time during the holidays for sharing the family stories. Ideas to help you get started include:

- Asking relatives to bring a small box of their favorite family photos and to share the stories behind the pictures. If you have a computer with a scanner, consider scanning the images so you can make copies for other family members. Have soft lead pencils ready so you can lightly write identifying information on the back of each picture. Have worksheets available so you or one of the older children can write down any special stories so they aren't forgotten.
- Helping children create a list of questions to ask older relatives and long-lived family friends. Open-ended questions work best such as:
 - Where were you born?
 - Where were your mom and dad born?
 - Where did you grow up? What was it like?
 - How many brothers and sisters did you have?
 - Where did you go to school? What was it like?
 - What subjects were you good at in school?

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607-5200. (510) 987-0096.



For special assistance
regarding our programs,
please contact us.

Page 2 - What Are Your Happiest Holiday Memories.wpd

- What was your favorite thing to do with your family when you were my age?
 - What kind of games did you play?
 - How did you meet your husband/wife?
 - What is the bravest/scariest thing you ever did?
 - Who do I remind you of in the family?
 - What are your earliest holiday memories?
 - What are your happiest holiday memories?
 - Can you remember any funny things that happened at holiday times?
 - What kind of foods did you or your family prepare and eat during the holidays?
 - Are there any special holiday decorations that you remember from your earlier years?
 - What other relatives and friends participated in your family's holiday celebration?
 - Were there any unique ways that the town you grew up in celebrated the holidays as a community?
 - What was shopping and gift-giving like when you were growing up?
 - How are the holidays today different than they were years ago?
- Creating a “storybook” for you and your children with the family history such as how and why your ancestors came to the United States. Gather many stories from different family members. The book can start with the oldest stories and continue on through present day. Stories can be added as the family grows. Copies of the book can be made for each child by using a color copier.

Adapted from: American Family—Family history activities for parents and children at <http://www.wskg.com/americanfamily> and the Holiday Survival Guide 2000 at <http://www.ca.uky.edu/fcs/holiday2000/CapturingHolidayHistory.htm>

###

Cooperative Extension programs are available to any individual or group without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap. Named products are used for clarification and ease of discussion only and are not necessarily endorsed or promoted by the University of California Cooperative Extension.