



# Ten Ways to Share Genealogy at Your Family Reunion

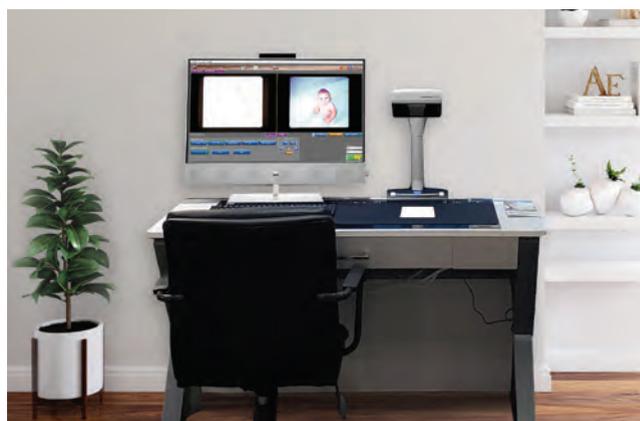
Lisa A. Alzo offers tips for planning your next family gathering with genealogy in mind

A family reunion may seem like the perfect place for revealing your genealogical research finds. But how do you keep the interest of attendees without overwhelming them? Family history should be more than boxes, lines, charts, and citations. Here are ten fun ways to build genealogy into your next gathering.

**1 Reunion Theme.** Make your reunion a living tribute right from the start by setting a “Dress as Your Favorite Ancestor” theme. If you have old photographs, consider sharing them in advance to give your attendees costume ideas. Have blank name tags on hand so everyone can write the name of the ancestor they choose to represent.

**2 Family Tree Display.** Consider putting your family tree on display with a professionally printed chart. For my family’s 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, I had FamilyChart Masters, <https://familychartmasters.com> create a wall-sized descendant chart that started with my maternal grandparents and showed the subsequent generations. We attached it safely to the wall above the dessert table so people could look at it at their leisure. If you have your tree on Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), click on the Extras tab and then click on Photos & Posters to see options and pricing for creating family history posters with MyCanvas. MyHeritage, [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com) users can go to the Family Tree tab on the site and click Print Charts & Books and then select from different chart styles and customization options. A downloadable PDF file is generated for you to print on your own, or if you prefer, order a poster printout (prices vary depending on size, paper type, and other features). If your venue does not have the space or facility to display your chart properly, then consider printing smaller versions (based on your family group sheets). You can also purchase inexpensive family tree holders (available at most retail stores or from Amazon) and print copies of ancestral photos to insert into them and then put one on each table or in other prominent places at your venue.

**3 Photo Scan Station.** Ask each attendee to bring at least five of their favorite family photographs and have a station set up with a laptop and scanner available throughout the day. The Memory Station,



Vivid-Pix Photo Memory Station.

[www.lisaalzo.com/memorystation](http://www.lisaalzo.com/memorystation) is an excellent choice for scanning multiple photos quickly. This is a combination of a Fujitsu ScanSnap SV600 + Vivid-Pix RESTORE software (computer not included). In the bundle, Vivid-Pix includes FileShadow cloud archive if desired, providing storage for 1,000 images for free and additional fee for more storage) and the ability to add voiceovers to your images. If your budget allows, you can purchase some personalized USB drives from CustomUSB, [www.customusb.com](http://www.customusb.com) or 4imprint, [www.4imprint.com](http://www.4imprint.com) to have on site.

**4 Photo Board.** Create several photo boards with ancestral photographs, perhaps organized by your family group sheets or by generation. Pick up poster board at your favorite craft supply chain or Dollar Store and get creative with embellishments or artistic drawings. Just don’t use original photographs. Print off copies. You can also take pictures at the reunion to add current generations using your smartphone and a portable printer, such as Lifeprint Photo & Video printer. See [www.lisaalzo.com/lifeprint](http://www.lisaalzo.com/lifeprint).

**5 Digital Slideshow or Video.** Once you have a photo collection, get creative and put together a tribute slideshow using Google Slides (Free Online