

PASSING DOWN MEMORIES

TIPS FOR DISCOVERING AND PRESERVING
FAMILY STORIES AT THE HOLIDAY TABLE



Dana Goolsby Jones
www.generationjonesgenealogy.com
dana@generationjonesgenealogy.com

Tips for Your Next Family Event

Asking the Questions

Take advantage of the festive time of year to ask questions about holiday traditions.

- What was the most memorable holiday gift you have ever received?
- What was a holiday-related activity your family always did together?
- When you were growing up, what food did your family have for a holiday meal?

Don't limit yourself to holiday-related topics.

- Tell me the story of how you met your spouse or partner?
- What did you like to do for fun as a kid?
- What was your first job? How old were you when you got it?
- What was one thing your family did every week? Every summer? Every year?
- What was your most treasured belonging growing up?
- Where did your name come from?

Regardless of the topic:

- Ask detailed and specific questions.
- Try to think of questions that evoke one of the five senses.
- Always ask follow-up questions that come to mind.

Capturing the Stories

Use your phone to record the conversation.

- These free apps are highly recommended:
 - Android: Easy Voice Recorder | Apple: Voice Record Pro
 - <https://evalogue.life/what-are-some-great-free-voice-recording-apps/>

Purchase an affordable digital audio recorder. Expect to pay between \$35-\$125.

- These two recorders are recommended:
 - Olympus WS-852 | Sony ICD-PX470
 - <https://evalogue.life/recording-and-editing-audio/>

Consider a lapel mic for better audio with either option. Expect to pay between \$10-\$100.

- These mics are recommended:
 - <https://evalogue.life/the-best-affordable-microphones-we-have-tried/>

Regardless of what device you use to record, always have a back-up option!

Preserving & Sharing the Stories

Easily share the audio with family.

- Hand out thumb drives with the audio at your next family get-together.
- Create a folder in the cloud that only family members can access.
- Set-up a private website or Facebook page that only family members can access.

Transcribe the audio to share in written form.

- Utilize the transcribe function in word processing software to create a first draft.
- Try out transcription tools recommended by professionals:
 - <https://evalogue.life/tools-and-resources/transcription-tools/>

Preserve the audio for future generations.

- Donate a copy to your local archive, library, or historical or genealogical society.
- Upload the audio to FamilySearch.org. There is a tutorial in their Help Center.

Your Questions for Your Family

This is a place to capture your personalized questions for your one-of-a-kind family!

