

Let Your Genealogical Research Live Beyond You, Part 2:

Let's Connect. . . Not Evaporate!

The latest Ancestry.Com advertisement ends with a quote: "For every person, there's a story! Obtaining family stories is an important part of ones genealogy because there's a story for everybody that should be recorded for now and for future generations. However, obtaining those stories can be another matter. Sometimes we wait too long and those relatives may no longer be available. Or we just didn't make the effort and the details of these memories can be forgotten or even recorded improperly and indeed may be lost forever.

Here's a situation that I have been facing for years with Roslyn's family history. She comes from Utah pioneer family lines. Consequently, there is much history about those ancestors readily available to peruse of those earlier generations. But today, the generations of those descendants has long been disconnected and today's 30 living cousins of my wife's generation are very disjunct since I live in Denver and most of those cousins live in Utah and elsewhere in the west and the children of those cousins definitely are but a blur as we don't ever meet together regularly. But in recent years, I've attended a few Utah family reunions in Utah and desire that my children should be more familiar with them. Presently Roslyn's cousins are not only elderly but some have already passed on. And as that generation of the extended families pass on, my children and grandchildren will have absolutely no relationship with others of that extended generation. Knowing that the core of genealogy is in families, I recently embarked on a plan of developing a multi-media website to entice my wife's cousins to share their families for posterity for multi-generations.

The Impossible Dream: Keep Families Together Not Only in the Hereafter but Among the Living!

Here's how I started a plan to unify the many descendants of my wife's extended family among the living. I constructed a multi-media web-site starting with Roslyn's great-grandparents and subsequent generations. The goal is to have a few photos of every member of their entire extended family. It is an ambitious project because Roslyn's grandfather had nine children over 100 years ago. Seven of those children had large families. Now when trying to include photos and memorabilia for all grandchildren, great grandchildren and beyond, that's quite a task to amaze such an array of photos for ones web site with pedigree connectivity.

The Theme for this Extended Family Project is: Let's Connect. . . Not Evaporate!

The mission statement for this multimedia extended family project website is:

Leave Your Mark on the Christensen Family Tree

*Our beautiful, growing family can now stay in touch and be more aware of each other. Wonderful technology like Family Search reminds us of our honored past and the great shoulders we stand on **Forever.com** is for us, the living, to connect rather than vaporize as strangers. Strengthen the Christensen Family Tree with captioned photos of your children & grandchildren, personal stories and recordings in the folder of your Christensen patriarch — pass it on....*

Again, a picture is worth a thousand words. The individual photos on the open page of this website illustrates the great grandfather, Jens Martin Christensen followed by Roslyn's grandfather, Martin Christensen and then the nine children including Roslyn's father, Morris Christensen. For those perusing this posting on Facebook group, the photos are posted in score order as found in this Word document posted on my website at: <http://www.kuzmich4.com/Facebook/Christensen.pdf>.



Martin Christensen Family

Let's
Connect

not

Evaporate

01 Mission Statement

3 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



02 2019 Candid Photos

40 Files
Private Album



03 2019 Reunion Scrapbook

98 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



040 Jens Martin Christensen

7 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



041 Martin Christensen

17 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



042 Elmer Christensen

2 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



05 Rulon Christensen

2 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



06 Harold Christensen

2 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



07 Loran Christensen

6 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



08 Lois Christensen

2 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



090 Vilia Christensen

1 File
Shared with Friends & Family



091 Owen Christensen

2 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



092 Morris Christensen

7 Nested Albums, 14 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



093 Grant Christensen

5 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



Jacob Mauss Sr. Family Lines

22 Files
Shared with Friends & Family



Louis A. Kelsch

5 Files
Shared with Friends & Family

By clicking on any of these photos on the "Let's Connect. . ." photo above, there are other nested photos or albums or folders that contain more photos of that generation. Together this multimedia

presentation is being used to recruit photos as well as family history artifacts such as historical documents and other memorabilia together to keep the extended families unified for generations to come plus build a better relationship with the younger generations whom we have never met.

Here's the next generation of photos for Roslyn's father, Morris Christensen. He had seven children.

The screenshot shows a digital album titled "092 Morris Christensen" created on August 20, 2019. The album is shared with friends and family and includes a small portrait of Morris Christensen. Below the album title, there are seven individual photo thumbnails, each with a name and file information:

- Bret**: 1 File, Shared with Friends & Family. Photo shows a man in a green shirt and apron.
- Hugh**: 1 File, Shared with Friends & Family. Photo shows an older man in a suit and tie.
- Kent**: 1 File, Shared with Friends & Family. Photo shows a man, a woman, and a child.
- Rand**: 1 File, Shared with Friends & Family. Photo shows a close-up of an older man with glasses and a beard.
- Rosanne**: 1 File, Shared with Friends & Family. Photo shows a woman and a man.
- Roslyn**: 4 Nested Albums, 2 Files, Shared with Friends & Family. Photo shows a woman in a red top and an older man.
- Ryan**: 1 File, Shared with Friends & Family. Photo shows a woman and a man.

Each of the seven children of Martin Christensen will have similar structure based on multimedia presentations.

End Goals: What Are Yours?

The goal is to unify relationships with the entire Christensen extended so that future generations can remain in touch and continue to share their future with all lines so that the extended family remains intact for years to come. Because this website is password protected, each family's content is not available to the general public. **Important:** 1) each family can add their own photos to personalize and control how each family is presented and 2) covers living relatives which will be particularly important in gathering that information now for the benefit for future generations. This ownership is an important ingredient in this extended family website. And together, it provides an extended relationship because all family lines can be actively participating rather than being passive leading to generating genealogical fellowshiping and on-going original family history research. But obtaining such cooperation from each family is not automatic for various reasons. I anticipate fellowshiping with all the families through a network of Roslyn, myself and other motivated cousins to achieve lasting success and family bonding for all generations both now and in the future.

I challenge others to think "outside the box" and not just focus of their ancestors but also build a relationship with their living relatives both near and far. I leave you with the title of this posting: **"Let Your Genealogical Research Live Beyond You, Let's Connect. . . Not Evaporate!"** Please don't hesitate to share your thoughts on how you envision creating your very own plan to best meet the needs of your own family situation. There are many different ways to accomplish this and I have just shared one way that I am doing presently with both my family and Roslyn's in this two-part series posted yesterday and today.