

[Family History Success Requires Spiritual Motivation for Creating Eternal Memories: Here's My Story, Part 6 - "Let's connect rather than evaporate over time"](#)

As much as I have been enamored with family history to find deceased ancestors, it is apparent that just seeking their names and data is only part of doing family history. To obtain the full picture of family history happiness requires lasting memories which are meant to be shared with other living members making family history even more special for immediate and extended family and for future generations. Historical documents can be interesting but when you have pictures, testimonies, video clips and other memorabilia correlated to be shared together, family history literally becomes "alive" with enhanced excitement! And knowing that I had very little support from my family and that I was the youngest of my generation, I didn't have a lot of memories to gather and remember! After having traveled to Eastern Europe five times in search of family history, I wanted to share my vivid memories of my family roots with both living Eastern European and American relatives and future generations. Below I will share how I expanded my genealogical pursuits from statistical findings to "living memories" that will connect with others rather than evaporating over time.

[2009 Established My Family History Blog for Eternal Multimedia Memories](#)

Having a web presence on the Internet is one way to share family photos, documents and other personal artifacts for others to view and share. If you're not a computer programmer with knowledge of how to construct a website in HTML, blogs and other social media can be a more convenient way to post articles, pictures, videos and other multimedia artifacts on the Internet without knowing a lot about technology. Through the use of my videoconferencing account with GoToMeeting, I was able to do tutoring sessions with my daughter who is social media compliant who was then living in Atlanta, Georgia. She taught me how to effectively construct a blog. It was a painless way to receive personal instruction and to involve my daughter at the same time. This family history blog was very important in my earlier years of showcasing my family history successes which eventually inspired me to seek other, more powerful venues for acquiring and posting multimedia memories on the Internet for future generations.

This blog was initially important to me as it allowed me to add pictures, historical documents and other things to have a place where it was visible to my whole family. It served a good purpose of getting started with sharing memories of my family and ancestors. The single most memorable single photo on my blog is a river scene taken in Nova Mesto in Slovenia which is the birth place of one of my maternal great grandfathers. This scene is eloquently captured in a magnificent landscape below and posted on the opening page of my blog at: www.kuzmichgenealogy.blogspot.com.



The potential for acquiring more multimedia photo treasures has always interested me but obtaining them was also a challenge. While on my fifth Eastern European trip in 2012, I acutely became aware that 360-degree virtual panorama photography is a far more authentic way of presenting ones family roots over the Internet because it takes too much time to view videos in their entirety and photos are only one dimensional. Fortunately, my Slovenian genealogist has a husband who is a professional photographer who specializes in 360-degree virtual panorama photos. And in 2012 Roslyn and I included our faithful

Facebook group follower and Slovene husband, President Ivan Majc, to travel with us to photograph all of my family root locations in Poland, Ukraine and in Slovenia. His photographic results were astounding as they were taken in every village, every church, every cemetery every homestead and landscape which immediately establishes strong visual memories for my Eastern European family history roots with more accuracy and clarity when compared to traditional photos. And when viewed over the Internet, it is fundamental to my genealogical successes. You can view some of my multimedia memorabilia by clicking [here](#) using Safari, Chrome, Firefox or Microsoft Edge web browsers. President Majc put together 38 virtual panorama photos that I have posted on my family history blog with photos of not only all of my Eastern European roots but also by incorporating Google maps with these photos so that you see these and can visualize where all of these villages are located. The historic value of these 2012 Eastern Ukrainian photos is that many of those photographed sites are no longer available because of the war between Russia and Ukraine which has resulted in severely bombing and destroying where my Ukrainian are still living today. Fortunately, I have these priceless pictures of their heritage and culture of my Ukrainian family roots taken in 2012 that can never be replicated as originally constructed prior to the 2014 Russo-Ukrainian War. Below are instructions of how to peruse these creative 360-degree virtual panorama photos as found on the opening page of the Kuzmich Family Blog.



The editorial contents of this blog range from DNA test results, to family stories, photos of churches, maps of ancestral locations, cemeteries, 360-degree virtual panorama photos, videos and much more. But it focused primarily on the past and not of those living which are the same limitations of FamilySearch. To me, there should be an equal emphasis on the memories for the living as well as with ones ancestors. Below is another part of the blog's opening page. In addition, 50% of my children's genealogy comes from Roslyn and her family history which was not represented on my blog. To me, it was important to have better representation. In 2017, I found a good solution that is a game-changer for our family!



Solutions for Connecting Multi-Generations of Family History with Eternal Memories: Past, Present and Future.

In 2017, I figured out that our children can eventually get separated from their extended family roots from those one or two generations older than their parent's generation. To me, the purpose of family history is to

maintain relationship roots well into the future and not just dwell on the past. But in reality, the opposite occurs. For example, grandchildren can easily lose relationship of previous generations of one or two generations older. Frequent reasons cited? Geographical relocations change over time since we live in such a mobile society. Younger generation tends live their own lives independently and eventually future generations don't even know who or recognize who their 2nd or 3rd cousins as well as those uncles and aunts are except maybe through family group sheets. Losing these bonds of family lines among the living concerned me because I desire my posterity to maintain their family roots in their hearts and minds.

Can technology can improve this situation? Mobile devices, computers and social media are among the common tools available, but the most direct way is to have family reunions. Unfortunately, they don't occur often enough. And over time, even extended family relationships can easily separate generations and families alike. A solution that made sense to me can be attributed to maintaining contact with extended family relationships with technology through a singular common website. But each family needs to be in full control of their web postings for their family featuring a variety of multimedia with extended families conveniently viewing each other's families and yet be connected together all under a single umbrella or web site. When this kind of ownership is instilled in each family unit, the chances of such a group relationship can be encouraged and achieved. And hopefully such participation can be maintained over time, resulting in a rich heritage that strengths all of the extended families together.

Although there are other options available to accomplish this kind of collaborative websites with password protection for privacy and individual family controls, I found Forever.Com unique. Their formatting was simplistic and convenient to use while having superior multimedia savviness in which I could adopted to my extended family needs with a multitude of multimedia file types that can be skillfully formatted, configured and used for quick and concise viewing.

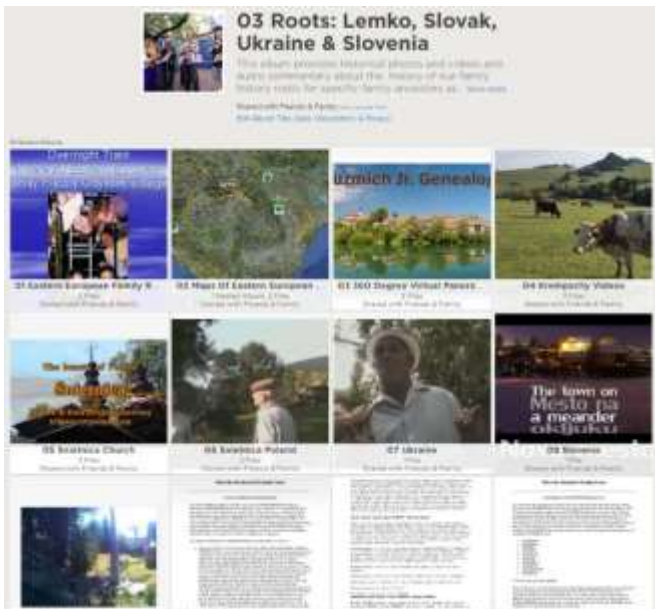
- Photos & Documents: **.jpg, .jpeg, .png, .gif, .tiff, .tif, .webp, .pdf**
- Videos: **.mp4, .avi, .mov, .mpg, .mpeg, .wmv, .mkv, .m4v, .mts, .m2ts**
- Audio: **.mp3, .m4a, .wma, .ra, .mka, .ac3, .aac, .ogg, .flac, .wav, .amr**

My mission statement for this multimedia bonding among families is: "Let's connect rather than evaporate over time" by connecting across the globe on both sides of the veil through temple submissions and multimedia projects hosted on Forever.Com.

Below is the opening page of my Forever.Com account. Represented are sixteen folders/thumbnails that contain a myriad of family history for my family, children and grandchildren plus parents, grandparents and beyond as well as Roslyn's genealogy all on one website. All of these thumbnails represent individual folders to post things unique to their needs for future posterity along with infinite subfolders for extended families. Believe or not, there are 34,000+ photos and 70+ videos posted in these sixteen thumbnails in a hierarchy that is cleverly structured. For example, below is thumbnail for which represents the life stories of both Roslyn and me in multimedia with supporting historical documents and or artifacts.



The top row from the top on the opening web page represents an introduction to my family history. In the first row is a Google Earth Pro presentation that can be presently viewed on-line by clicking [here](#) for a personal guided tour to view first-hand where I have lived and taught professionally along with an audio commentary coordinated with photos and Google maps to make this a personal introduction to John Kuzmich, Jr. The other top row albums are self-explanatory. Its 10-generation pedigree chart can be rotated and zoomed in which is interesting since its original format was in print mode of 36 X 24 inches. The top right album in the top row provides both written history of my ancestry as well as another Google Earth presentation of my Eastern European roots post by clicking [here](#). This last album also has historical videos from our initial trips to Poland and Ukraine. Below is the thumbnail/folder of my Slovak, Lemko, and Slovene Family Roots.



The second-row deals with Roslyn and me and you'll find many albums nested beneath us that will divide our lives into different sections with opportunities to structure a lifetime of photos in a rather logical, user-friendly presentation environment from birth till now.



Here's another thumbnail representing the 35 countries Roslyn and I have visited. Each photo has its own series of thumbnails/folders nested below since there are multiple trips posted separately.



The third-row is for our children and their families with in-depth multimedia presentations that go beyond whatever I will do because they can also have full access to personally expand it themselves. Its open-ended architecture is what makes it so dynamic in which my family can effectively network together now and in the future. By definition, Forever.Com guarantees a unique opportunity to save, organize and share memories going beyond our lifetime for +100 years because it already has an endowment fund built into it for hundreds of years of operation for future generations even if there are newer developments in Internet technology as we currently have available.



The fourth row deals with the ancestry of both Roslyn and me for both our paternal and maternal parents and going far beyond as Roslyn has many Mormon pioneer family lines with life stories.



Closing Comments: Your Future is Now!

My multimedia plan for preserving eternal family memories may not fit your goals. But a picture can be well worth a thousand words or more in appreciation, respect and love for the family unit. Without me first creating a family history blog and later discovering Forever.Com, I would still have my multimedia scattered around the house in boxes, misplaced, not posted on Internet and eventually lost. Effectively posting multimedia on the Internet is only half the issue here. For me, finding those 34,000+ photos/70+ videos were an enormous challenge because that meant finding 76 years of photos, slides, video clips and many kinds historical artifacts about me plus those of 47 years of marriage for my family as well as similar multimedia challenges in presenting Roslyn's life equally. Imagine how many scrapbooks I would have to have to house my 34,000 photos but with the Internet, they can be concisely found at Forever.Com. Imagine the expense involved in producing separate scrapbooks for each of my children. However, Forever.Com does offer the option of conveniently producing scrapbooks for individual families in a multitude of ways seamlessly from their web postings without having to reformat it from scratch.

There's an age-old adage phrase that has always stuck in my memory bank: "you can do your genealogy when you're retired, bored and have nothing else to do," which just doesn't score any points with the Lord and should not be a convenient generic answer. Life is meant to lived fully and not be a "couch potato" with missed opportunities for eternal progression. Without an affirmative plan of action, nothing significant gets accomplished. Mid-December is a perfect time to rethink our 2020 New Year's Resolutions! There are more "how to" and testimony building articles in this Facebook group than you can imagine with well over 200 since June, 2019. Click [here](#) for the Facebook group's ongoing table of contents and you will have the bulk of the "how to" articles linked organized by topics readily available for you and all are printable and downloadable. Bring in the New Year with a positive plan of action for 2020. Do not neglect your eternal memories as they can be easily shared and passed on to future generations so your family history connectivity will not evaporate over time.

