

CREATIVELY DECORATING WITH FAMILY HISTORY – Heirlooms, Photos, & Keepsakes

Class ideas for giving your place that comforting, 'at-home feeling' — curated & presented by Naomi Y. Brisco

AESTHETIC PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS – group like items; 'stack'/layer; repeat colors; create visual rhythm, interest & focal point; vary heights; use symmetry/balance; 'ground' a vignette in a container/tray/ on doily or 'tie together' visually with ribbon, fabric or other element; allow 'breathing room'/empty space; add special finishing touches – e.g. "light"/candles or "life"/ flowers or greenery

DECORATE FOR SPECIAL DAYS – DISPLAYS; VIGNETTES

- Commemorate Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, Holidays, Reunions
e.g. 90th or 100th birthday display; Wedding memorial wall or collage; 4th of July Revolutionary War hero; Thanksgiving -- Mayflower ancestors; Irish heritage for St. Patrick's Day;
- Nostalgic Christmas ornaments & décor
Christmas ornaments--commemorate Family History & your travels or year-in-review. Some souvenirs and keychains can be easily transformed into ornaments.
<https://nutfieldgenealogy.blogspot.com/2013/12/christmas-ornaments-tell-family-history.html>

FAMILY TREES AND PEDIGREES; ANCESTRY FAN CHARTS e.g. see <https://familychartmasters.com>

- Family Tree art tutorial <https://cutesycrafts.com/2013/04/family-tree-art-tutorial.html>
- 4 free family tree templates <https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/free-family-tree-templates/>
- Custom photo family tree https://www.etsy.com/shop/CreativeFamilyTree?ref=nla_listing_details

WHAT TO DO WITH INHERITED ITEMS – USE 'AS IS,' DISPLAY; REPURPOSE; UPCYCLE

HEIRLOOMS – incorporate into décor (e.g. antique furniture - Aunt Ann's chair-recovered); chests/trunks—use as tables or to display other items; rocker - add pillow, afghan —place on porch or in child's room; cradle or antique bassinet may hold porcelain baby doll in antique christening dress

MEMORABILIA AND KEEPSAKES – of family member's Interests, Talents, Hobbies, Military service

- Music corner w piano; frame favorite quote/scripture/poem/letter
- Art -Granville Redmond story;
- Handiwork - needlepoint, cross stitch, crochet, knitting, quilts (see below)
- Military shadow box display; guns/weapons display
- Collections – display on shelves or in display case, cabinet, hutch, or in other container

TEXTILES & NEEDLEWORK

- Clothing into memory pillow: <https://jmbhandmade.com/how-to-sew-a-memory-pillow-out-of-shirts/>
- Memory quilts; neck tie items; handkerchief quilts; doilies & lace into décor, quilts or 'new' clothing
Old clothing can be cut in strips and turned into useful items, e.g. Rag rugs -
<https://recreationtime.net/rustic-rugs-crafting-floor-art-from-scrap/>
- Use inherited quilts as throws, bedspreads, wall art; or if in poor condition: transform into pillows, placemats, teddy bears... <https://www.primitivequiltsandprojects.com/blog/12-tried-and-true-ways-to-repurpose-old-quilts/>

VINTAGE JEWELRY

- ❑ **Fine jewelry** – wear or have remade into jewelry to suit your taste
- ❑ **Costume Jewelry** - Repurpose as decorative accent for shoes, belts or purses; make into accent for bookmarks, magnets, new jewelry item; collect into wreath; create art piece--Christmas décor/tree; frame --include as part of memory shadow box
<https://www.diyncrafts.com/25482/repurpose/25-amazingly-creative-ways-repurpose-vintage-jewelry>
- ❑ **Create sentimental jewelry** – e.g. photo charm bracelet or locket

PHOTOS -- Turn into wall art, photo books, pillows, pillow-cases, blankets, wreaths, coasters, lampshade, Christmas ornaments, make into memory quilt, other display

- ❑ Photos enlarged onto canvas: <https://www.canvasondemand.com/> or <https://www.easycanvasprints.com/>
- ❑ Stand-up photo statuettes https://www.etsy.com/search?q=photo+statuette&ref=search_bar
e.g. intermingled with antiques <http://paris-hotel-boutique.blogspot.com/2008/08/new-french-decor.html>
- ❑ Transfer pictures to wood <https://www.1001pallets.com/idea-for-old-wall-paper-decoupage-on-reclaimed-wood/>
transfer images for a variety of projects <https://thegraphicsfairy.com/12-easy-image-transfer-methods-for-diy-projects/>
- ❑ Watercolor from photo / painting of family home https://www.etsy.com/market/watercolor_house_painting

CHINA, DISHES, POTTERY, CROCKS, KITCHEN UTENSILS, ANTIQUE GLASSWARE, CLOCHES, APOTHECARY JARS...

Use; or display collection - in hutch or on wall; create wreath; use as vases; turn into jewelry

KITCHEN DÉCOR AND VINTAGE RECIPES

- ❑ Turn into a grouping; create recipe towels, cutting board, baking dishes; family cookbooks
- ❑ Recipe book template <https://www.diypassion.com/blog/diy-family-recipe-book-free-template/>

BOOKS

- ❑ **Create Family History Books** -- photo memory books <https://www.shutterfly.com/photo-books/>
- ❑ biographies; memoirs; travel books of family vacations; turn social media blogs/journals into books...
- ❑ **Old miscellaneous Books** - Display; stack; repurpose as furniture; make into folded page art, wreaths or Christmas angels <https://www.hallmarkchannel.com/home-and-family/how-to/diy-book-angels>

MISCELLANEOUS PAPER ITEMS -- e.g. note cards/postcards, letters, favorite poem, scripture quote, music – display: frame, create tabletop collage, display collection in attractive container; repurpose

CONTAINERS – OLD TOOLBOXES AND CARRIERS, BASKETS, TRAYS, ETC.

Use to corral collections for display

VINTAGE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS & ORNAMENTS OR GREETING CARDS

Use 'as is' or create display; create decorative wreath; crochet card basket

* Look further for ideas on <https://www.pinterest.com/> and <https://www.thefamilyheart.com/family-history-gifts/>
<https://familytreemagazine.com/projects/crafts/family-history-diy-projects/#heirloom>

for help getting them made for you, see <https://www.etsy.com/> and type in what you're looking for.

** If you want more specific websites for a particular type of item, e-mail Naomi at brisance@juno.com