

## **INTRODUCTION**

As the family historian, it is your responsibility and privilege to share your genealogy research with your family. There are many different ways to present your family tree to others. This session will focus on using paper crafts to illustrate your genealogy. This can be as simple as a card or as complex as an elaborate box with a waterfall album. Paper crafts are for all ages - as an activity to do together, or a gift to a family member.

One thing to remember when paper crafting is this is not an archival method. Only use copies of your originals for any paper craft.

## **WHY SHARE OUR GENEALOGY RESEARCH**

There are three reasons we should share our genealogy research: 1) collaboration, 2) connections, and 3) preservation. There are a variety of ways to share your research. Sharing your research could be printing a family chart, writing a blog, donating your research to a library, or paper crafting.

## **PAPERCRAFTING**

Paper crafting is a broad term that covers many different types of crafts involving paper. Individuals can create objects using the medium of paper. Paper could be cardboard, paper, cardstock, or tissue paper.

## **PAPERCRAFTING TOOLS AND SUPPLIES**

An individual can become overwhelmed with the amount of paper crafting tools and supplies on the market. Start small and slowly add more tools (only if you want to). At a minimum for most projects, you need card stock, a ruler, an archival adhesive, and a cutting instrument. It is highly recommended you also have a cutting mat, a bone folder, and a scorer.

## **TYPES OF PAPERCRAFTING**

There are several types of paper crafting. We will discuss five types that I use to share my research.

1. Decoupage. Decoupage is applying cutouts using decoupage glue or Mod Podge to decorate an item
  - a. Supplies Needed: mod podge, an item to decorate on (i.e., wood block or vase), scissors, images or paper cutouts, foam paint brush
  - b. Genealogy Related Ideas

- i. a favorite holiday or other event picture on a vase
    - ii. a keepsake box with a family picture
    - iii. a pedigree chart on a large wood block
  - c. Inspiration
    - i. Davis, Dee. *Decoupage: A Practical Guide to the Art of Decorating Surfaces with Paper Cutouts*. New York, NY: Thames & Hudson, reprinted 2000.
    - ii. Pinterest – search “decoupage for beginners”
    - iii. YouTube channel: “Our Upcycled Life”
    - iv. BLOG: [modpodgerocksblog.com](http://modpodgerocksblog.com)
2. Paper Mache. Paper mache is paper bonded together and molded to form an object.
  - a. Supplies Needed: Scott shop towels or newspaper or Newsprint drawing paper, flour, warm water, salt, whisk, bowl, scissors (optional), base
  - b. Genealogy Related Ideas
    - i. Globe showing migration pattern
  - c. Inspiration
    - i. Pinterest – search “paper mache”
    - ii. YouTube – search “paper mache”
    - iii. BLOG: <https://www.thecuriouslycreative.com/paper-mache-for-beginners/#ib-toc-anchor-3>
3. Origami. Origami is the art of folding paper to make an object.
  - a. Supplies Needed: paper, printed photos, scissors, archival tape
  - b. Genealogy Related Ideas
    - i. Train with train tracks on a diorama
    - ii. Boat on water on a diorama
    - iii. House with pictures of the family all over the house
  - c. Inspiration
    - i. Pinterest – search “origami” + the item you want to make
    - ii. YouTube – search “origami” + the item you want to make
4. Card Making. Card making may include a sentimental note or congratulations decorated with embellishments or hand drawn art.
  - a. Supplies Needed: paper pad and/or cardstock, printed photos, scissors, paper cutter, archival adhesive, and bone folder
  - b. Genealogy Related Ideas
    - i. Picture of grandpa with a railroad and train in the background – inside grandpa’s story working on the railroad
    - ii. Card dedicated to a childhood home of an ancestor
  - c. Inspiration
    - i. Pinterest – search “greeting card”
    - ii. YouTube – search “greeting card”
    - iii. My favorite YouTube channels:
      1. Maymay Made It Crafts
      2. The Paper Boutique
      3. Include a Thank You
      4. Bourbon Creek Crafts

- iv. Blogs: [www.maymaymadeit.com](http://www.maymaymadeit.com)
  - v. <https://www.michaels.com/paper/cards/815811972>
5. Scrapbooking. Scrapbooking is traditionally an album of photos with some embellishments or decorative pieces. However, today, it could come in many different forms:
- a. Scrapbook Album
    - i. Supplies Needed: paper pad and/or cardstock, printed photos, scissors, paper cutter, scrapbook album, and archival adhesive
    - ii. Optional Supplies: Stickers, stamps, embellishments, pens, markers
    - iii. Taylor, Maureen. *Scrapbooking Your Family History*. Cincinnati, OH: Betterway, 2004.
  - b. Waterfall/Flip Album
    - i. Supplies Needed: paper pad and/or cardstock, printed photos, scissors, paper cutter, scrapbook album, and archival adhesive
    - ii. Optional Supplies: Stickers, stamps, embellishments, pens, markers
    - iii. Inspiration
      - 1. My favorite YouTube channels:
        - a. Crafteholic
        - b. Maymay Made It Crafts
        - c. LiveLoveScrap
        - d. The Paper Boutique
        - e. Bourbon Creek Crafts
  - c. Memory Squash Album
    - i. Supplies Needed: paper pad and/or cardstock, printed photos, scissors, paper cutter, scrapbook album, and archival adhesive
    - ii. Optional Supplies: Stickers, stamps, embellishments, pens, markers
    - iii. Inspiration
      - 1. My favorite YouTube channels:
        - a. Crafteholic
        - b. Maymay Made It Crafts
  - d. Explosion Box
    - i. Supplies Needed: paper pad and/or cardstock, printed photos, scissors, paper cutter, scrapbook album, and archival adhesive
    - ii. Optional Supplies: Stickers, stamps, embellishments, pens, markers
    - iii. Inspiration
      - 1. My favorite YouTube channels:
        - a. Crafteholic
        - b. Maymay Made It Crafts
        - c. Scrapbook.com