

# 30 Ways to Become Acquainted with Your Ancestors

1. **Pray.** If the following ideas don't work for you, pray and ask the Lord's help in finding a way for you to get to know your ancestors.
2. **Think about your ancestors.** Thinking opens the door to your heart.
3. **Display family pictures in your home or at work.** See your ancestors daily.
4. **Act as a proxy for your ancestor at the temple.** This creates a personal relationship with your ancestor.
5. **Seek revelation.** Revelation can come in the form of ideas, dreams, visions, thoughts, etc.
6. **Keep records.** Records are birth certificates, family group sheets, naturalization papers, marriage license, etc.
7. **Review family group sheets and pedigree charts.** Study the details.
8. **Put the records that you have on the computer.** Personal Ancestral File (PAF) is the home computer program put out by the Church.
9. **Talk with relatives.** Start with the oldest living relatives first.
10. **Find new information.** There is always something new to learn about your ancestor.
11. **Study historical documents.** An example of a historical document would be a birth certificate, an obituary, or a last will and testament.
12. **Read a biography.** A biography is a story about the life a person.
13. **Find a census record.** The census tells where your ancestor lived, where they were born, when they immigrated, how much money they had, what their jobs were, who their neighbors were, etc.
14. **Read journals.** This can be a journal by someone other than your ancestor who witnessed the same event or who was in the same place at the same time. A journal of someone traveling with your ancestor on the pioneer trek would relate events that your ancestor experienced.
15. **Read letters.** These letters can be "to" or "from" or "about" your ancestors.
16. **Read newspapers.** You can choose a specific day in the life of your ancestors, like when they were born, married, died, etc. Read a historical newspaper that was printed where your ancestor lived.
17. **Collect family stories.** Even word-of-mouth stories can lead to genuine information.
18. **Carry on family traditions.** Traditions can be from a country, region, tribe, or family.

19. **Learn about the time period of your ancestors.** What kind of clothes did they wear? How did they heat their homes? How did they do their laundry? What were their jobs? What did their jobs involve at that time? What were the lives of women like? etc.
20. **Visit the cemetery where your ancestor is buried.** This can be done at appropriate times such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, special anniversary, etc. – or whenever you like.
21. **Visit ancestral places.** Visit the places where they lived, worked, went to church, etc.
22. **Read your ancestor’s patriarchal blessing.** This helps you “tune in” to your ancestor’s personality. A patriarchal blessing (for someone on your pedigree chart) may be obtained through the Church Historical Department. If your ancestor’s blessing told about their posterity – that means it talked about you!
23. **Gather family pictures.** Pictures reveal details about your ancestors such as how tall they were, what the fashion was, how they wore their hair, what their physical features were, etc. Remember, pictures say a thousand words.
24. **Display objects that belonged to your ancestors.** The object could be something like a pocket watch, dishes, a hair clip, a piece of furniture, a basket, etc.
25. **Create family games about your ancestors.** Play them with your family.
26. **Make scrapbooks dedicated to your ancestors.**
27. **Write a children’s book.** It could be about your ancestor’s life, a quality they had, or a story that is unique to them.
28. **Make slide shows.** This can be done using the computer.
29. **Make a family tree.** This can be done on paper or as a mural on the wall. You could also could get a bare branch or a small Christmas tree and decorate it with pictures and the names of your ancestors. Be creative.
30. **Put on a play about your ancestor’s life.** You could do this at family home evening or at a family reunion.