1. Ask Your Elders

In this time of reduced face to face time, you can still Facetime! Speaking to our elders will be especially important in this time of social distancing. Your family members are a wealth of information and sharing stories is fun! Record your conversations, but ask permission first.

2. Gather Family Photos

Use this time to gather family photos and identify people in the images. Who is that tall mustachioed man next to your great grandfather? You never know what you’ll uncover!

3. Perform Some Research

There are many online resources for family research. Your local library might subscribe to Ancestry but you can also search for free on familysearch.org. You can find California related history and photographs through the Online Archive of California. Or visit the Internet Public Library.

4. Pick a Story to Tell

“My great grandfather was found on the steps of a convent in 1896.” What stories have you always wanted to know more about? Dig into them and start to write them down to find the ones you’re most interested in exploring! Gather the facts & fallacies!

5. Write It Down

There are lots of ways to write down what you find. The best way is to just start with what you have. Include your photos and the stories you’ve discovered. Because our family history isn’t just for us, don’t forget to cite your sources.

6. Share With Your Family and Friends!

Social media means we can share our stories with the world. You get to decide who you share with but if you share your story online, tag us! #mvc familyhistory

Use the hashtags #askyourelders #quarantinestories #venturacountyfamilyhistoryproject on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Tag the Museum of Ventura County!