To remember a life is to journey back in time. It is to not only know who, when, and where, but also what and why. It gives us a glimpse of life that happened years ago; our own personal look into what was happening at that time and why and how our ancestors lived with the times.

The correlation between genealogy research presentations and scrapbooking is clear.

- When we discover more about our ancestors and our family tree, it’s logical to display the information through the use of photographs, letters, and documents.
- Advantages:
  - More than just statistics and the written word can be displayed:
    - Cards
    - Letters
    - Maps
    - More recently, videos and audio files

Golden Rules for Genealogists

- "Do for your descendants what you wish your ancestors had done for you."
- Leave behind stories and photos, records and memorabilia so that you emerge as a personality, not just a few vital statistics.

Family History

- My mother had albums of pictures and a head full of stories; most of which I didn't hear.
  - My ancestors were not real to me; often times I don't even know who was in the pictures.
  - I want my children and grandchildren to care more about their progenitors than I did.
  - They are not particularly interested in my family history research.

My Goal: To turn family history from a chart into a treasure that children and adults not into genealogy will love to read.

Types of Heritage Albums:

- **Descendant** - Start with a key ancestor and work your way down the family tree through their children and grandchildren.
- **Ancestors** - Features one key person and works backwards through the family tree to parents, grandparents, and great grandparents.
- **Focal Person** - A Photo Biography of One Key Person
- **Surname Book** - Research and Chronicle a Single Family Name; one page for each person.
- **Miscellaneous Format** - Recipes; Family Traditions; Family Migration; Then and Now; and any other random heritage topics.
Eight steps to making your treasured heritage album:

Step 1: Gather Information
- Three Major Groups of Information:
  - Photographs
  - Documents
  - Stuff

Step 2: Organize Information
- Digitize Information
  - Scan
  - Photograph
  - Create
  - Send to a Professional
- Organize Digitized Information into Computer Files

Step 3: Restore Photos
- Use Paint Shop Pro or PhotoShop Elements
  - This is an art and needs practice.
  - Always work on a copy.

Step 4: Outline Your Product
- Make it as simple as possible; keep the number of pages as low as you can.
  - Layout: Title Page; Family Tree; Birth; Mother; Father; Maternal Grandparents; Fraternal Grandparents; Childhood; Siblings; Teen Years; Wedding; Adult Years; Descendants Chart; Children Pages; Children's Family; Death (if Applicable); Life Timeline; Closing Page
  - Additional Pages: Education; Life in a New State/Location; Certificates and Employment; Church Work/Service; Organizations/Hobbies/Interests
  - Add documents, journaling, and photos to your outline.
  - Save outline to a safe place on your computer.

Step 5: Acquire and Select Templates and Digital Supplies - Digital Templates are a scrapbooker's best friend (a great place to start with arranging photos and artifacts on a page).

Step 6: Insert Photos and Digital Supplies - Many places on the internet where you can buy or find free supplies.

Step 7: Create Writing - Love it or hate it, photographs have little meaning if there are no words to accompany them.

Step 8: Proofread and Print - Proof your work ONE MORE time. Once the files are sent to the printer, there is no changing them!!!