

Making Your Family History Come to Life

- 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!!!