

# HERITAGE SCRAPBOOKING FALL SCHOOL 2006 PRESENTED BY ANDREA SPURLOCK

“Where do I begin?” That is probably the question that has stopped many people from tackling the task of putting their heritage information together in a manner that will preserve it for their future generations. How many times have you looked through your Mother’s or Grandmother’s boxes or drawers of pictures and thought that someone should put these together in a way that family members can enjoy them? Hopefully this information will help you make the plunge and lead you into an enjoyable and fruitful experience.

There are 7 reasons for creating a HERITAGE SCRAPBOOK. \*1

1. Preserve your memories
2. Record your family history
3. Improved filing and storage
4. Preserve those “baby firsts”
5. Display your Photos
6. Safer storage mediums
7. Business portfolio

1. Start by gathering together all the photos that you want to include. Thank you to all previous family members who took the time to write a name, date, age, something on the back of the picture (frame etc.). If this has not been done, then find a family member who knows who the picture is of. Note this yourself in acid free ink, being careful not to press firmly. This may seem to become a monumental task, or something that becomes fun to you.

2. Separate these photos into groupings. Usually this is done by “sides of the family. Separate your Mother’s side and your Father’s side; then your maternal grandmother’s from your maternal grandfather’s etc. If you find you have pictures that you think might be “your great uncle Tom” but you are not sure, and then is the time to search out relatives that can help you. You may find that you have pictures of many of the members of your great grandparent’s family, and have decided that you want more. Go looking. This is where Family Reunions come in. Contact members prior to a gathering and ask them to bring photos to share. They make great conversation pieces. Take the ones you need

identified (and make a couple of copies for those who are interested).

3. Gather information about the people or the picture. (Grandma in her 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class, or great grandparents in front of their farmhouse. Remember, this is going to be a story book for future generations to learn about their ancestors. As I go through the pictures, I write down what I want the picture to say. When I have 2 – 5 pages of this narrative, I type it up on my computer in such a way that I can place it on the page with the picture in the scrapbook. This can be as short or as long as you please. Remember, this is your scrapbook, you make the rules.

4. Gather all your supplies in one space. I ended up with a corner of a room, my computer close at hand, a table to work on, shelves to keep all supplies at hand, and ample lighting. Clear plastic boxes are great for organizing supplies, and keeping them visible. Decide on what works for you. You can make your scrapbook as fancy or as plain as you chose. You may prefer the personal touch of handwriting the narrative over typed. You may prefer to use the corner stickers only for holding the photos to give your pictures the more nostalgic look of the 30's and 40's albums. You may want to stick to black or white backgrounds only. This all up to you.

5. Decide on what size scrapbook you would like. There are many choices of Albums available today, especially in the 9 x 12 and 12 x 12 sizes. Once you have purchased the size you want along with extra pages, then it is time to begin.

6. be sure that all paper, stickers, etc. are acid free. This is very important to prevent color changes in your pictures in the future.

A slide type paper trimmer is far superior to scissors when cutting straight lines.

Add decorative background, framings, mattings as desired. Many of the decorative backgrounds are now available that resemble wallpapers of the past. Some of these are available in packs, thus less costly than buying single sheets.

Many decorative punches are available to add interest and nostalgia to your mattings and frames. (hint: watch for sales, use 40% coupons etc. to get the more expensive items.) Add other memorabilia to your scrapbook to preserve these things. If these may contain acids, be careful to take proper precautions (there are Archival mists to control these). These may include, newspaper clipping, birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates, military service papers, school certificates, report cards, diplomas, baptismal records, work related records, postcards, announcements etc. Making copies of any or these things allows them to be viewed without danger of acid containing paper being stored with your pictures.

7. Begin: I have found that if I group pictures together that I want on the same page and figure completely how I am going to place and trim them before I start the pasting down process, I come out with a much more

satisfying page. I do several pages prior to placing them in the sleeves.

**Remember:**

Always use acid free scrap booking supplies to create your family history, memory, and heritage scrapbook albums.

Use preservation products to safeguard your family heritage Keepsakes, photos, and papers for future generations. Archival boxes and containers, Archival mist, photo cleaners, or other preservation items will help protect your memories.

## GENEALOLGY RESEARCH

Researching your heritage can become an undaunting task or an adventure that creates a desire or quest for a person. If you are really interested the rewards may be great, and you may come upon many stumbling blocks. How you approach these may affect the outcome of your research. Have fun while you are doing your research.

1. Start with what you know. Put all your knowledge of your family tree down on paper. There are lots of ways to do this. You may simply set up a diagram (or a tree) listing names. You may want to include dates (birth, marriage, death) of each person. You may want to include where they were born, married, died, where buried, etc. This is up to you.

2. Seek added information from close relatives. Older relatives may have information that you or your parent might not have. They may have documents, family bibles, certificates, newspaper clippings, etc. that will help you with information. They also may have photographs that you are interested in and be willing to allow you to borrow these items for photocopying.

3. Visit the library. Many local libraries have information on the history of the area and books that may contain information about your family. On-line catalogs and inter-library loans may also be available. Newspapers are also saved on microfilm for looking up past events. (If you know when your great Uncle died, you may be able to find his obituary.)

4. Visit the local Court House. This is a prime source for birth, marriage, divorce, and death records. These also contain deeds, geographic records, real estate records, probate documents, will, and census records.

5. Churches keep records of baptism, christenings, marriages,

deaths. If they have a cemetery connected they will also have records of the plots and who is buried there.

6. Undertakers keep records of who they have provided services for and where the internment has taken place.

7. Local, City, County, State records all contain useful information.

8. Passenger records, Naturalization records, Port of call records, Immigration records all may give you names, dates, and Country of origin.

9. Military Service Records, Educational Records, Occupational records may all be helpful in you search.

10. On-line genealogical sites offer access to many governmental documents and international records.

11. Additional websites etc.

The Family History Library - Salt Lake City, Utah has the world largest genealogical collection and contains vital information on millions of names. <http://www.FamilySearch.org>

#1 genealogy website (requires joining fee) Ancestry.com  
linked to Genealogy.com and rootsweb.com

supplies

<http://www.scrapbookingtop50.com> Lists top 50 scrap booking sites

[www.memorymakersmagazine.com](http://www.memorymakersmagazine.com) to order Memory makers magazine

[www.webyfl.com](http://www.webyfl.com) for supplies, books. and info

[www,hsn.com](http://www.hsn.com) for heritage scrapbooks a HSN .com

[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) for books

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HeritageScrapbooking/> for chat groups

<http://www.scrapbookscrapbook.com> for Free Printable Scrapbook Graphics

[http://www.webyfl.com/index.asp?PageAction=](http://www.webyfl.com/index.asp?PageAction=Custom&ID=110)

*Custom ID = 110* → Excellent website for  
How to search genealogy +  
creating scrapbooks

**SENSITIVE ISSUES:**

Take note: What one person sees as a humiliating secret, another may see as a cause for celebration. Some relatives may be sensitive to another digging up old issues. Issues that may be of concern include:

**Ethical and Medical issues:**

Handle with care. No human being is perfect and not every person shares the same system of values.

**Financial and Legal matters:**

bankruptcy

business failure

eviction or dispossession

unpaid debts

an ancestor deliberately cut out of a will  
trouble with the law  
an ancestor found guilty of a crime  
an ancestor sent to jail  
an ancestor in a financial , political or other public scandal  
military desertion

Love and marriage

divorce  
children conceived or born out of wedlock  
same-sex partnerships  
arranged marriages (where love matches are the norm)  
marriages based on love (where arranged marriages are the norm)  
desertion of a spouse  
bigamy  
co-habitation out of wedlock  
marriage when one or both parties are under age according to  
convention  
marriage with someone considered socially unacceptable, crossing  
religious or cultural divide

Information on people from other countries available through internet  
sites, governmental offices, and genealogical organizations.

African-Americans pose a specialized problem because records  
were not kept of names of slaves that were imported from Africa. They  
were often transported as only numbers of males and females with  
approximate ages. Poor slave records were kept. Names were often  
changed and families were separated. Family knowledge, passed down  
by word of mouth is very important to keeping a link.

A most useful website for those of African-American heritage is:

<http://www.afriogeneas.com>

Many records are kept by:

U.S. National Archives

The Freedman's Bureau

Freedman's Savings and Trust Bank

Additional scrap booking hints:

Using photo labs – they can make negatives from old  
photographs

Lamination and Tinting - never laminate a photograph –  
you risk causing irreparable damage tinting should only be done a  
professional

Photocopying – exposure to the photo of the strong light is  
short – it is acceptable (this is my favorite way of making extra copies).

\*1 <http://www.photosintheattic.com/7reasons.htm>

Remember me in the Family Tree--

my name, my days, my strife;

Then I'll ride upon the

WINGS OF TIME

and live an endless life

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