

Expressions

Newsletter from Evergreen Expressions

May/June 2007

Planning your heritage album

First, decide what story you want your album to tell. Your family story is probably a long one so you may want to consider breaking it up into segments.

Perhaps it would help to make an outline of the large story to help you decide what each segment should cover.

For instance, I could make one big album that started with my great-grandparents, through to my siblings and me and on to our children and grandchildren. But that's a big story so I am breaking it down into families and in some cases to individuals.

One section of that large story is included in an album I made about my mother's life for her 95th birthday. I broke her story down into ten two-page segments for a 20-page album organized like this:

1. Her parents when young (one page each)
2. As a baby (two pages)
3. Her childhood (two pages)
4. A special picture from childhood (one page)
A special picture as a

- young adult (one page)
5. Teenage years (two pages)
6. With her husband when young (one page)
Her family (kids, husband and parents when older) (one page)
7. Her work (medical assistant) (one page)
Her avocation (history) (one page)
8. Special recognition (one page)
Current activities (church, social activities) (one page)
9. Her two oldest children – a brief recap of their lives from childhood to current (one page each)
10. Her two youngest children – a brief recap of their lives from childhood to current (one page each)

There are a lot of things that I could add to that album and if I were to do additional parts of her story in two page segments, I could fit them in between the current two-page pairs, in the appropriate places, and the album would remain a unified story.

Your album will be different because it will depend on the story you want to tell and how you choose to divide it up.

So, think in terms of manageable segments of the larger story. Make an outline. Decide what belongs together in an album. Further divide a section into a given number of pages and plan those pages.

It happens that I had photos to illustrate all of the pages in this album but don't forget – it is possible to create pages even if you don't have photos to go with a part of your story. There are always ways to illustrate a section of the story with things that are symbolic rather than actual, or to just have the narrative on an attractive background.

The important thing is to get it done!



Learning the family story is an important part of growing up.

Evergreen Expressions

Helping your family tree blossom
through image and story preservation.

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Your family history is important! Your family wants to know it. One of the best ways to pass the story on is to create an album that includes the narrative along with available photos of your ancestors. Your personal story is part of that history so don't forget to include yourself.

I take a great deal of pleasure from learning about other people's family stories and helping people create memorable albums to relate that story to family and friends.

I have been using digital photo and graphics software for about five years and really delight in working with photos and making family heritage albums using digital techniques.

I'm Gayle Opie, the owner/designer of Evergreen Expressions, and my goal is to help you by creating the album you want.

Please call me so we can get started on your album.

Bits and pieces

The **Austin Genealogical Society** had their annual seminar on May 5th and I was able to display my samples in the vendor area.

I really enjoyed my day there – meeting many of you and visiting about preserving photos and family stories in a digital heritage album.

I am looking for additional events of this type at which I can display my work. If you know of any that are fairly close to Austin, I'd appreciate hearing about them.

Now is the time to identify the people, places, and things in those old photos. The longer that project is delayed, the fewer resources you will have to help you.

Be sure to use photo safe items when writing the information. A photo-safe pen is good but a standard soft pencil is also good. You can write on the back of the photo or on a piece of acid free paper and attach. If you write on paper, be sure to number the back of the picture and on the paper that goes with it.

Custom album

10% Off

If ordered by

June 30, 2007

You will be scheduled upon receipt of your signed contract with 50% payment. We will discuss the actual date on which your album will be started – this will give you time to gather your photos and plan your narrative.

Expires June 30, 2007

Please see my website at www.EvergreenExpressions.com for additional information and pricing.