

# *Evergreen Expressions*

## Preparation Suggestions

You are the one who knows how you want your album to be arranged and you will need to tell me. I will provide you with a packet to help you with that process but below you will find some ideas on how to start.

If you are unsure about what you want, I offer a one hour free consultation on receipt of your signed agreement. If you are local to Austin, TX, we can do that in person, otherwise, we can work together by telephone or email. See my website ([www.EvergreenExpressions.com](http://www.EvergreenExpressions.com)) for more information about consultation – look under *Additional Services*.

To get you started, I make the following suggestions, which apply to a heritage album and not necessarily to other types of albums. Keep in mind that this is not the only way in which to approach this job so do what works for you:

- Create a family tree, in writing -- don't get too carried away, unless you want your album to include a detailed family tree.
- Decide which of the people you want to include in your album -- you can include people even if you don't have photos if you want to tell their story by including a narrative about them.
- Make a quick outline of the story you want to tell -- at this stage, this can be rather sketchy, just the bare bones of the general idea.
- Select the photos you want to use for each of those people that advance the story you have outlined.
- Select any memorabilia you would like to have represented in the album.
- Group together the photos and other items you want together based on what part of your story they tell.
- Based on the number of items you have for a part of the story, determine how many pages you need for it.
- For each part of the story, group the photos and other items together into page groups. This would be a good time to write the identity of all the people in a photo along with the location, date, event, whatever you know about that photo. Also, make a note about any memorabilia -- how does it apply to this group of photos -- why it is being included.
- All the items for each page or two page layout should be placed together in an envelope and numbered with the page number in the album.
- Add to each page group a more detailed story -- you can write this out completely or, if you want me to write the narrative, you can make a list of the facts and ideas you want included.

Please keep in mind that these are just suggestions and that, if you need help, you can call me and we can talk it through. You may find it easier to write the story before you do anything else and then find the photos that help tell that story. This is YOUR story and you need to tell it in the way that appeals to you.