

Scrapbooking, Family Style

By Cary L. Hall

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PHOTOS – ORGANIZATION & STORAGE:

Boxes are used to store original photos (boxes should be acid and lignin free).

Heat (Lib of Congress recommends 68-70 degrees to avoid chemical reactions to paper)

Humidity (can cause mildew or photos to become brittle & dry)

Light (fades photos)

Some people organize photos (i.e.; before me, me as a kid, before marriage, kids, holidays, vacations, retirement, etc.)

“Theme scrapbooks” are popular – baby’s 1st year, school days, holidays, vacations, weddings, etc.

YIKES! You don’t have organize and begin with 30+ years worth of photos. Start with the most recent or use a theme.

Scrapbooks are meant to be looked at but should be durable, attractive & fun.

The important thing is make scrapbooks archival safe for future generations.

NEVER do anything to harm your original photos. Print and use copies.

CROPPING <cutting a photo down> (use cropping L’s to decide size to crop & stay with familiar designs)

QUALITY (better photos usually mean better looking pages)

QUANTITY (start with fewer photos and your layouts will be more pleasing to the eye)

***** Copyright – If you are the photographer, you may use the photo freely. If it was made by a professional, it is protected by copyright and you need permission to make copies. The same holds true for anything that has been published, such as poems, quotes, newspapers, etc.**

PAT – Photo Activity Test; this test insures that materials are really safe to use.

MATERIALS: There are lots of tools and embellishments available but these are the main supplies used.

Album: 12x12, 8 ½ X 11, 8x8 or 6x6 sizes. Post-bound, strap hinge or three ring binders.

Adhesives: (Photo corners. Double stick tape or glue sticks/pens for paper & cardstock)

Page protectors: (DO NOT use PVC or polyvinyl chloride) <sheet protectors are optional>

Paper or cardstock: (acid free, lignin free and buffered)

Pen for journaling: (acid free, fade resistant, odorless, permanent, photo safe and waterproof)

Scissors and/or paper trimmer: (for cropping photos and cutting paper)

If you are going to use newspaper clippings or other kinds of memorabilia you will need Archival Mist, Weit’o, or Bookkeeper Spray to neutralize the acid & prevent yellowing of paper.

GOALS:

It will help you to stay focused if you start with a clear goal in mind. What is your goal for this album? Want to celebrate the birth of a baby or a wedding? Are these photos from your last trip, or Christmas, or in honor of your ancestors????

KISS method - Keep It Simple Sweetie

If you are creating a scrapbook page for a magazine cover, then that's one thing, but, if you are interested in organizing a bunch of photos into meaningful scrapbook pages keep the **KISS** method in mind:

JOURNALING:

Gives voice to scrapbooks and answers questions. (Who, What, Where, When, & How)

You can journal by computer, by hand, use stencils, stickers, rub-ons, etc. Don't like your handwriting? Hide it!

1. Don't have any photos? Use memorabilia, maps, or scanned objects.
2. Tell a story about a person, it does not have to be about the event pictured.
3. Let others help you journal. Or use letters & diaries from Ancestors.
4. Unique pronunciation (or mispronunciation) of words.
5. Share hopes, dreams, feelings, memories, personal observations, etc.
6. Use poems, rhymes, songs, or Bible or book quotes.
7. Use physical descriptions like what you find in Muster Rolls for men without photos.
8. Make pages to look like newspapers or in a classified style.
9. Use newspapers to tell a story about the "era" of a photo that you don't have details about.
10. Who will journal? Follow through the entire album in the same person (1st person, etc.).
11. Use a WHOLE name for a person pictured at least once in your album.

PAGE LAYOUT TIPS:

1. Limit the use of photos. (Do you really need 25 Christmas photos on each page???)
2. Too much white space on the page is stark to some people.
3. Don't over embellish or over decorate. A LOT of STUFF distracts from photos and journaling.
4. If you use patterned paper, mat your photos to make them stand out. Use a border of ¼ to ½ inch.
5. Never glue anything down until you have everything where you want it on the page.
6. As you arrange your photos remember that people read from Left to Right and Top to Bottom. "Z" pattern.
7. Use a ruler and a pencil to keep your words even as you handwrite journaling, and then erase your lines. (or vanishing pen for lines)
8. Don't let your stickers appear to "float" on the page and don't stick them to photos.

COMPUTER SCRAPBOOKING:

You can scan photos and use them in computer software to make professional looking pages. Some things to consider when choosing software: The ease of use, import, edit, & organization of photos. Does it have templates or graphics? Can you share your scrapbook files through any medium, including online, printed copies, email, slideshows, burn to CD, etc?

COMPUTER SOFTWARE:

<http://scrapbooking-software-review.toptenreviews.com/>

Adobe Photoshop Elements 5.0

Creating Keepsakes™ Scrapbook Designer Deluxe (or Platinum) Version 3

Scrapbook Factory Deluxe 3.0

WEB SITES:

There are many websites that deal with scrapbooking. Use search engines like Google, Dogpile, Yahoo etc., to find more.

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| www.about.com | Lessons, tutorials, etc. |
| www.familyfun.go.com | Ideas for scrapbooking with kids and etc. |
| www.Scrapgirls.com | Lots of information on this site (includes digital). Membership not required. |
| http://www.scrapbookclearance.com/?src=google | Clearance items. |
| http://www.angelfire.com/ab/theclassicscrapbook/ | Lots of quick, easy and inexpensive page ideas. |
| http://www.diynetwork.com/ | Lessons, ideas, templates, etc. |

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