



Family History For All Ages

by Marlo E. Schuldt

Most everyone I know, including myself, is stressed scanning thousands of old photos while struggling to sort through and organize a mountain of old information. The pressure increases as we try to transmit this information to our kids and grandkids in a meaningful way.

For many of us, these tasks are so overwhelming we just throw our hands in the air and give up. If this sounds like the way you are feeling. Don't give up. There is real hope for you below.

Take a break and read through this newsletter. It may be the solution you have been searching for and it will be easier and **less expensive** than you think.

Eat an Elephant or Build Rome (Choose One)

I'm sure you're all acquainted with the concept of "eating an elephant one bite at a time." Another idiom is "Rome wasn't built in a day." So you need to take one step at a time.



Your first task is to read through the list of idioms and select one that fits how you feel about your family history projects.

Choose One Item That Describes You

Bit off more than I could chew.

Make a mountain out of a molehill.

Can't make heads or tails of it.

Burning the midnight oil.

Cost an arm and a leg.

Down in the dumps.

Drag your feet.

Let sleeping dogs lie.

Gets on my nerves.

Have both hands full.

If I had my druthers.

I'm in over my head.

Jump to conclusions.

Leave well enough alone.

No way!

Not on your life!

Sooner or later.

Under the weather.

Blue in the face.

Next step. Write the idiom selected on a piece of paper. Carefully crumple up the page and then throw it away (tear it up if that makes you feel better) while saying



to yourself, "That excuse is gone. I can move on feeling relieved." You have accomplished your first step.

So back to eating the elephant. We are not going to start by defining the family history elephant and we are not going to eat it. Yuck, who wants to eat an elephant? Since I'm not a carpenter or an architect we won't attempt to build Rome either.

Where to Begin?

Most of us are attempting to do a family history to hand down to our kids, grandkids and relatives. Another struggle is to find an appropriate way to share this work with them. Handing them a 40 lb. family history book or a hundred pages of text doesn't inspire the younger generation to read it. Older relatives and grandchildren may be challenged by computer technology so giving them a CD or DVD may not be the answer.

Begin by selecting a very basic family history topic such as a one page history of your mom or dad. Use your computer to combine a few interesting photos with a little descriptive text. Print the page and put it in a binder. Young children will be attracted to the photos. Older children, teenagers and adults will read the captions to

learn about the photos. This is when the fun will begin for you. I guarantee this mechanism will spark interest and lots of questions. The only caution is to restrain yourself from overwhelming them by volunteering too much information.

Why Use a Scrapbook Binder?

What good is a book if you won't let the children thumb through it because you are afraid they will destroy the pages? A scrapbook binder makes a perfect storage and presentation medium. Unlike a bound book, scrapbook pages are drool proof and tear resistant – almost childproof.



Get a scrapbook binder that is expandable so you can add pages at your own pace. Unlike many internet book preparation services that require you to submit 20 pages or more. Relax, you can prepare and print one or two pages at a time.

There are now many inexpensive local photo printers such as Wal-Mart, Costco, Walgreens and others. You can send your digital pages to be printed via an online service. Remember, inkjet prints are very expensive both in the cost of the ink and special photo paper. Worst of all, inkjet prints fade quickly, so consider having your pages printed by the professionals.

What Should be in a Family History Scrapbook?

Your primary goal is to entice everyone to open the scrapbook. Creating interest in your scrapbook will be really easy and fun, but you need to be smart and even a little cagey. Create pages that contain photos of everyone in the family. The first thing we all do is to look for photos of ourselves. This insures that everyone will be interested in looking at the scrapbook to see themselves. Make the page order random in at least one of your scrapbooks. This will cause the family and relatives to look all the way through the book.

Nicolina's Miracle

Toddler improves

Nicolina at 10

Certificate of Appreciation

Nicolina Jean Phibbs - age 7

Rayanna Fernandez (23 month old girl) was found floating in the water by Nicolina Jean Phibbs, age 7. Nicolina pulled the toddler out of the hot tub. She also called 911 and told medical personnel how to get to the pool where the toddler had drowned. Medical personnel were able to regain a heartbeat, the child never regained consciousness. She was stabilized at Sierra Vista Community Hospital then transported to Tucson Medical Center. Thursday night, Rayanna remained in a coma for weeks. Months later, Rayanna was still recovering from drowning, and was re-learning how to walk and make sounds. On Nov. 7, 1991, the Mayor Richard F. Archer presented Nicolina an award of meritorious service in the life saving efforts of Rayanna Fernandez. Nicolina was finally able to see the little toddler, who's life she saved at the ceremony given in Nicolina's honor.



Every one of my grandkids have found and looked at this page in the scrapbook.

Telling Simple Stories With Easy to Make Pages

I have stressed for a long time about writing histories for my father, mother, grandfathers and some of my wife's family. About all that has been accomplished is endless photo scanning resulting in an accumulation of many photos. This is not bad but my efforts do not easily communicate the purpose of a real family history – an organized series of stories containing historical information and maps combined with family values and period photos.

Recently I made a wonderful discovery while beta testing our new Advanced Scrapbook module. I wanted to test it by making a few pages about my father's life. I was embarrassed to discover that my dad's history was only represented by a series of old photo scans with a few captions. I couldn't even find his obituary. My wife came upon a journal I had begged my dad to write shortly before he passed away in 1976.

What a little gem she had rediscovered!

As my wife read aloud the first few pages, I knew we had struck gold! I decided to create a scrapbook page containing a few photos of my dad with some quotations from his journal.

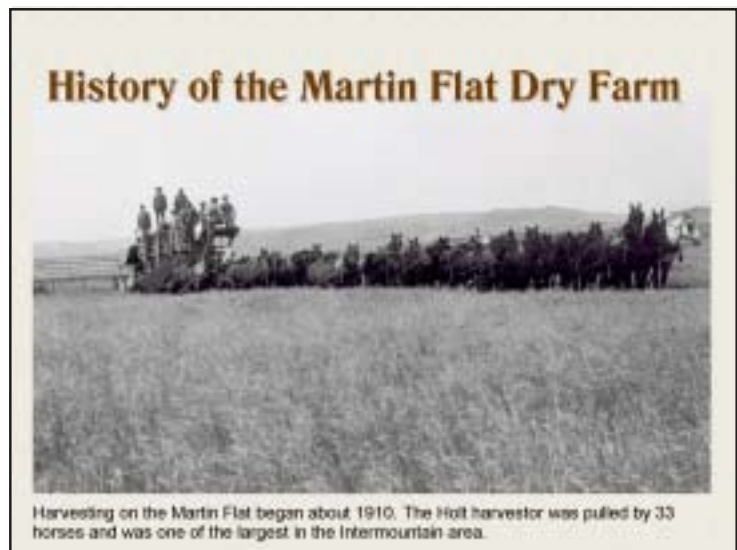
Question: Why are the milk and dairy products always placed in the back of the grocery store? Answer: To make you walk to the back of the store with the hope you will buy something else on your journey. The scrapbook should be no different, so add interesting pages randomly throughout the book.

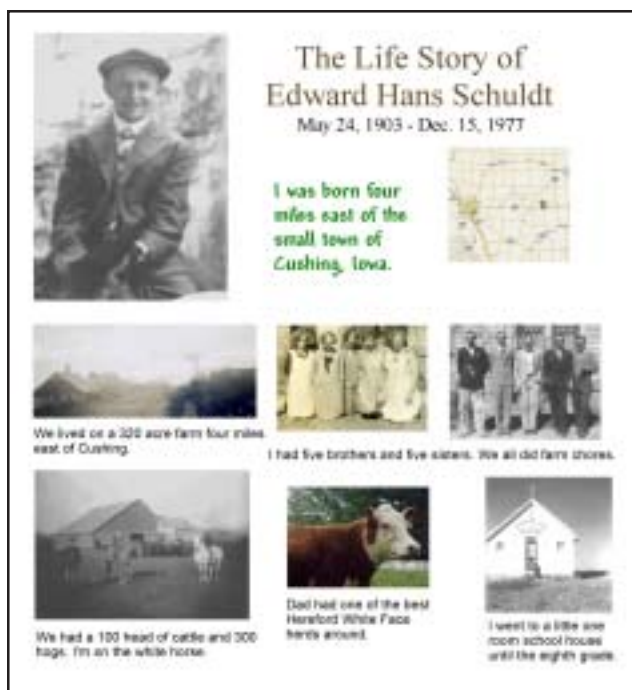
An Easy and Fun Way to Pass Down the History

As your children, grandchildren and relatives start to thumb through the pages, quietly sneak over and sit by them. You might even put your arm around them.

You are now in a perfect position to answer some interesting questions such as where the term "horsepower" came from. This will be even more interesting for teenagers who are in to sports cars and powerful engines.

The photo of the old harvester provides the opportunity to ask how much horsepower this horse drawn wheat harvester has - 33 horses.





I now have the first page of my dad's history printed and in my family history scrapbook. My stress has greatly diminished since I have started this project and decided I only have to do one page at a time. I can now add pages in any order when I'm in the mood and without pressure.

The Fifteen Minute Page -Yes, I know this sounds oversimplified.

True Story. A short time ago, I decided that I should start a history for my wife's deceased mother. Trying to decide where to start is always the hardest part of any project. Beginning with her birth history and childhood didn't seem to resonate with me. I wanted to get her history started with something that would be quick and easy

The thought then occurred to me that her obituary would be the perfect summarized life sketch I was looking for.

Next, I put her obituary into my HP scanner and used the OCR (Optical Character Recognition) program that comes with most all scanners. In about five minutes I had scanned and turned the obituary into text and saved the text into a file and

imported the text file into Mary's photo collection in Heritage Collector.

Next I found my favorite photo of Mary and scanned it using Heritage Collector and taking only a minute or two to enhance the photo quality with the scanner software.

OK – we are now down to the last five minutes of the 15 minutes I promised.

1. Opened the Advanced Scrapbook Module, created a scrapbook for Mary and then I created the first page in Mary's scrapbook. I selected the 12 X 12 with (2) 6 X 6 image page template.
2. Dragged Mary's photo onto her scrapbook page.
3. I then opened up the text file in Mary's collection and copied the text by highlighting it.
4. Reopened Mary's scrapbook page, drew the text box next to the page, did a right click and selected paste. I then added a little title at the top and saved it.
5. Opened the Print / Export function, selected the page size and exported the file for printing.

Mission accomplished in 15 minutes. I could now do it even faster by combining a few of the steps since I was still learning to use our new software.

Mary C. Baadsgaard

Mary Edith Christensen Baadsgaard, age 77, passed away peacefully on Friday, July 12, 2002 at Mountain View Hospital in Payson, Utah. She was born September 5, 1904 in Salina, Utah to Christian and Mary Ellen Jacobson Christensen. She graduated from North Sevier High School in Salina, Utah. She married Esbern Baadsgaard on December 20, 1944 in the Salt Lake LDS Temple. He died December 11, 1964.

Mother walked through life with a smile on her face and a skip in her step. She loved music and was always humming or singing a song. She loved to dance, play the piano, play games, go fishing, cheer on the Utah Jazz, and always appreciated a good thrill ride. She was a gifted mother, seamstress, quilter, cook, gardener, and canner. She loved to read and always kept current with political issues and world events. Her greatest love in life was being with her family.

Mother was very civic minded. She volunteered for several years at the polling booths and she always valued her right and responsibility to vote in local and national elections. Always a faithful Latter-day Saint, Mother served in many church capacities throughout her life. She shared her testimony and served her family and community through quiet strength and stalwart devotion.

Mary is survived by her children: Leanna (Marie) Schuldt of Orem, Evelyn (Dwen) Wahlstrom of Bountiful, Margaret (Jerril) Syre of Mapleton, Irene (John) Liberman of Chicago, IL, Ross (Janene) Baadsgaard of Spanish Fork, Sus (Doug) Grow of Chino, CA, Karen (Chad) Gull of Salem, Melissa Baadsgaard of Springville; 41 grandchildren and 45 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a brother, Wayne (Norma) Christensen of Portland, OR. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Esbern; parents; and four brothers and five sisters.

Funeral services will be Tuesday, July 16, 2002 at 11 a.m. in the Hobbie Creek Stake Center, 400 South Canyon Drive, Springville. Friends may call on Monday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. at Walker Mortuary, 187 South Main, Spanish Fork, and on Tuesday from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. at the church prior to the services. Burial will be in the Spanish Fork City Cemetery.

Within just two hours and 15 minutes I had created the page, sent the scrapbook image file via the internet to Costco, had it printed on 12 X 18 paper for \$3 and had it in my scrapbook for everyone to see. Now my wife can introduce her mother to all the grandchildren when they come for their next visit.

Combining a Vacation With Family History

My family and grandparents have been traveling to Yellowstone Park for over 100 years. It's a family tradition that has continued to flourish from our great-grandparents to my grandchildren. In 2004, we all went to Yellowstone Park and I decided it would be fun to combine my recent photos with some Olsen photos of Yellowstone that were taken over 100 years ago.

Yes, I had a purpose for creating the Yellowstone scrapbook pages. The opportunity to tell some wonderful old stories of what the Park looked like a hundred years ago and how my relatives traveled there by horse and wagon. This could also present another natural transition from the recent trip to Yellowstone to learning about the Olsen family history.



containing all the photos I took that day along with video of the acceptance of his diploma on DVD. These materials will also serve to encourage his children to follow after their dad as they gain their education. Finally I can now commemorate accomplishments and make



Making it Special

My son-in-law graduated from the University of Utah. He received the usual gifts appropriate to his right of passage. However, all our memories of that special day in May have started to fade and soon all he will have is a diploma hanging on the wall.

Recently I was able to give him and his children a personalized gift of remembrance in the form of a beautiful scrapbook page. I also gave him a gift CD

every family event more special. I can create and present a gift money cannot buy.

I Can't Believe I'm Using a Scrapbook!

I'm finally on my way to producing and sharing our family history using a scrapbook. This is something I never dreamed I'd ever want to do. However, I must qualify that statement by saying it has taken much effort and time to program and test our new Advanced Scrapbook module so we can more easily use a new generation of

digital scrapbooking to share and communicate our family history.

Keeping the Cost Down

Many of us reject the traditional scrapbook concept because of the cost and labor involved. Cutting up photos and gluing them on pages is not the best form of preservation even if the pages are acid free. We are also faced with the added expense of making duplicate scrapbooks for each of our children while trying to avoid the conflict of determining which child will receive the original scrapbook.

The Advanced Scrapbook Module completely eliminates these problems. No need to make duplicate photos so the photos can be cut up. There is no need to purchase special paper or other devices or products. The Heritage Collector Advanced Scrapbook module will help you make a truly elegant and very personalized family history scrapbook.

Sharing your pages is free since you can give each child a CD containing the scrapbook image files for them to print only the pages they want. The gift CD is a great compliment to the printed scrapbook because it may contain scrapbook slideshows including oral narration and special dedications.

Summary

1. **Take A Breather.** Have some fun by creating mini family history scrapbook pages.
2. **Don't Worry About Doing a Complete History.** Do a one page story about an important event or something of special interest to you or your family. Add more pages later.
3. **Buy an Inexpensive Scrapbook Album.** Many discount stores carry inexpensive scrapbooks. Get one and start the experiment. I'm sure you will become converted just as I was. I'm still a skeptic but now I'm having some real fun.
4. **Randomize Pages in the Scrapbook.** This will cause everyone to look at all the pages.
5. **Use Personal Photos.** Make sure there is at least one page with a photo of the people that will be looking at the scrapbook.
6. **RELAX.** This is a one-page-at-a-time process. You can organize it later.

7. **It's a Great Place to Start.** You can still write that 700 page history – later. This is a great way to get started and none of your time, money or efforts will be wasted.
8. **Immediate Gratification.** It's nice to feel an immediate reward for your efforts. Everyone will be impressed with your work so get a hat that is expandable for when you head swells with pride.
9. **Save Money.** It will be less expensive to use your favorite photo printing service. You will get higher quality photos that last longer. Most of the photo paper is archival quality.
10. **This is About Sharing.** Keep it fun and interesting for the kids. Sprinkle in some unusual pages to keep their interest and curiosity piqued so they will beg to see your scrapbook.
11. **Storytelling is What It's All About.** Try to make each page tell a story. The story can be simple such as where Grandpa lived.
12. **Have Fun! Keep it Simple.** Yes, you can do a page about the family pet since it is part of the family. Our dog lived to be 17 years old and even slept with the kids most every night.



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