

# More Than Scraps and Paste: Scrapbooks and Family History

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## Types of Ancestral Scrapbooks

### *Common-Place Books*

Educated men and women pasted quotes and phrases on pages they called common-place books.

### *Granger Books*

In 1769 English publisher, William Granger, introduced a printed book with extra blank pages for the owner to personalize with autographs, letters, or illustrations relating to the subject of the publication.

### *Friendship Albums*

Young women in the Victorian period often created memory books or visitor albums filled with signatures, scrap, cards, hair, handwriting, poetry and even photographs of their family and friends.

### *Scrapbooks*

A scrapbook is a collection of any type of material pasted into an album, but it usually consisted of paper materials, photographs, and memorabilia. Scrapbooks as a hobby peaked in the nineteenth century between 1880 and 1890, when a popular manual on the topic became available.

## Definitions

### *Scrap*

In the nineteenth century, “scrap” referred to colorful bits of paper that included product labels and greeting cards as well as some specialty papers created just for the scrapbook craze of the Victorian era.

## Resources for Preserving Scrapbooks

Preservation of Scrapbooks and Albums by the Library of Congress  
<[www.loc.gov/preserv/care/scrapbk.htm](http://www.loc.gov/preserv/care/scrapbk.htm)>

Scrapbook Preservation Society  
<[www.scrapbookpreservationsociety.org](http://www.scrapbookpreservationsociety.org)>

## **Websites**

Scrapbook History <[www.tulane.edu/~wclib/scrapbooks.html](http://www.tulane.edu/~wclib/scrapbooks.html)>

Creative Memories<[www.creativememories.com](http://www.creativememories.com)>

Directory of Scrapbooking Resources < [www.scrapdirectory.co.uk](http://www.scrapdirectory.co.uk)>

UK Scrappers <[www.ukscrappers.co.uk/](http://www.ukscrappers.co.uk/)>

## **Basic Rules of Scrapbooking**

### **Do's**

1. Use scrapbook safe materials.
2. Use copy photos, placing originals in storage.
3. Enhance the value of your album by labeling the images.
4. Use materials that are of good quality.
5. Do create a lasting artifact that future generations can enjoy.

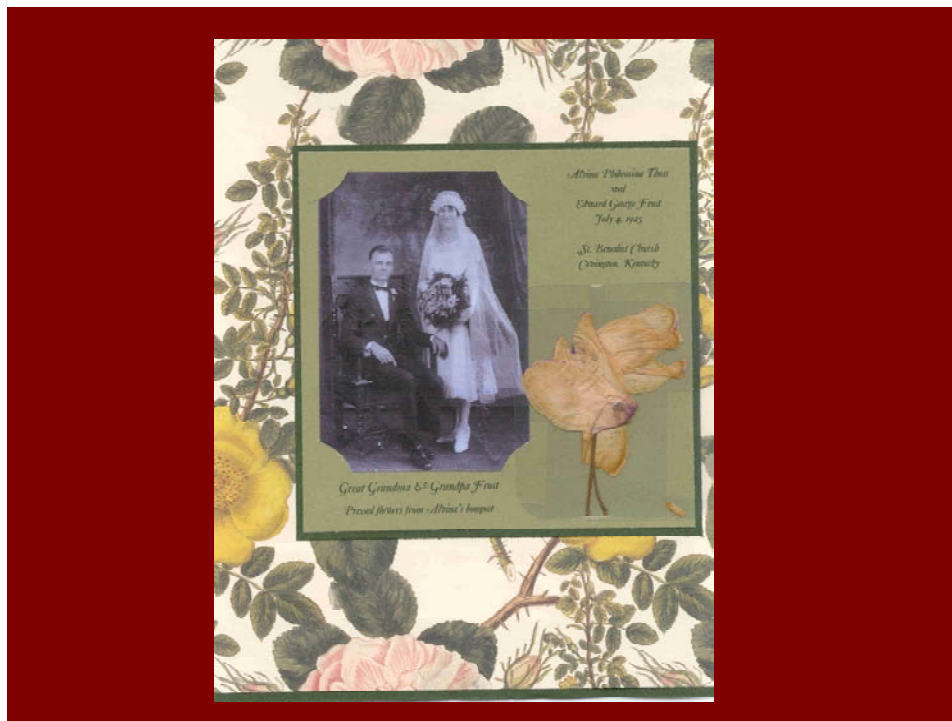
### **Don'ts**

1. Don't use magnetic albums with adhesive pages.
2. Never crop original photographs or cut documents.
3. Never write on the front of any original item.
4. Don't include materials that are of poor quality or in disrepair.

## Examples



Simple storytelling using a picture, a description of the event and a list of participants. Stickers add color.



Tell the story of a wedding by adding a flower. This layout looks like an invitation.



Create your own background by using a scan of a family heirloom. This is a page about a hand-made jacket. A family picture in the center is surrounded by the handwritten story. At the bottom are pictures of the front and back of the jacket. The title introduces the subject of the page.



If you're making a family history scrapbook include a chart as an index. Copyright Maureen Taylor 2010