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We can help you with a wide variety of products to preserve your own and your family's memories. The ideas listed here are just examples. Quantities are up to you. The cost will depend on many factors, including quantity, printing and binding options, complexity of design and layout, use of color, number of interviews, condition of original manuscripts, background research required, and so on. Final products can come in many forms, from printed pieces (hard and soft cover books, small pamphlets, 3-ring binders, and scrapbooks) to digital media (audio and video files on CDs and DVDs). The only limits are your imagination and your budget!

Services

- Transcription of written memoirs, letters, and other family documents
- Interviewing / oral histories
- Editing and writing for personal, family, organizational, business, and community histories
- Organizing photographs & memorabilia / archival storage
- Heirloom documentation (for insurance, estate planning, and financial recordkeeping)
- Photo restoration
- Historical & genealogical research

Examples of Personal Histories

- Memorial/tribute books
- Taped interview packages
- Story of one important experience
- First year of parenthood
- Adoption books ("How I Found My Birth Family")
- Stories behind the family photos (using a photo album to get started)
- "How We Met"

Special Events

- Wedding books, commemoratives & handouts
- Baby books, with annual updates
- Anniversary books (esp. 40th, 50th and 60th)
- Family reunions
- Moving out of a long-time home
- House histories for new owners
- Camp reunions
- Children's birthday parties
- Retirement books
- High school senior video, or going-away book from the parents
- Holiday memories
- Bar & Bat Mitzvahs
- Family holiday gathering (recording family stories when everyone's together)
- Building remodeling project
- Vacation or trip
- Returning or departing military
- Class reunions
- Spa makeover documentation (Before & After)
- Day in the Life (at my interesting job, in my childhood)
- Christmas and/or annual letters to friends and family

HistoryCrafters' Speaking Topics

- Telling the Family Stories: Adding Leaves and Blossoms to Your Family Tree
- Researching your Quaker Ancestry
- Graphic Design for Writers: Publishing Your Personal History
- The Murder of Jane Gilbert : How to Assemble a Compelling Story Through Historical Research
- Give Your Loved One(s) the Gift of a Personal History
- Documenting Your Heirlooms
- Telling the Story of Your Family Business (or an organization you started, or your neighborhood or community)
- Who lived in my house before I did?

More Ideas for Story-Telling

- School histories
- Church histories
- Ethical wills
- Corporate history/mission statements (esp. for a family-owned business)
- Greeting cards
- Calendars (incl. photos, birthdays, anniversaries), small pages in a CD case or a hanging version
- Organizational, community, & business histories (can be a donation to the group)
- Family automobile history
- Family recipes (record the cooks' memories as they prepare the food)
- Short biographies at nursing homes and assisted living centers, to introduce residents to each other
- Historic B&Bs, inns, other interesting buildings
- Pets' stories
- Exchange students' stories
- Favorite toys
- Family health histories

People Who Are Interested in Preserving Personal Stories and Community Histories

- State and county historical societies
- Senior care managers/coordinators
- Senior centers & residences
- Adult children of elderly parents
- Individuals with a unique experience to share (travel, illness, starting a business, making a discovery, presence at a life-changing event)
- Family-owned businesses
- Non-profit organizations
- Genealogical groups (going beyond the dates on your family tree)
- Real estate agents (heirloom catalogs for those who are selling their homes & downsizing)
- Estate and financial planners
- Estate sale managers
- Book groups
- Community and neighborhood groups
- Antique stores & furniture refinishers
- Community festivals
- Friends of the Library groups

**Don't wait any longer!
Preserve the stories that are
important to you. Talk with your relatives, your
colleagues, your neighbors, and others who are interested
in preserving stories. Then contact HistoryCrafters to find out how to
begin! Call 612-724-3441 or write us at <linda@historycrafters.com>.**