



SHOEBOX TIMES

Your Source for Ideas on Preserving & Celebrating Your Family's Legacy

Welcome to the Shoebox Scanning Newsletter, your go-to source for information related to preserving and organizing your cherished family memories! At Shoebox Scanning, we're here to make your memories last a lifetime (and then some). In this first edition, we're going to dive into the best ways to wrangle those mountains of photographs, slides, negatives, videotapes, & audio tapes. Plus, we've got some facts and trivia, hilarious tidbits, a peek at some amazing local businesses, & fantastic gift ideas for your digitized family memories. I hope you enjoy this inaugural edition.

— Mitchell Hall (Owner of Shoebox Scanning)



Are Your Family Memories Safe?

- Store them in a cool, dry place to prevent damage from temperature and humidity fluctuations.
- Protect them with acid-free storage options like sleeves, albums, and boxes to prevent chemical damage.
- Always handle these items with clean hands, use gloves when necessary, and avoid direct sunlight.
- Properly label your materials and keep them organized for easy retrieval.
- Consider digitizing to preserve memories and inspect regularly for signs of deterioration, taking action as needed.
- Visit www.shoebox-scanning.com to learn more about our services.



SHOEBOX
SCANNING

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Tips for Organizing Family Memories



Family memories are like precious gems that sparkle with the stories of generations past; the snapshots of love, laughter, and shared experiences that connect us to our roots and make us who we are today. Organizing these memories is a labor of love, a journey through time, and a gift to future generations. In this guide, we'll explore six engaging steps to help you breathe life into your family's history, from gathering these treasures to sharing them with those you hold dear. So, let's embark on this heartwarming adventure of family memory organization and preservation.

1 Gather the Treasures: Begin by collecting all your family memorabilia, whether they're old photographs, videos, letters, or heirlooms. Gather them in one place to create a treasure trove of memories.

4 Memory Map: Create a family timeline or digital scrapbook to weave these memories into a beautiful narrative. This visual timeline will connect generations and events in a meaningful way.

2 Digital Delight: Embrace the digital age by scanning old photos, slides, and negatives, converting home videos and audio tapes to digital format. This preserves them and simplifies sharing and organizing.

5 Family Storytelling: Encourage family members to share their own memories, stories, and insights. Take advantage of each family get-together. Recording oral histories can be a wonderful bonding experience.

3 Label with Love: Attach key information like dates, names, and descriptions to your items, whether they're digital or physical. Labels and tags turn ordinary items into cherished memories with stories to tell.

6 Stay Safe and Share: Protect your digital data in the cloud or with backups, and keep your physical items in good condition. Share the memories with your family, so these stories and experiences are never lost.

Storage Terms

Byte (B) - basic unit of digital info to store & process data

Kilobyte (KB) = ~1,024 B

Megabyte (MB) = ~1,024 KB

Gigabyte (GB) = ~1,024 MB

Terabyte (TB) = ~1,024 GB



Did You Know?

The world's largest collection of photographs is estimated to contain over 15 million items & is found at The Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, USA.

FUN FACTS

The first photograph ever taken dates back to 1826 by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in Le Gras, France & took about 8 hours to capture!



The view from Joseph's upstairs window of the outbuildings, trees & landscape.



Back in the early days of photography, getting a clear image required sitting perfectly still for minutes. Even the most a patient person struggled to sit for that long.

Selfies would have been quite a challenge!

We've certainly come a long way in the world of photography.

Safely Store Family Photos Online

Storing photos and videos in the cloud is akin to securing them in an online safe deposit box. Even if your phone, computer, or external hard drive are lost or damaged, your memories remain safeguarded and accessible from any internet-connected device. This also streamlines sharing with friends and family. Explore the top three cloud storage options below, including pricing, key features, & some best practices. We'll equip you with the information you need to make an informed decision.

Google Photos



Google Photos is a user-friendly platform available on desktops, Android and iOS.

Pricing:

(Share with up to 5 others users)

15 GB - Free with Google Account

100 GB - \$2.79/mth or \$27.99/yr

200 GB - \$3.99/mth or \$39.99/yr

2 TB - \$13.99/mth or \$139.99/yr

5, 10, 20, & 30 TB also available.

Paid plans include a VPN (Virtual Private Network) for multiple devices.

Key Features:

- Automatically groups photos by date & location.
- Create custom albums for specific events or themes.
- Recognizes faces & objects, making it easy to find photos with specific people, pets, or items.
- Create shared albums with family members.

Best Practices:

- Create shared albums for family gatherings, enable automatic backup on your devices, & use the search bar to find specific photos.

Apple iCloud Photos



Apple iCloud Photos is a photo service that seamlessly works with Apple devices.

Pricing:

(Share with up to 5 others users)

5 GB - Free with iCloud Account

50 GB - \$1.29/mth

200 GB - \$3.99/mth

2 TB - \$12.99/mth

6, 12, 20, & 30 TB also available.

Paid plans include iCloud Private Relay, Hide My Email, Custom Email Domain & HomeKit Secure Video.

Key Features:

- Automatically syncs photos across all Apple devices.
- Create custom albums and Memories for different events or periods.
- Recognizes faces, allowing users to tag & find photos of specific people or pets.
- Create shared albums with family members.

Best Practices:

- Enable iCloud Photos on all Apple devices, using the "For You" section to explore Memories, & share albums with family members.

Amazon Photos



Amazon Photos is a user-friendly versatile option for organizing digital photos.

Pricing:

(Share with up to 5 others users)

5 GB - Free with Amazon Account

100 GB - \$2.79/mth or \$24.99/yr

1 TB - \$13.99/mth or \$124.99/yr

2 TB - \$27.99/mth or \$249.98/yr

3-10, 20, & 30 TB also available.

Amazon Prime members get unlimited, full-resolution storage for photos.

Key Features:

- Family Vault to collect photos & videos together with 5 other members.
- Create custom albums to organize photos.
- Users can add keywords to photos to tag images and people.
- Create shared albums with family members.

Best Practices:

- Regularly organize and tag photos & set up a family sharing plan.

Shoebox Scanning Gift Ideas

Give the Gift of Digitizing Memories



Gift Certificates available in \$25, \$50, \$100 & \$200.

After neatly digitizing your family's history, it's time to spread the love with these thoughtful gift ideas:



Custom Photo Books: Turn your digitized photographs into beautiful coffee table books, perfect for sharing and reminiscing with friends & family.

Personalized Calendars: Create custom calendars featuring your favorite family photos, adding a touch of nostalgia and surprise to every month.



Digital Picture Frames: Load up a digital picture frame with your digitized memories. It's like having family slide show right on the mantle.

T-Shirts: Celebrate the big moments with custom images for Anniversaries, Birthdays and all the other special moments in life.



Preserving History Resources



Books: [Declutter Your Photo Life](#) (Adam Pratt), [Mom, I Want to Hear Your Story / Dad, I Want to Hear Your Story](#) (Jeffrey Mason), [What's a Photo Without the Story?](#) (Hazel Thornton).

Videos: [How To Archive Family Photos](#) (Courtney Plaster), [Organizing Old Family Photos](#) (Lisa Lisson)

Podcasts: [How to Organize Your Family Photos](#)

Research Tools: The [Galt Museum & Archives](#) & the [Lethbridge Historical Society](#)



Share Your Stories:

We want to hear your humorous or heartwarming family photo stories! Share your anecdotes, like the time you accidentally captured your pet photobombing a family portrait. Email us at newsletter@shoebox-scanning.com for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter.

Supporting Lethbridge Businesses

Roost 2 Roost Ltd: Roost 2 Roost is a compassionate local company specializing in assisting our senior community as they transition from one nest to the next. They manage all aspects of your move from downsizing, packing, organizing movers, and unpacking you at the other end as you settle into your new location. Roost 2 Roost has been helping seniors for over 11 years!

Analog Books Inc: Analog Books, a distinctive Vintage/Steampunk-style bookstore in Lethbridge, has achieved notable success since its 2020 opening, winning awards for Best Bookstore in subsequent years. Its welcoming atmosphere, complete with the beloved store cat Hugo, and dedication to meeting the community's need for an independent bookstore have driven its popularity.



Learn more about us and find out how Shoebox Scanning can help you preserve your history on Facebook at [ShoeboxScanningLethbridge](https://www.facebook.com/ShoeboxScanningLethbridge) and at www.shoebox-scanning.com.

We hope you've enjoyed this edition of the Shoebox Scanning Newsletter, packed with tips, humor, and gift ideas for your digitized family history. Remember, life is a collection of moments, and preserving those memories is our mission.

Have Questions or Comments?

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