

## Building a family photobook

### Janet Brigham

Silicon Valley Computer  
Genealogy Group

[svcgg.org](http://svcgg.org)

email:

[siliconvalleygroup@earthlink.net](mailto:siliconvalleygroup@earthlink.net)

electronic version of handout:

[svcgg.org/pages/downloads.html](http://svcgg.org/pages/downloads.html)

- Decide what you want to accomplish with a family photobook
- View the images as genealogy information
- Identify images to include and exclude
- Collect images and documents from others

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Passing along the history

- What is the purpose of including this image?
- How important is the background information?
- How will the image affect those who see it?
- Does it include sensitive information, or is it embarrassing?
- What to include of a tragic situation?
- Equal coverage for all family involved

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Identifying and handling old photos: Resources

- **Preservation: [Digitalpreservation.com/you](http://Digitalpreservation.com/you)**
- **Identifying time periods**
  - [www.ajmorris.com/roots/photo/](http://www.ajmorris.com/roots/photo/)
  - [www.classyarts.com/howto.htm](http://www.classyarts.com/howto.htm)
  - [oldphoto.com/Old%20Photo%20ID.htm](http://oldphoto.com/Old%20Photo%20ID.htm)
  - [www.olivetreegenealogy.com/photos/fashions-photos.shtml](http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/photos/fashions-photos.shtml)
  - [dancurtis.ca/2010/02/10/how-to-identify-old-family-photographs/](http://dancurtis.ca/2010/02/10/how-to-identify-old-family-photographs/)
- **Identifying individuals**
  - [genealogy.about.com/od/photo\\_dating/ss/identification.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/photo_dating/ss/identification.htm)
  - [www.mayrand.org/photoid-e.htm](http://www.mayrand.org/photoid-e.htm)
  - [www.ehow.com/how\\_4815568\\_identify-old-family-photographs.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_4815568_identify-old-family-photographs.html)

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Scanning photos and slides

- Old, fragile, awkward to handle, irreplaceable
- Select and set up a scanner if needed
- Scan photos and slides
- Save the image to your computer
- You may want more than one scanner
  - Slides and negatives
  - Photos, documents
  - Images on the go

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Editing software

- **Use editing software** to make the most of your photos, documents, slides
  - Software sometimes comes with the scanner
  - Picmonkey.com  
Online, free (for now; fairly simple)
  - Adobe Photoshop Elements  
(PC or Mac; steep learning curve)
  - Pixelator (Mac)

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## If you need to scan images

- Use a scanner that won't damage your originals
- If you use a laptop, consider connecting it to a monitor and mouse
- Check your monitor resolution; best if it's at least 1024 x 768
- Monitor size best at least 17"
- Use neutral color theme for computer desktop background
- Calibrate your monitor; consider a calibration monitor such as Huey

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Editing software

- **To edit photos on your computer**  
You need to install the scanner driver software to operate the scanner on your computer
- **To edit photos online**
  - Upload them to an online editing program (such as PicMonkey.com)
  - Edit them online using the site's features
  - Download them back to your computer

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Steps in repairing images

1. Crop the image
2. Adjust the brightness and contrast
3. Fix the defects
4. Build the color
5. Adjust the color
6. Sharpen the image (lightly)

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Types of scanners

- Sheet-feed
- Flatbed
- Handheld
- Smartphone apps

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Pass-through / sheet-feed scanners



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Pass-through / sheet-feed scanners

- Don't take on a research trip
- Don't use with old documents or photos
- Office use only, such as scanning business cards

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Flatbed scanner

- If you're careful, not damaging to document or photo
- With USB power, can run off your laptop computer – good for traveling
- Scan slides and negatives with attachment that comes with some scanners

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Flip-Pal scanner



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Flip-Pal scanner

- Resolution limited
- May not work well on documents
- Works for photos, may work for objects
- Battery-operated

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Handheld scanner



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Handheld scanner

- Practice ahead of time
- Better for books and documents
- Works better with glass to hold the pages flat, and avoid ruffling edges of books
- Battery-operated

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Smartphone apps

- **Types of apps**
  - Pocket Scanner
  - Cam Scanner Pro or free version
- **How to use them**
  - Practice ahead of time
  - Unlikely to capture detail of flatbed scanner
  - Work with it until you've used it extensively and know its limitations
  - Email image to yourself – handy!

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Resolution

- **Output quality of an image**
  - PPI (pixels per inch): screen resolution
  - DPI (dots per inch): print resolution
- **Types of resolution**
  - High resolution (hi-res): intended for printing, usually >300 samples per inch
  - Low resolution (low-res): intended for screen display, <100 pixels per inch
- **Digital camera/scanner terminology**
  - Optical resolution is the true measurement of resolution that the output device can capture
  - Interpolated, or digital, resolution is acquired artificially.
- **Scanning negatives and slides:** Use highest resolution

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## “Save as...”

- **Archiving or editing later**
  - TIFF
  - PNG
- **Second copy** in the native file format of your image editing software, such as a PSD (Adobe Photoshop) file.
- Archive an **unedited** version of the file

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Moire in scanned halftones

- Tinker with the scan resolution, the angle of the original.
- Set the scanner software for Newspaper or Magazine setting.
- Reduce the size of the image during scanning.
- Scan at a much higher resolution than you need, and then use an image-editing program to reduce the resolution.
- Remove noise. Apply image-editing filters, such as Despeckle filter.
- Use filters that give you more control, such as Dust & Scratches filter, which allows you to specify both a threshold and a radius.
- If nothing else works, use blurring filters to blend the halftone cells into smoother tones, such as Gaussian Blur.
- The image may be softened. Use sharpening filters sparingly.

See: [www.creativepro.com/article/scanning-101-no-more-moir-?page=0%2C1](http://www.creativepro.com/article/scanning-101-no-more-moir-?page=0%2C1)

(Look for “Picking the Best Book Maker Isn’t Easy” in web search)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Pulling it together

1. Identify the images to include
2. Assemble information about the images
3. Write additional text
4. Decide whether to use a photobook service or create your own pages
5. **To do it yourself** use Publisher, InDesign, or a word processor such as Word and look online for templates, or build your own

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Pulling it together

Alternatively...

6. **Select a photobook service** with templates *and* a guarantee; compare prices and services
7. Select a template flexible enough for your project
8. Construct your book electronically; edit images and add to text as necessary
9. Assemble and proof, proof, proof
10. Allow enough time for delivery and distributing

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Photobook services to consider

- Review article:  
<http://www.digitalthomethoughts.com/news/show/97676/13/1/15>
- Comparison shop between companies
- Pay attention to guarantees
- Watch for sales
- Call their customer service: Can you reach a Live Human Bean?
- Does it have adequate instructions?
- Test-drive it; is it stable on your computer?

Copyright 2012 Janet Brigham

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---