



# Tackle Your Photos

## 3 Simple Strategies to Get Past Overwhelmed

You've been given boxes of family photos and memorabilia. You're overwhelmed. The minimalist movement tells you to toss it. BUT... what happens when we get rid of too much stuff or the wrong stuff? Once it's gone, it's gone.

There is another way. De-cluttering with purpose and intent to share and save your family history.



### How Do I Start?

- **Find:** A helper. Is there someone in your family that might have an interest in family history? If not, then exchange the favor with a friend.
- **Sort:** The one's you know from the ones you don't.
- **De-Clutter:** Weed the present. Think about the photos you take. Reduce the number.
- **Treasure the past:** Keep like photos together. The context of the photos will reveal family history.
- **Discover:** The story in your unidentified photos. Don't toss unidentified photos. They might contain family history information.



## Why Bother?

Our photos and memorabilia provide us with a sense of belonging. There is joy in those materials.

The photos and stories anchor our children to family history and lead them on a path of self-discovery and well-being.



## Weeding Tips

- Take fewer photos. Get the special ones printed right away.
- Delete duplicates and triplicates. Toss or pass on to another family member.
- Make an album/scrapbook of those dupes. Albums are making a come-back.
- Eliminate slides that don't include people. Save those with historical significance such as a building that's no longer there. Donate those.

## How Can I Identify My Family Photos?

- **Think about who gave you those photos.** The history of ownership is important.
- **Study the clues:** Photographer, clothing clues, and format help date the image.
- **Look at your family history.** Who's the right age and living in the right place to be the person in your picture?



## Tell the Story

- Make it an intergenerational activity. Children are natural story-tellers.
- Create a photo album.
- Write a blog post.
- Write your memoir using photos and objects to tell the story.
- Video/Record the family stories.
- Produce a short film.

Let your creativity be a guide.

**Remember:** *A single photo can have enormous power. It can start you on a path of preservation, teach you something you didn't know, or reveal your link to the past.*

## Suppliers

**Hollinger Metal Edge Corporation**

<http://www.hollingermetaledge.com>

**Gaylord Archival**

<https://www.gaylord.com>

## Conservation Help

**American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Work, Inc. (AIC)**

<http://www.conservation-us.org/home>

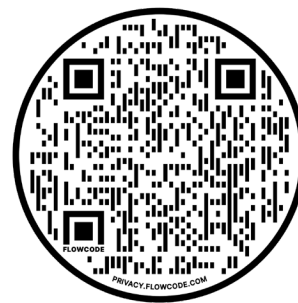
## Storing the Past for the Future

- Use materials such as acid and lignin free paper and polypropylene sleeves available from museum and library suppliers.
- Display copy photos, placing the originals in storage.
- Try to identify unidentified photos so that they don't get tossed.
- Consult a professional conservator for damaged images.
- Store original images in an area with stable temperature and humidity like a windowless closet.
- Scan your originals at a minimum of 600 dpi, 1200 dpi is preferred, Tiff.
- Use a digital photo organizer so that you can find pictures on your devices.
- Print out significant pictures and put them in an album.





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