

# Expressions

**Newsletter from Evergreen Expressions**

**July/August 2007**

## Writing the narrative for your heritage pages

If you're like most of us, the idea of writing a history can seem pretty daunting, but writing for a family heritage album doesn't need to be. First of all, you don't need to write a book or even a short story. You can write in "snippets".



Learning the family story is an important part of growing up.

The first step is to plan the album – what story do you want this particular album to tell? (See the May/June issue of this newsletter.)

Once you have the plan, gather the information you want to tell for each part of the plan.

If you have old pictures that you don't know a lot about, ask other family members to add to what you do know.

Send a copy of the picture(s) to people who are not in your area and ask them to tell you what they know about the people, places, or events. If you can, sit down in person with those who live nearby. If you use a small tape recorder, you don't need to take notes as you talk to someone but can make your notes afterward to get the info in writing. Then save the tapes for future reference.

Now you've gathered the information you want to convey. If it helps to put it in outline form, do that. If it helps to just make general notes for each page or set of pages, do that. There are about as many ways to start on the writing as there are people wanting to write a family history. The best one is the one that works for you.

At this point, you need to decide if you want to do the writing yourself or hire someone to do it for you.

If you want to do it yourself, sit down and write what you want people to know about

each picture or group of pictures or items. If it makes it easier, write a letter to a specific person to tell them about it. This works well if you think about one of the younger family members. The classic things to write about are the 5 W's – who, what, where, when, and why. Of course, you can expand on each of those if you want to but, if you get at least that much written down, you'll be doing great.

If you don't want to do the actual writing yourself, call me and we can get it done together.

Getting this information into written form can become fun and it is certainly a great gift to the rest of your family.



Writing your family stories can be fun and you'll be leaving a valuable legacy to your family.

## ***Evergreen Expressions***

Helping your family tree blossom  
through image and story preservation.

For mail and delivery only

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Call for an appointment

Phone: 512-835-7806  
Cell Phone: 512-569-2879

Email:

[Gayle@EvergreenExpressions.com](mailto:Gayle@EvergreenExpressions.com)

### **I'm on the web:**

[www.EvergreenExpressions.com](http://www.EvergreenExpressions.com)

***Your family history is important!***

***Your family wants to know it.***

***I want to help you tell it.***

*Have you gathered family photos? Have you researched your family history? Do you know your family stories? If you answer "Yes" to these questions, your next step is to get those into an album to display everything in a way that will attract other family members to their history.*

*I have been using digital photo and graphics software for about five years and I love working with photos and making family heritage albums using digital techniques.*

*I'm Gayle Opie, the owner/designer of Evergreen Expressions, and my goal is to help you by creating the album you want.*

*Please call me so we can get started on your album.*

## **Bits and pieces**

The Austin Genealogy Society had their annual indoor picnic in late June. It was very interesting because any member who wanted to show their personal items could get table space to display them. Some people had displays of old photos, a couple of people had laptops with slide shows. Some had genealogy charts and some had other displays they had made.

I took an album and a shadow box I made. The box contained my dad's high

school athletic letter and senior picture. It also had a reduced copy of his diploma because the original was huge.

My mom went along. We took her doll that she got with her own money when she was about 9 so it is 87 years old.

I was very interested in all the materials other people had on display. I particularly enjoyed all the old photos.

The picnic was catered by a local barbecue restaurant and we sat at a table with some personable ladies, so we had a very enjoyable evening.

### **Two additional hours of service time**

When you order a complete album, you receive two hours of service time so this will give you four hours to use in any way you want – photo restoration, writing, or any other way in which I can help you get your album completed. Your album will be scheduled upon receipt of your signed contract with 50% payment.

Expires August 31, 2007

Please see my website at [www.EvergreenExpressions.com](http://www.EvergreenExpressions.com) for additional information and pricing.