

# Got Photos?

## Creating Keepsakes using Family Photos

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### Why Family Photos Matter

If you've ever been at a loss for what to get your parents, grandparents or any family member as a gift, help is on its way. Not only will you learn how to turn family photos into memorable keepsakes, but you'll have at your disposal the best list of resources gathered for today's family historian.

The premise is simple: scan your family photos *the right way*, get inspired with the ideas below, and then create a variety of items from any of the websites described below. Better yet, you'll learn tips and tricks on creating photo-based gifts.

### Photo Digitization Best Practices

- Choose photos with high impact, good darks and lights, and minimal background.
- Set your scanner to a high resolution, such as 300 or 600 dpi.
- Clean the scanner with a microfiber cleaning cloth. Remove dust, lint and fingerprints so you can achieve the clearest possible scans.
- Make sure the photo is in contact with the scanning surface or as close as possible to the surface; however, often you can get a good scan right through a plastic sleeve, matt, or glass. Don't move the photo while scanning.
- Keep the photo lined up with the edges of the scanner to reduce editing later on.
- When transferring digital images to your computer, always save an original scan of the photo and then make copies of the file to be used for editing. Also export to multiple file types.
- Use Photoshop Elements or your favorite graphic editing software to resize digital images for use with your favorite project.
- Remember to periodically backup your scans of photos and documents.

## Creating Keepsakes Using Family Photos

Once the photos are scanned and copies are created in different file formats, the most difficult choice will be to find the right gift for that special family member. There are literally hundreds of websites that allow you to upload your images and then create gifts.

- **Calendars:** Imagine a useful wall calendar or even a day planner filled with old family photos! Most photo-based gift creation sites have a calendar product, one example being **Pinhole Press** (<https://pinholepress.com>). Simply select your photos, upload them and then, if the option exists, add your own special dates such as birthdays and anniversaries.
- **Canvas Prints:** Most sites offer a canvas print product in various sizes and formats. You upload a photo, select a size, style and a finish and then place your order. Canvas prints are a nice way to display old family photos without using standard framing. At **Costco's Photo Center** (<https://costcophotocenter.com>), you can quickly create stunning canvas prints using your family photos.
- **Greeting Cards:** Family photos can be the perfect choice for different types of greeting cards and even invitations. The choices are almost endless! Think of party invites, wedding thank you cards, and more. **Moo** (<https://moo.com>) lets you create holiday cards, greeting cards and invites using your own photos.
- **Holiday Ornaments and Decorations:** Whether you choose the “do-it-yourself” option or have them made online, what better way to honor your family than to create a Christmas tree ornament or a set of holiday decorations. The DIY crowd can visit a local craft store and then work with printed copies of scanned photos to create great items!
- **Jewelry:** Several sites allow you to create a keepsake piece of jewelry such as a bracelet or necklace. In addition, you may find it easier to purchase the jewelry on your own, then print out your photo to fit a locket, etc.
- **Photo Books:** A hot product, a photo book can help the family history share his or her research with family and friends in a compelling, storytelling format. Most sites have a photo book product, all with varying options. **Shutterfly** (<https://shutterfly.com/photo-books>) is one of several photo book self-publishing sites used by genealogists and family historians.
- **Quilts, Fabric, and Wall Hangings:** Did you know that custom printed fabric is available by the yard? One site that has no minimum order quantity is **Spoon Flower** (<https://spoonflower.com>). Many fabric and hobby stores have colorfast cotton fabric sheets that can be printed with ink jet printers right at home. Create a family history quilt, table runner, wall hanging or throw pillow. Or sew a favorite family picture and recipe onto an apron. Print fun photos on a fabric album cover, tote bag, or sweatshirt.

- **Tech Gifts:** Many sites allow you to create a variety of tech related items including iPhone and other smartphone cases, iPad cases, mouse pads, sleeves for a Kindle or Nook and more. One such site is **Café Press** (<https://cafepress.com>) which offers iPhone cases.
- **T-Shirts and Sweat Shirts:** Turn your family photos into wearable art . . . there's no better way to start a conversation about family history than to be your own personal billboard! Most sites will create a ready-to-wear item such as a t-shirt or sweatshirt based on a photo you upload. **Zazzle** (<https://zazzle.com>) has plenty of options for clothing including sweatshirts:

## Sharing Photos and Keepsakes with Family Members

Several sites such as Café Press, Lulu and Zazzle, allow you to create a variety of items and then sell them to family and friends, or the public, in an online store.

As an example, let's look at the **GeneaBloggers Store** on Zazzle (<https://zazzle.com/geneabloggers>). Images are uploaded and then one or more products are created. Instead of just ordering the items for yourself, you can create a "storefront" with a description and then stock it with products you've created. For some stores you can set a "royalty" which is the amount of profit you make on each item sold.

Each site is different and you may need to provide tax information (we are talking income after all . . .) and a PayPal account to receive payment.

## Resources

### Photo Scanning

#### **Digital Imaging Essentials – PDF**

<http://legacy.familytreewebinars.com/?aid=3897>

#### **Flip-Pal® mobile scanner**

<https://genealogybargains.com/flip-pal-mobile-scanner-deals-genealogy-bargains/>

### Blogs

#### **Michaels.com Projects**

<https://www.michaels.com/projects>

#### **Photobook Girl**

<http://www.photobookgirl.com>

### Gift Creation Websites

#### **Blurb**

<http://www.blurb.com>

Best for: Photo books

#### **Bumblejax**

<https://www.bumblejax.com>

Best for: Canvas prints

#### **Café Press**

<https://www.cafepress.com>

Best for: Anything and everything;  
Create your own store

#### **Canvas Pop**

<https://www.canvaspop.com>

Best for: Canvas prints

#### **Costco**

<https://costcophotocenter.com>

Best for: Anything & everything

**CVS**

<https://www.cvs.com/photo>

Best for: Anything & everything

**ImageSnap**

<https://www.imagesnap.com>

Best for: Ceramic tiles

**Legacy Charting**

<http://www.legacycharting.com>

Best for: Bookmarks, family tree charts; connects with Legacy Family Tree data

**Lulu**

<https://www.lulu.com>

Best for: Calendars, photo books; Create your own store

**Minted**

<https://www.minted.com>

Best for: Canvas prints, cards & invitations, party decorations

**Mixbook**

<https://www.mixbook.com/>

Best for: calendars, cards, photobooks

**Moo**

<https://www.moo.com>

Best for: Business cards, cards & invitations, labels, stickers

**mpix**

<https://www.mpix.com/>

Best for: Calendars, canvas prints, kids growth charts, photo books

**MyDaVinci**

<https://www.mydavinci.com/>

Best for: Canvas prints and art photos

**OrangePiel**

<https://www.orangepiel.com>

Best for: Window shades

**Pinhole Press**

<https://pinholepress.com>

Best for: Anything and everything

**Shutterfly**

<https://shutterfly.com/photo-books>

Best for: Calendars, canvas prints, cards & invites, photo books

**SmugMug**

<https://www.smugmug.com/>

Best for: Anything and everything

**Snapfish**

<https://www.snapfish.com>

Best for: Calendars, cards & invitations, photo books

**Spoonflower**

<https://www.spoonflower.com>

Best for: Custom printed fabric

**The UPS Store**

<https://www.theupsstore.com/print>

Best for: Anything and everything

**Walgreens**

<https://photo.walgreens.com/store/>

Best for: Anything and everything

**Wallhog**

<https://wallhogs.com/>

Best for: Wall decals

**Walmart Photo**

<https://photos3.walmart.com/>

Best for: Anything and everything

**Zazzle**

<https://www.zazzle.com>

Best for: Best for: Anything and everything; Create your own store