

# Heirloom Chronicles

Create a family heirloom from  
the stories of your life.

## The importance of recording PERSONAL HISTORY

Perhaps the biggest casualty of technology advancement is the written word. We have entered an age where communications have become digital and electronic—and easily discarded or lost.

Letters have become emails and text messages—useful in the moment and quickly deleted. News is transitioning from paper to words on a screen, quickly replaced by the next story.

But we cannot afford to lose the presence of the written word.

What is in your past that you yearn to share with your loved ones? What are their favorite stories to hear you tell? What memories do you invoke when looking over old family photographs?

Your experiences, as well as those of your parents and grandparents, define who you are and put a stamp on the generations that follow you. Sharing your history with your family is the most important heirloom you can pass on and preserve for generations to come.

Put your story into written words. Give your children and future descendants an understanding of you and your family's place in their history.

### Memories like these deserve preservation:

*“One thing that stands out when I started, teachers were talking about the kids needing hot lunches. And I thought I should do something about it but we had no room for water and we had no electricity or anything...We had a nice little stove with a long top. I suggested maybe your mothers would put together something in a little saucepan...sure enough, Monday at recess time we got the little kettles out and put them on the stove and warmed it up. And when we ate lunch there were 13 helpings of baked beans!”*

—Louise Gould Grant, teacher at Freeport, Maine's one-room Bailey School 1930-1934,  
**Children of the Bailey School, by its Students and Teacher.**

*“I stared at the endless rows of ghostly, ghostlike skeletons of the apartment buildings. Only the outside brick walls and some inside partitions were still standing, blackened by fire. On the inside of these hulls...hot water heaters remained...still attached to their pipes but swinging slightly in the spring gusts—the only signs of where individual apartments once had been.”*

—Peter W. Bowman,  
**ENDURANCE: A German Tale in the World War Era**

*Pre- and post-World War II street views of Hannover, Germany. Top right: a photograph before; bottom left: the author's father's rendition.*



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**Heir-loom** (âr'loom): a family possession handed down from generation to generation. **Chronicle** (kron'i kəl): a record of events; a history.

## Heirloom Chronicles. Create a family heirloom from the stories of your life.

### Heirloom Chronicles

Nicole Carter became involved with the field of personal history when she worked with her father to write his memoirs at the age of 72. During that time they forged a special bond that left her with stories of times and people that she would never experience and never have otherwise known.

Nicole holds a degree in history and a passion for the stories of our past. She has conducted oral and written histories, worked at the Freeport Historical Society and Maine Historical Society, and at several local publishing companies.

She is dedicated to helping families preserve their history and create priceless heirlooms that are meant to be touched and read forever.

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### The Process

The first step is to decide what you wish to record—a memoir of a specific period or event? The history of an important family place? Your own personal history?

You will also decide what type of format your heirloom words will take. It can be as simple as the audio of interviews, a soft cover booklet, or a beautifully bound leather or hard cover book, complete with treasured photographic images.

We will meet at the place of your choosing for a series of interviews. A short history requires just a few hours. A more complete memoir may take several sessions, depending on the final heirloom you desire to create

After that, you will spend some time choosing the photographs that you wish to accompany your words in print. We will review our taped sessions, transcribe your words, and edit them according to your instructions—as straight Q&A as recorded, or more likely as your first person account of the history you wish to tell.

You will then have a chance to review the manuscript we've created, instruct us on photograph placement, and all of it will be laid out into book form, to be printed in the format and quantity of your choice.

### Why tell your story

What is in your past that you yearn to share with your loved ones?

What are your favorite stories to tell from “the old days?”

What memories do you invoke when looking over old family photographs?

What recollections do you have that you have not yet shared with your family?

What are you waiting for?

### Your life is a treasure.

Preserving your story with the written word is the best way to ensure your family and its history endures.

*“Thank you again for your interesting and excellent editing in compiling the comments and precious photos...in making our old memories live again.”*

—D. Clement, Bakersfield, CA