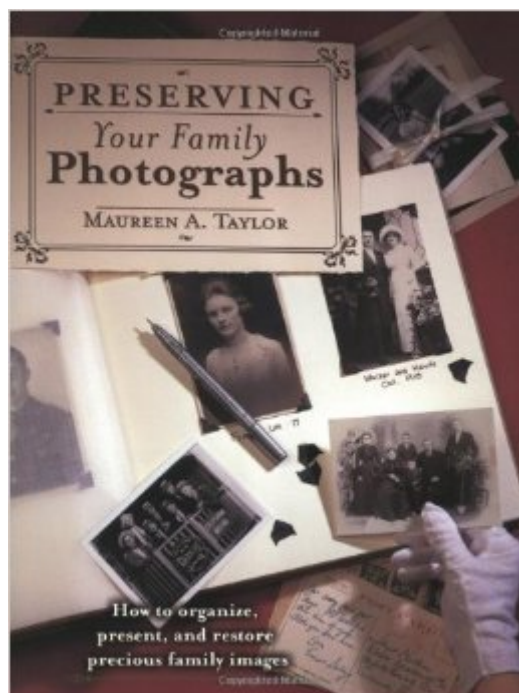


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# Preserving Your Family Photographs: How To Organize, Present, And Restore Your Precious Family Images



## Synopsis

Interest in genealogy often begins with a stack of old photos. Genealogists and non-genealogists love old photos, and many have collections of photos of their ancestors, but sadly are unaware of how to organize and properly care for these precious heirlooms. *Preserving Your Family Photographs* shows how to organize and store photographs so future generations can enjoy them. All genealogists, family historians and anyone with a desire to gather and preserve family photographs in an album will benefit from this book. Readers will learn to care for photos, how to identify different types of damage and learn basic conservation techniques, how to buy the proper storage materials, how to organize the family photo archive, and how to safely display photographs. This book is a strong follow-up to *Uncovering Your Ancestry Through Family Photographs*, which discussed how to identify types of old photos and how to interpret family history information in them.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For me, studying old photos is one of the more fascinating aspects of family research, even when I'm not related to any of the people whose faces appear. The military uniforms, hats, parlor furniture, automobiles, urban scenes, and especially the faces and their expressions, are like a kind of time travel, allowing you to peer back into someone's past. Taylor's previous book, *Uncovering Your Ancestry Through Family Photographs*, investigated that process. But how to protect the photos you already have tucked away in albums so future family members will get the same pleasure

(and information) from them? And how to rehabilitate those you discover to whom the years and the elements have not been kind? This time, the author outlines the steps you can take to see that your photographs have the best chance of survival and describes the methods conservators and restoration experts follow when the task becomes too much for you. She also guides you through the process of creating a meaningful scrapbook of archival quality, discusses the use of computer enhancement and electronic archives, and points out the legal aspects of posting photographs on a web site. Most of the chapters end with checklists and answers to frequently-asked questions, and there are many sidebars and brief marginal comments regarding further reading and useful Internet resources on the subject. Keeping in mind that the technical aspects of photographic restoration and preservation continue to evolve rapidly, this is an excellent beginner's guide and reference handbook.

Mama won't take your Kodachrome away, it is time and the elements which are attacking your treasured family photographs. Your Polaroid snapshots are fading as you read this. Those "magnetic" photo albums with the adhesive pages are gassing your family pictures to crumbs. Your digital images may not be viewable by your great grandchildren. But don't give up hope - take action. Maureen Taylor's "Preserving Your Family Photographs" tells you how to take charge and protect your family's photographic history. "Preserving Your Family Photographs" shows you how taking some simple steps now will slow down the aging process of your photographs. And it doesn't require a chemistry set. The book further discusses how and when to choose a professional conservator, concerns about digital photography, how to organize your collection, and even how to safely place your treasures in a scrapbook. This book takes up where "Uncovering Your Ancestry Through Family Photographs" leaves off. After you've identified your family photographs, "Preserving Your Family Photographs" tells you how to keep them for generations to come.

Taylor may give readers a good place to start in their efforts to preserve family photographs, but offers information that is both contradictory and vague. She gives a basic explanation of the "enemies" your photographs are facing, even breaking down information on particular types of photographs, tintypes, Polaroids, etc. But does not bother defining some basic terms in the glossary such as lignin. Nor are many of her suggestions for which supplies are appropriate specific enough. Eg., what kind of brush should I use to clean photos? I know that Nylon brushes are probably not soft enough for treasured photos. Even worse she says polyethylene is a bad material to store your photos in, but a few pages later suggests using polyethylene freezer bags for freezer storage of

items. Taylor includes lengthy lists of resources for, and more information on preservation. But some of the web addresses she lists no longer exist. While she has some good suggestions for long-term storage of photo collections, I would not recommend this book to anyone trying to learn about photographic preservation.

Let me start by saying that this is the first book on this subject I have looked at, so it's possible that this is the best of what is out there. However, I felt it was only ok. It provides some helpful information on how to distinguish different photos by what type of process was used to create it. but for the most part that doesn't really make much difference in how they are preserved. According to Taylor, all photos are best preserved by putting them in acid-free, archival quality envelopes inside acid-free, archival quality boxes. Apparently it can be difficult to tell which products are truly of archival quality, so the solution Taylor provides is to tell you to call the manufacturer. No list of quality products are given. Photos should also be scanned and preserved digitally and she does generally discuss the options here, although there is no discussion (I don't believe) of cloud storage on lost-cost options like Google Drive. There is some discussion of the things a professional photo conservator can do and a very general discussion of some of the things an individual can do at home to restore photographic images that have been scanned, but they are very general and I feel I would have to do a lot more research to actually do it myself. But all of the information about really would fit into a pamphlet; the rest is a lots and lots of repetition and some not particularly helpful "case studies". I felt this was padded to make it into book length so the price of a book could be charged.

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