

# Valerie's Tips for Happy Historians

**Organization** is key. Even if you don't start your actual book until the last minute, starting out organized puts you way ahead. Use your hands out today to organize your folders in the order of your finished book. I personally favor stand up files as I can file 1 handed and am more likely to file instead of pile.

**Journaling** is such a pain! Don't know what to say or how to say it, hand writing illegible or typing takes forever with the hunt and peck method. There are so many reasons not to write anything. You just never know if your scrapbook is going to be the one in 20 years that has the picture of the next Madam President, Olympic medalist or Pulitzer Prize winner. Write names when you know them, signs of the time, important issues....

**Photos:** whoever takes your photos, how they do it counts. We all know who our favorite subjects are, our own children. Your books will be so much more interesting if you have a wide variety of subjects to feature instead of just a select group.

**The pretty stuff:** You don't have to be a creative genius to put one of these books together. Accessorizing is nice, but keep your focus on the photos and the journaling. If you do that, you will be less stressed putting your book together. Go for clean, classic and elegant as opposed to trendy and your book will never look dated.

**Quality matters:** You want your finished product to be long lasting. Think of how many photo albums and scrapbooks you've seen that have fallen apart over the years, or ruined the photos they are supposed to be preserving. (I just redid my Mom's high school scrapbook for my Dad. It had literally fallen apart.) Creative Memories albums come with a life time guarantee. They are the only ones that come with that guarantee.

I am here to help!

Valerie Retan (Creative Memories Leader for 20 years)

Questions? Email [valerie@retans.com](mailto:valerie@retans.com) or

Call 214-394-5540, cell 972-669-3700, home

Please visit my website to shop, get instruction, inspired or ideas  
[www.mycmsite.com/valerieretan](http://www.mycmsite.com/valerieretan) My Consultant #52949257

Creative Memories offers everything you need to preserve your photos.  
Scrapbooks or digital books, we have it all!