

10 Simple Steps To Sharing Your Life Story And Your Family History



The Alternative to Writing a Book



Have your kids been asking you to write a book? Record your memoirs? Do “something” with all your old photos and mementos?

At Heirloom Films and Storybooks, we can help with your challenge. We know that writing a book or tackling that photo collection can seem daunting or even impossible.

So give them a video.

Why video? Because making videos is easy. With very simple and enjoyable interviews you can quickly tell your own story and your family history over a cup of tea with a professional interviewer who will do all the hard work for you!

We'll digitally capture your old photos and put them into the interview footage and you'll have a movie you can be proud of. And you won't have to write a book!

Your family will have a beautiful video keepsake forever preserving their history and a first hand impression of you and your partner. They'll be able to watch your movie on their smart phones, tablets, computers, and televisions. All those physical photos, and albums and mementos can then be put into watertight plastic tubs and stored away. Problem solved.

Your life story family history video is going to be the most amazing gift you've ever given!

WATCH SAMPLE MOVIES

Why Your Kids and Grandkids Want You To Tell Your Life Stories and Family History

- > You've lived through interesting times and they will be inspired by hearing your story.
- > You (and not many others) know the stories of your parents and grandparents. You can honour them by ensuring their memory lives on.
- > You know the names of the people in all those photos in your albums and boxes. Your kids will wish they knew the names.
- > You've learned what is important in life and how to stay positive, hopeful, constructive, useful, loving. You can remind them in your video.
- > If your spouse has passed away, you're the best person to tell their story so the next generation remembers who they were too.

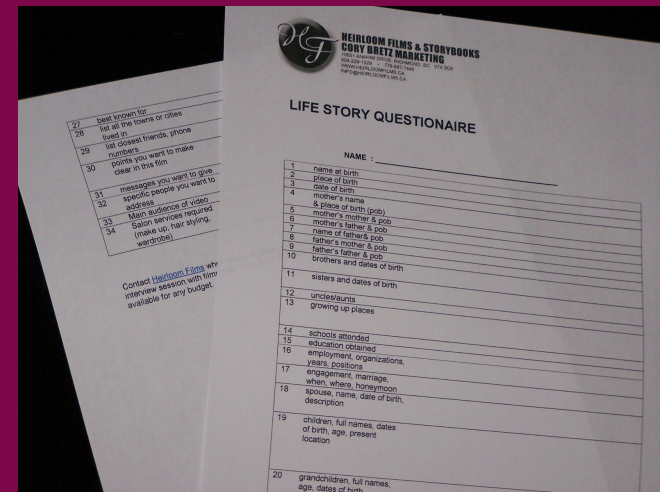


STEP # 1 - GETTING STARTED

When you are choosing what kind of video biography film you want for yourself, it's important to get the right package. Your life story family history film will be around forever so understanding the components of an Heirloom Film is critical, before we start to make yours for you.

Initial Film Planning Session

The first meeting you have with your personal historian could be several hours and it might be in-person, on the phone, or even through video conferencing on your computer! You will have already received a [Life Story Questionnaire and Film Specifications document](#) to complete. The personal historian will review these and ask you questions about what you feel are the most important elements of your life story to have in your Heirloom Film. From this, an outline is created that serves you and the personal historian as a guide throughout the videotaped interviews and later when your film is being put together in the editing studio.



HEIRLOOM FILMS & STORYBOOKS
CORY ORTZ MARKETING
10000 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90024
Tel: 310.341.1111
info@heirloomfilms.com

LIFE STORY QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME : _____

1. name at birth
2. place of birth
3. date of birth
4. mother's name & place of birth (pob)
5. mother's mother & pob
6. mother's father & pob
7. name of father & pob
8. father's mother & pob
9. father's father & pob
10. brothers and dates of birth
11. sisters and dates of birth
12. uncles/aunts
13. growing up places
14. schools attended
15. education obtained
16. employment, organizations, years, positions
17. engagement, marriage, when, where, honeymoon
18. spouse, name, date of birth, description
19. children, full names, dates of birth, age, present location
20. grandchildren, full names, age, dates of birth

STEP # 2 - VIDEOTAPED INTERVIEWS

Depending on the package you choose, the personal historian will visit you 1 to 3 or 4 times or more to interview you with a camera running. Lights may be set up and you will have a lapel microphone clipped to your clothing. These sessions usually run between 2 and 4 hours and they can be scheduled at your convenience. It is advisable to discuss clothing and salon requirements with the personal historian in advance of your first interview session. You may wish to invite a friend to support you that day but too many can be a disruptive crowd. You may even invite individuals to appear in your Heirloom Film for brief cameo appearances which are either included in your package or are add-on options.

Who better to help describe you and your life than your friends and family? Consider inviting those close few who can add something interesting about you to join you in front of the camera for a few minutes. They will be in the end credits and their name will appear superimposed while they speak about you. Share the fun!



STEP # 3 - PHOTOGRAPH CAPTURING

Your life story family history film will be greatly enhanced with the inclusion of images from your photo collection.

We use scanners, digital cameras, and video cameras to “capture” your photos. We can even capture slides, 8mm film, and various formats of camcorder and videotape footage. Additional charges may apply.

As an added bonus, you’ll receive all your scanned photos on a USB Flash Drive and have them stored on the internet so you can share them on social media or use them in other family history projects like storybooks and family trees.

To get started you’ll want to locate your old photos and start sorting them. For the loose paper print photos use file folders or envelopes to group them by people. That is, put all the photos of your mom in one envelope and the photos of your dad in another. Have one envelope for your mom and dad together. For photos that are mounted in old photo albums, just leave them in there and use 3M Post-It Notes to label who each person is. Don’t hesitate to write on the backs of photos with names, places, dates, and stories.

This advanced prep can save you time, money, and make the process much more enjoyable.



STEP # 4 - EDITING AND ASSEMBLY



After your on camera interviews are complete, and we've captured your photos, our videographer personal historian puts it all together using state-of-the-art digital video editing systems.

Your film will be tastefully assembled and kept in high definition digital video format from start to finish.

It will be specifically formatted to play smoothly on handheld devices like smart phones, tablets, and laptops in addition to big screen HD televisions.

STEP # 5 - REVIEWS, SCREENING, AND RE-EDITING

You will be shown several versions of your film throughout the editing process. These reviews are called screening.

We offer a very convenient online screening process where you can review your videos on your computer, tablet or smartphone and easily make comments and suggestions for changes. You just need an internet connection.

Consider involving your best friends in your initial review because most of us aren't very objective about ourselves and tend to be too critical about how we look and sound in pictures and video. Always remember that your audience - your grandkids & great grandkids - don't see you the way you see you.

Once you've reviewed your first draft, we'll do some re-editing, make the changes and send you a new version to look at.

In many cases, most adjustments can easily be accommodated within your project parameters. The number of rounds of screening and re-editing you have depends on the package you purchased.

And, for significant changes, like re-writing the entire script, re-shooting segments, or adding in new topics, additional charges probably apply.

That's why we so love to hear about your vision of your film during the Initial Film Planning Session.



STEP # 6 - WHAT TO SAY?

Telling your life story is easier than you think. After all, it is your life and it's the thing you know best!

The human mind stores things away in a manner that our skilled interviewers can help you access effortlessly. In fact, you'll be very quickly talking about things you thought you'd forgotten forever!

However, it is essential that you give yourself permission to be *inaccurate*. The story is more important than factual accuracy. You are not under oath. You just want to give the viewers of your film a general sense of your life's events, not a legally correct deposition.

Your on camera video interviews can be done where you are most comfortable. It could be your living room, office, patio, or wherever you feel relaxed and conversational.

Each session usually runs between 2 and 4 hours and you can set the length to suit your calendar and your energy level.

Your personal historian will give you a Life Story Questionnaire in advance to fill out so you'll already have a basic direction to start from.

We even have a long list of questions and topics you can review to make telling your story easy.

Some of our clients have polled their kids and grandkids for suggestions. You'd be surprised what they've always wondered about you and your family!



STEP # 7 - SHARING WISDOM, VALUES, AND PERSONAL BLESSINGS

The viewers of your film will enjoy hearing what you really think about various topics. To those who believe life is a learning experience, your journey represents a treasure trove of knowledge. Your personal historian videographer will help you decide what topics you want to delve into. Topics can be the innocuous like how to swing a golf club or what to do to get ahead at work. Or you can talk about your spirituality, morality, regrets, and even venture your opinion on such matters as religion, sex, relationships and politics!

Nothing will touch the heart of your loved ones more than when in your video you look them in the eye, say their name, and tell each and every one of them how much each has mattered to you and how.

To those who value you and your presence in their lives the personal messages and blessings you give them in your Life Story Family History film will nourish and heal them forever.

Many past clients have reported a sense of relief after having “said their piece” to each of their special loved ones and friends. Depending on the package you choose, personal blessings and messages may be included or can be added on.

STEP # 8 - CUSTOM MUSICAL SCORE

Every film has some music in it to set the tone and add energy. We'll provide a selection of breathtakingly beautiful royalty-free music at key points in your film that will take it from mesmerizing to momentous!

Sorry, because commercially distributed copyright music is usually owned by others, including it in your video is copyright infringement and we don't do that!

You might be able to secure the appropriate licenses from the owner of the music or perhaps there's a royalty-free public domain version that can be found.

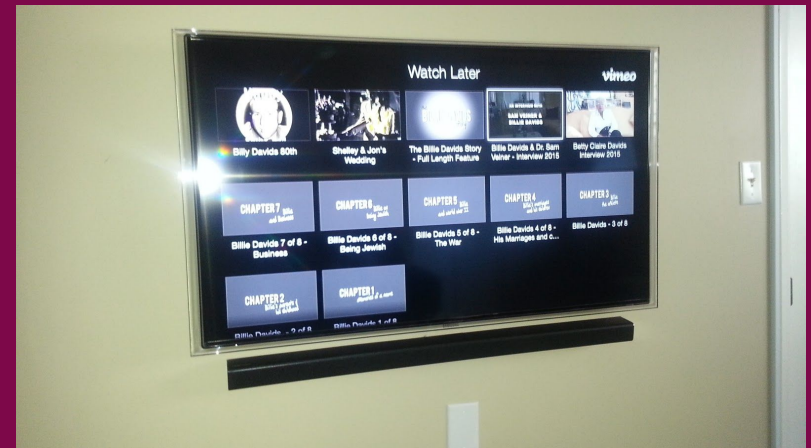
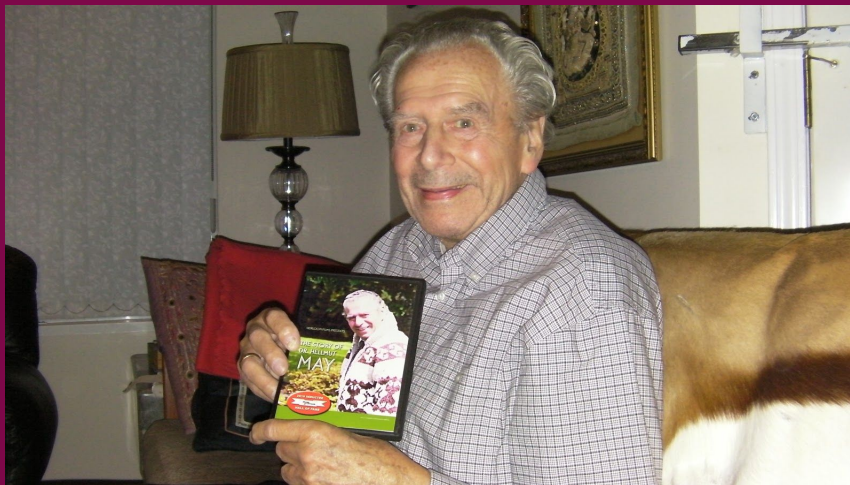


STEP # 9 - STORAGE, SHARING, AND STREAMING

With your initial order we'll give you several methods to share your Life Story Family History film. These days streaming video from the internet is both reliable and very accessible to those you want to show your film to. The youngest generation is highly connected and tech-savvy so they will be expecting to view your film on their phones and tablets.

We include free storage and 24/7 streaming on Vimeo.com.

Plus, you'll get all the high definition video files stored on a USB Flash Drive that can be played on your Smart TV and computer, either Mac or Windows. These devices make great gifts to wrap up and stick a bow on.



STEP # 10 - DEBUT SCREENING PARTY!

Show off your new masterpiece Life Story Family History film with a Debut Screening Party that will be the talk of the town. We can make it easy with complete party planning services, invitations, and big screens! Don't be bashful.



Or just invite your loved ones over, a few at a time and have a Private Showing of your movie - just for them.

READY TO GET STARTED?

Giving your grandkids and great grandkids (who might not even be born yet) a video about you and their family history could be the most meaningful gift they ever receive.

It's actually a simple process.

If you've got questions or you'd like to get started [arrange your free consultation](#).



Phone 778-887-7446



Arrange your free consultation with Personal Historian Cory Bretz. He's been making life story family history films for two decades. He'd love to hear about your life story and family history and talk about how to make the most amazing film you've ever seen...the movie about you!

ARRANGE FREE CONSULTATION