

The TOP 3 REASONS

Your Life-Story Is Not Done *YET*

**....& How You Can Go from 'I Can't Imagine' to
'It's DONE!'**

Here's the Backstory:

I first put photos on black pages of a scrapbook in high school -- 1960. Very few photos --only tool was glue. Years later I re-discovered it --memories flooded -- I pondered the unbeknownst life-shaping that occurred in those early years.

I had never seen, heard or dreamed of digital photos, DSLR's or even a computer in 1960 – certainly not something as strange as the “cloud”. At age 50, printed photos were mounting up - I learned to make photo albums, and I was “hooked”.

What happened next has absolutely WOW'd me! Today – I own FOREVER storage® (my lifetime +100 years, guaranteed) for photos/videos/stories I want saved beyond my lifetime -- best phone photos automatically go there + my DSLR photos, plus I have a system for getting them ready for printed albums.

At 76, my perspective is truly focused. No time to waste – I love my grandkids but their memories of me cover only the last 10 years. They know, at best, a bit of my history, my values and what I yearn to hand down to them. And that will fade.

WHAT'S A LIFE-STORY ALBUM? I use it to describe a 12x12 digital photo album created to cover the life-shaping events, milestones, and key points telling the over-arching story of a person's life (up to the present) through photos & stories. If it is about an ancestor, you may use every scrap of info and all the photos you can find – because there aren't many. But not for your own Life-Story.

[Over 80% of the people I talk to about preserving memories via photos and stories share the same mistake which kills their Life Story getting done. It has nothing to do with how smart they are – because I interact with lots of really brilliant people.](#)

It's because they hit emotional blocks with telling their Life Story, even to the point of saying “I'm not dead yet” – oh, just let that sink in! Here it is:

**Creating a Life-Story album is not rocket science.
But there is a definite sequence and process to it.**

Get it DONE & it's a timeless treasure, not only for generations to come, but for you. It is a blessed journey--much more “doable” than you can imagine! Don't get it done & the pearls get scattered and lost – never strung together again.

Here are the top 3 REASONS stopping well-meaning people from getting their Life-Story DONE – plus my tips & guidance to get you to the finish line.

I'm rooting for you!

Candy

Mistaken Reasoning #1:

Who cares about my story – I am not that important.

How this shows up:

You consider doing an album on “just you”. You start looking for your baby book, & photos. Some printed, others digital – all over the place. My gosh –boxes, flash drives, camera cards. Eeeks! Even old computers just because they have photos! And so many years – how can I possibly remember it all?

And I really haven’t done anything important, have I? A whole day has passed “messaging” around looking for stuff. You think about how much time it will take to find it all – and figure it all out. There is so much else going on! Maybe your sister will do an album because she has the family’s stuff. Cross your fingers.

The fix: Make a Decision

Getting it DONE! Isn’t that what it is all about?

As I said earlier....Creating a Life Story album is not rocket science. But there is a definite sequence and process to it. And it does not have to include EVERYTHING – just the highlights and key events – a movie that gets the story across in an hour and a half combines visual and storyline insights to those highlights. Altogether, it then paints the overarching picture or storyline of a Life Story. That’s all you need.

It all comes down to (1) making a decision & (2) following a workable system

Why this is not workable:

I saw an old photo of a husband & wife (tiny stick-figure size) in front of a frame house & asked my mom -- they were her great grandparents. Her only memory (she was almost 80) was of the man sitting on his front porch soaking his feet while watching a car (1920’s) go by occasionally & finally asking “Where are they all going?”.

I chuckled but had no sense of who they were. Later, as I did genealogy work, oh my, here is what I found on him:

- Enlisted in US Army at age 19 to fight Indians (1855)
- Discharged in 1860, he met & married in Texas and promptly join the Civil War in 1862 (Texas Cavalry)
- Fought battles 1862-1864 & spent last year of War in prison - fought hunger, lack of supplies, survival issues
- Came home, farmed cotton, raised a family & lived through the difficulty of reconstruction for Confederate soldiers. Bet he didn’t feel important – just a regular guy.
- Met with handful of men for 7 years praying every Sunday until a church was founded & he was a traveling preacher for many of his pioneer days. Faith story???

Imagine how I yearn to know just a few of their personal thoughts, the life-building and character-developing times. Heck, just daily life would be fascinating!
Will your future family value your Life Story? Heck yes!

Mistaken Reasoning #2:

There are some tough parts – I can't put those in there.

How this shows up:

I can't tell my WHOLE Life Story – I have been married twice, and what do I say about the divorce? If I really tell it all, there are some things that will offend my grown kids. It could impact their relationship with the other parent.

Or....There's no way I could share the truth about my parent/sibling/friend who was so damaging to me.

Or....I have struggled with some really awful things that happened to me. Their impact and my view of them is important to my life story but I don't want that shared until after I am gone. It is too embarrassing. And I don't want to be asked about it all – yet it's important.

Fear and discomfort set in.

Why this is not workable:

Being truthful is hard but not being truthful can lead to more harm than good – for you and for others

Example 1: Teen daughter after a fight with cancer looked at mom's digital scrapbook recounting the story. She said "Mom, you only show the easy stuff, the smiles – that's not the real story. I want to remember the WHOLE story."

Example 2: My 80-year-old uncle saw a digital album I made from my deceased mother's (his sister's) photos & stories. It told of their grandfather's shooting himself post-1930's stock crash where he lost everything. My uncle cried out "no, that is not how it happened!" Turns out his mother told him, at age 9, a softer story – not the truth. It took a death certificate for him to accept it – and he was devastated. Not by how his grandfather died, he actually understood him better. But by his own mother lying to him and never correcting it.

The fix: You have good options

- It is Your Life Story – you tell as much as you want & at a comfortable level of detail
- There are great "writing helps" available to assist in this – I can share & coach you on it
- What's most important is what impacted your life and how it shaped you – sharing end results is often sufficient – acknowledge pain & how you traveled through it
- Example: my divorce – I created one page about the first wedding; 2nd page about the 10 years as 'single mom' and 3rd page shows 2nd marriage of 30 years duration. I found it healing to put perspective to these events & see how God totally walked with me.
- Example: a client called her sister to clarify something in their growing-up history – they had not spoken for years due to a riff. They restored their relationship as they talked and she learned much about those years she had forgotten. Her sis added depth.
- Option: create a "public consumption" album for now. Create some pages to add for a 2nd book which stays in your FOREVER account. You provide directions for your account manager (a family member, executor?) on the timing for printing the 2nd book.

Mistaken Reasoning #3:

It's OVERWHELMING – I can't imagine how to get it done.

How this shows up:

You're motivated to do your Life Story! Hooray! You attack it like Spring Cleaning – start gathering ALL your photos. Oops, where are they? Some here – some there – you start pulling out flash drives, everything. Then you get stumped by what to do with the printed photos and memorabilia – how many?? And why isn't that scanner working – ugh, I have spent the whole day and am barely started into the mass of stuff.

Or maybe you realize, like my client did, that her father-in-law's life story must be done FIRST. His health was failing. You do the same gathering task -- even a bit of sleuthing online. But, pretty quickly, you feel completely overwhelmed and confused. How can you pull it all together, quickly, in a coherent way? And what online system is best? How hard is it?

Why this is not workable:

Chaos results in confusion – then comes exhaustion and hopelessness. While it is logical to think you should gather ALL the photos, ALL the stories, ALL the information – that is just an impossibility. Never-ending.

Frankly, that is what overwhelms – and shuts down -- those who have become motivated to do their own Life Story. Maybe they start the gathering, or just mentally think about it – then here comes the realization of how much there is, and how scattered it is -- overwhelm. They decide to “put it off” until another day – which never comes.

Of course, my client doing another person's Life Story found it easier – there weren't many photos. She sent her husband almost daily over to his father's house to get “one more photo” and “one more story”.

The good news is that she followed my Course, finished the book, got it printed and in her father-in-law's hands while he could still enjoy it. Shortly thereafter, he went into hospice. She is so grateful she did his story first. And hers went so much faster – she had a “system”.

The fix: Think Like a Film Director

As I watched people doing their project photo albums and their yearly photo albums, I realized they were following the photos, mostly. I had to consistently ask questions and encourage them to write the stories. Not just the Who, What, Where questions being answered but the Why – expanded into how is this important to you, in your world? And one day, as we age, we get to the place where we realize we must write our own stories. Who else really KNOWS our full and true story? And if they write it, will they get it RIGHT? Most likely – NOT!

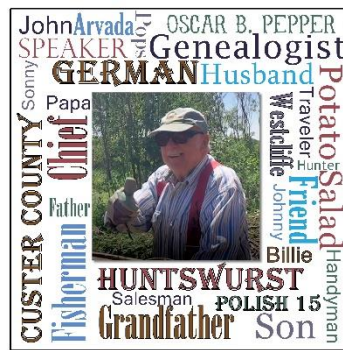
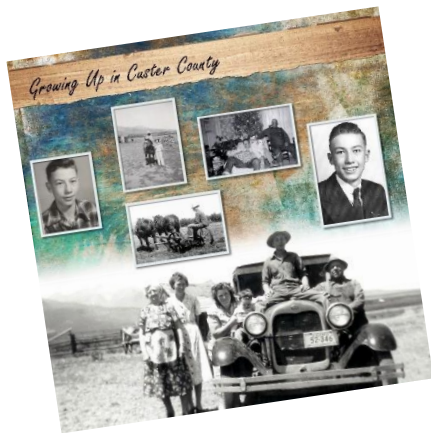
I learned we had to change mindsets! We had to become our own story's Film Director. We had to start with a written Script / cut and add to the Script / bring out salient highlights -- key happenings in our lives / include selected photos that make the points and stir the memory / write poignant stories illustrating our milestones and life-shaping events. THAT's a Life-Story!

“

A BIRTH CERTIFICATE SHOWS YOU
WERE BORN --
A DEATH CERTIFICATE SHOWS YOU
DIED --
BUT A "LIFE STORY" ALBUM
SHOWS YOU LIVED !!

”

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?



About the Author



Hey, I'm Candy McCune.

I'm a wife, mom and MeMaw to 4 precious grandkids...plus I have had quite the journey to get to my mid-70's with a health for which I am so grateful.

I have shared here bits of my journey through the years with photos and stories. Always staying in the "hobby" position meant I didn't get as organized as I wanted nor did I get as many albums completed as I would have liked.

Another hobby has intertwined and enriched my photobook work – genealogy!

While I started with Creative Memories, a major paper scrapbooking company, in 1996, I did a bit of dabbling in the genealogy area even before my kids came along. But neither of these ever got my full attention.

But both of these stayed in the background throughout my raising of a family, attending law school as a single mom, and launching

into that profession for over 20 years full-time. These dominated my waking hours.

But I did organize friends and customers over the later years for workshops, retreats and "crops" focused on helping them get their photos and stories preserved and enjoyed. I knew from my own struggles that we all needed inspiration, encouragement and accountability to get our albums done.

A few years ago I started a weekly email/blog with my downline & friends. While I cover Body (health) and Soul (reconciliation) work, I have a true love of the Heart (photos & stories) work. It has led me to create a Life Story course.

My goal is to share what I know in a clear and simple way to give others the confidence and competence to get their Life Stories told and preserved.

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Here's how I constructed the course – **Do A Life-Story Album in 3 Easy Steps**

<p>#1 GET A FILM DIRECTOR MINDSET <i>A good movie is 1.5 to 2 hours – it doesn't chronicle everything about it's "hero" (you, by the way).</i></p>	<p>#4 GATHER CERTAIN PHOTOS, FACTS & STORIES <i>Following the Script, gather ONLY the ID'd photos, write stories of the outlined points</i></p>
<p>#2 CREATE A SCRIPT <i>Narrow down your scope to 10-12 categories -- highlights or milestones in each.</i></p>	<p>#5 CHOOSE YOUR ONLINE STAGE <i>You choose simple or fancy from my array of template page options.</i></p>
<p>#3 OUTLINE THE KEY POINTS <i>In each category -- major points, events, people and stories which shaped & defined you.</i></p>	<p>#6 PROOFREAD - PRINT <i>Go back through seeing an overarching story revealed through the digital pages. Tweak -- then hit "print".</i></p>

READY TO *Finish*

Your Life-Story Album?



You know what's keeping you from finishing your Life-Story Album -- and maybe you now have some insight on how to fix that problem, BUT YOU MAY STILL BE MISSING something. Keep reading.....

I failed to mention one MAJOR piece of the puzzle you may be missing:



A SYSTEM



I've been making and helping folks create albums for many years (remember I said I am 76 years old), and I know what gets keeps many well-meaning album creators and memory keepers from FINISHING their projects. They know WHY they want to. They know WHAT they want to do, but they still get stuck. This is why I created a SYSTEM to keep them going, and why I've created my online coaching and course workshop.

My system helps you pare down and polish a complete and precious life story. You'll be able to write it...but even better you'll learn how to tell the story with photos and journaling. Want to know the BEST part? Using my system, you could have your Life-Story Album ready to share in 6 weeks or less--start to finish.

Ready to join me?
Just email me: hello@candymccune.com
OR
Visit www.Candymccune.com/heart

