

The Old Shoebox Newsletter

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The Family Newsletter

It's Time!



Feeling a little flustered?

How are you going to top last years Christmas letter masterpiece?

Why do you have to write one every year?

Nothing new to report?

Santa's little helper is here with the perfect solution. Even if you procrastinate each year I have help for you at the end of this newsletter.

The Holiday Newsletter - *Something New.*

The stress of the holidays will soon be upon us. Many of you will feel obligated to continue the tradition of writing the annual Christmas or New Years newsletter. This year you have an opportunity to start a new tradition and do something different, more meaningful and fun!

You can make and send a newsletter on a self-running gift CD/DVD. Imagine how exciting it will be for your children and grandchildren to hear your voice speaking directly to them even though you may be thousands of miles away in

a different state or country. This will be more exciting than the boring old newsletter we all dread writing, receiving and reading each year.

The best presents are the ones we personalize and share with our loved ones. Picture the surprise of opening a letter containing a gift CD or DVD with instructions to gather the family around the computer, turn on the speakers and insert the CD for a special holiday treat!

This is not going to be hard so take a deep breath and relax! We're going to do this in steps with specific how to instructions. Getting

started today will eliminate the last minute holiday stress you suffer from each year. I have included a strategy for you procrastinators to save your bacon because you always put this off to the last minute.



Step One. Decide what you would like to share and talk about. Yes, “talk about” since you can add your voice if you like. If that seems too hard don’t worry about it now. We can discuss adding narration later or you can type your comments.

Here’s a few ideas to help stimulate your thinking about what you could share:

1. Narrate or share your favorite Christmas story. Read and record it as though you were there holding each child in your lap. They will cherish hearing your voice for many years to come. Scan or take photos of your favorite old storybook. Record yourself as you read or tell the story from each page. Consider personalizing the story by using the name of a grandchild in the story. You could make a special introductory narrative for each child so you would not have to record the whole story for each child, just the beginning.
2. Share some stories of Christmas past and the things you loved about Christmas when you were a child.
3. Talk about your favorite holiday traditions.
4. Changes and new things around your home. Did you remodel or buy a new home? Let the family see a photo of it or the miracles you accomplished with a remodel. Refer to the newsletter, “A Family History Time Capsule.”
5. Refer to the newsletter, “Creating and Sharing Holiday Memories.” This will give you ideas for Thanksgiving and other holidays.

6. Additions to the family – children, marriages or new grandbabies. Take photos or scan the pictures you have received for everyone to see.



7. A new pet. Yes it would be fun to see what you are so in love with!
8. A few photos of your summer vacation – keep it brief, *just the good stuff*.
9. Work Advancement. We want to see the award, expensive new watch or covet the bonus check. Scan it – take a photo – share it with us and brag a little!
10. New car or something you purchased and are excited about.
11. Family Update. A photo and “brief” description of where everyone is located and what they are doing. Use hotspots to make this easy.
12. What you’ve been doing this past year.
13. Did you go on a cruise? Share a few of the best photos with us – please no “thinking of you or wish you were here” stuff. We feel bad enough being chained to home, work, and cold

weather. Just kidding. Sharing our lives is what brings families closer together during the holidays.

14. Be creative and share other interesting facts about you and your family.



Step Two. Use Heritage Collector to create photo collections. Some collection names might be:

New Grandchildren

Karen's Wedding

Jim's New Job

Stories of Christmas Past.

Christmas 1985.

The Old Trapper, a Christmas Story.

Need help naming and making a collection? Refer to page 24 in the manual, use the Help button on the New Collection screen, or click the orange "How" button and watch the "Create Collection" tutorial movie.



Step Three. Scan or import photos into collections. Use the Copy / Move option to add photos from other collections to your newsletter collections. Use the Search function to quickly find the photos you want to share and copy them to the newsletter collections.

Need Help? Refer to the manual on page 36 for scanning instructions, page 34 for importing instructions and page 42 for Copy / Move instructions, and Find instructions on page 48. Click the Help button at the bottom of each display for more information.



Step Four. Create a Slideshow. This is simple since every collection is already a slideshow and you don't have to do anything special except arrange the photos in the order you prefer.

Need help? To move a photo, left click on the photo, hold the mouse button down while dragging it to the desired place in the collection. To test run your slideshow, click the Slide Show menu, select Play Show and All Photos. Refer to page 56 in the manual for additional directions.



Step Five.

What Media to Use? This is going to be very inexpensive – less than the cost of a postage stamp. You have three choices:

1. Normal Size CD. 700 megs of space which should be plenty for your letter plus some fun photos and more information.
2. DVD. Has 4.6 gigs of space allowing you to add a lot of information or maybe some short video clips from your digital camera of the new baby.
3. Small CD – great for inserting into a letter. However, they are harder to find and more expensive depending on how many you purchase. Most people have not used one of the small mini CDs or DVDs and may be reluctant to put it in their CD drive. The Mini CDs have a smaller capacity but should be enough for a traditional Christmas letter. Heritage Collector will not let you make a mistake and will tell you if the CD or DVD has enough space BEFORE you make the CD/DVD. Mini CD/DVDs are available via the Internet.





Step Six. Make a Gift CD/DVD. Surprise! Heritage Collector makes this really simple and fast.

Need Help?

- a. Insert a blank CD/DVD.
- b. Click the CD/DVD menu item at the top middle of Heritage Collector display.
- c. Select the Create Gift CD/DVD menu option.
- d. Click the collections you wish to share and the Add button.
- e. Click the Burn button (lower right). In a few minutes you will have a self-running gift CD/DVD to share with the family.

The gift CD/DVD will automatically run when inserted into another PC. Your family will be able to watch and listen to the slideshows you have created, view the photos full screen, print photos and more.

Consider adding a few family history collections to the gift CD/DVD. This is the perfect chance to get everyone interested in family history by looking at some of the other collections you just happened to add to the gift CD/DVD.

Optional Step Seven. Creating a Fancy CD / DVD Jewel Case Insert. If you are feeling really festive you can dress up your masterpiece with a classy CD/DVD insert. Heritage Collector will help you make a color insert using a photo from one of your collections. You can easily add a caption or several lines of text over the photo and then print the insert containing a list of the collections on the gift CD/DVD.

Need Help? Refer to page 64 in the manual for step-by-step instructions.



Optional Step Eight. Adding sound to a slideshow, photo or hotspot. The crowning touch is to add an oral narrative to the slideshow or the stories you are sharing with relatives, family or grandchildren. Each photo has the capacity to tell its own story using the voice of anyone you choose. Clicking on a photo of grandma and hearing her speak will be like having her right in the room with you. Voices or narrative may be added to each photo or to the hotspots on a photo.

Need help? Click the orange How button and select Photo Hotspots to watch the tutorial movie.

Adding hotspots – page 38.

Creating Talking Hotspots – page 40.

Adding and associating sound files – page 40.

Refer to the Digital Family History Guidebook for more detailed and simplified instructions.

Chapter Three - Working With Sound. How to connect and use a microphone. How to capture and convert old cassette tape recordings to use with your computer or in a slideshow.

Chapter Six - Interactive Storytelling. This chapter will help you learn how to create fun and interesting slideshows.



Help for YOU Procrastinators!

You know who I'm talking about – you and me! Heritage Collector to the rescue! You can quickly make a PDF of the collections you want to share and send the PDF as an e-mail attachment. You can make the PDF and send it from within Heritage Collector in less than five minutes. Yes, you can still send it out Christmas Eve or on New Years Day. It will get there on time because e-mail doesn't take any days off. You can make them feel even better by saying the gift CD will be coming in the mail in a few days. Saved again by Heritage Collector!



Need help making the PDF? Click the orange How button at the top right of the main display and watch the "Create PDF" tutorial movie. Refer to page 46 in the manual, or click the Help button when you select the Create PDF option in the Resource menu.

START TODAY!

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes to all of you!

Marlo

PS - Please send me a copy of your gift CD/DVD newsletters, I'd love to "See" and "Hear" from you!



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