

Brief History of Scrapbooking

1598 An author refers to gathering “words and approved phrases... to make use as it were a common place booke[sic].”

1706 John Locke, a philosopher, publishes his *New Method of Making Common-place Books*. Educated men and women paste quotes and phrases into these types of books.

1769 William Granger introduces a book that includes extra blank pages so that the owner can personalize it with autographs, letters, or illustrations relating to the book’s subject. It starts a hobby known as “extra illustrating” books.

1798 Lithography is invented – a printing technique which fixes images on a stone or metal plate using ink-absorbent and ink-repellent vehicles.

1800s Young women keep friendship albums filled with hair weavings, writings, signatures, scrap, cards, poetry, and even photographs of family and friends. The albums have beautiful embossed covers, engraved clasps, and locks. Homemakers keep the labels and trade cards from new consumer products and include these in their albums, while college students document their years at school.

1837 Godefroy Englemann invents chromolithography, a process of lithography in colors from a series of plates.

1859 Card photographs known as *cartes de visite* come to the United States.

1860s Mass production of advertising cards for companies and products.

1867 John Jerrard of London calls himself a dealer in photographs and scrap prints of every description for albums and scrapbooks.

1872 Mark Twain markets his self-pasting scrapbook. It has gummed pages that you can moisten before adhering various scraps. By 1901, at least 57 different types of Mark Twain albums are available.

1880 E.W. Gurley publishes *Scrapbooks and How to Make Them*. The popularity of scrapbooking is high among women and children.

1888 George Eastman sells the Kodak camera for amateur photographers under the slogan, “You push the button, we do the rest.” Photographs become a major part of scrapbooks.

1945 Prizes are offered for children’s scrapbooks.

1970s Alex Haley’s *Roots* spurs a resurgence of interest in family history.

1990s Scrapbooking emerges as a popular hobby. Special products are developed, and books and magazines are published to help families record and preserve their family history.

2000s Software is developed that allows page layouts and albums to be created on home computers. Pages can also be posted on the Internet for sharing with family and friends.

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