

Scrapbooks as Narratives

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The beauty of scrapbooks is that the maker juxtaposed the items to convey a story, which later allows the reader to create their own story from the same page. Scrapbooks are not objective documents. Rather, they express identity and a point of view.

Brief History

15th Century- commonplace books

19th Century-

- Memory books
- Carte visites collections
- Mark Twain patented scrap book

20th Century-

- Wider photography accessibility
- Archival movement

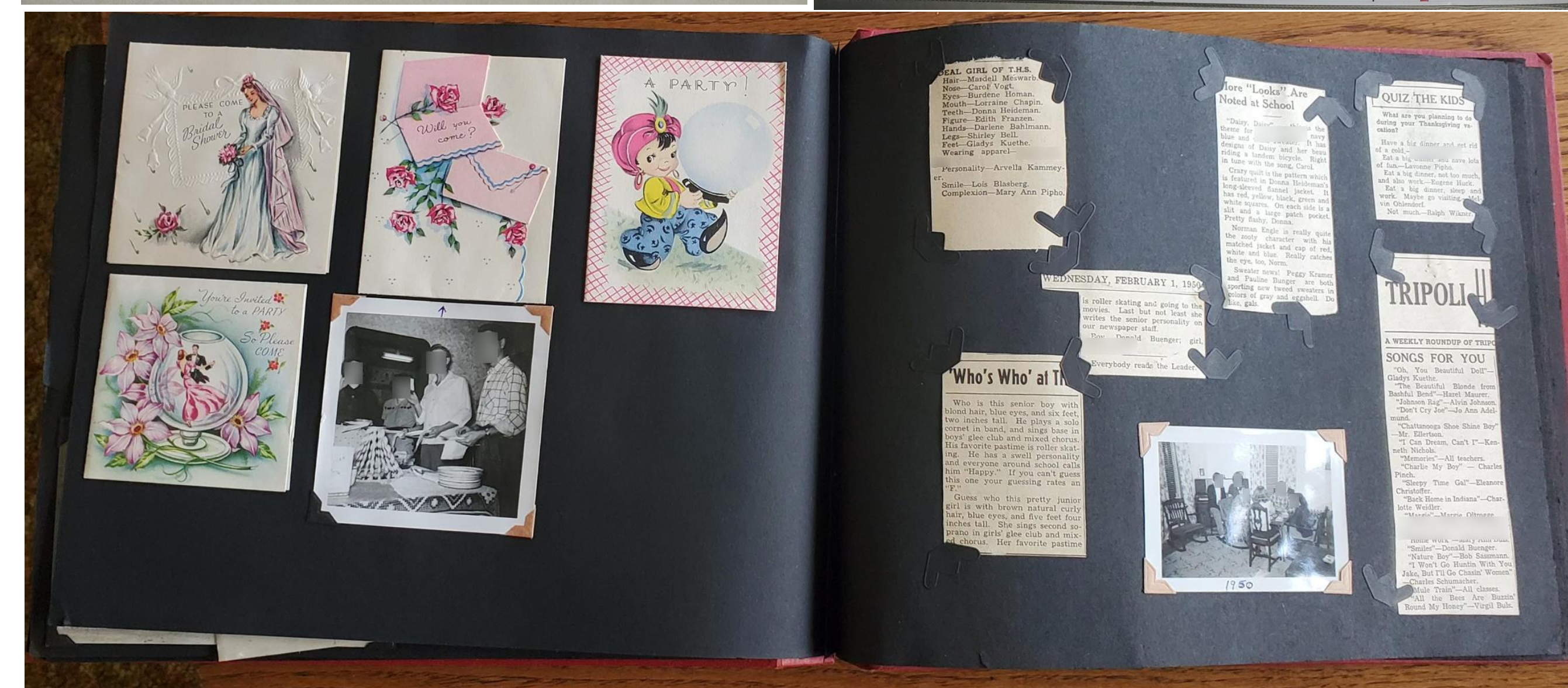
21st Century-

- Reached height of scrapbooking popularity
- Zine influence on scrapbooks
- Social media influence on scrapbooks

Family Legacy

Three generations of women scrapbooked in my family. My mom and I discovered Grandma's scrapbook from 1950.

We recreated the narrative of her young adulthood. For example, we learned that she got engaged on her prom night. She made a scrapbook for each of her children. Mom created scrapbooks of her young adulthood and my early childhood. She wanted those scrapbooks to show me that I was loved and that I had a great childhood.



Scrapbook: a semi-permanent, physical, annotated collection of ephemera, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, or photos.

How I Scrapbooked

1. Collected ticket stubs and pamphlets
2. Gathered and developed photos
3. Sorted photos and memorabilia into piles
4. Edited the content
5. Chose background paper and stickers
6. Typed my descriptions
7. Arranged materials on the page
8. Cut to size the photos
9. Taped materials onto the page
10. Slid a plastic protector over the page

I wanted my scrapbook to illustrate that I was successful in college and that I value my friends and family.

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