

I've saved my Box—What do I do with all the STUFF?

Step 1: Evaluate and use the information you have found while preserving your box. See: <https://www.preservingtime.org/evaluating-information.html>

Step 2: Inventory the items you have saved from your box. Decide what you want to keep (or that you are willing to store) and what you would like to get rid of. Use the table below to help you decide what to do with YOUR stuff.

| | Sentimental Value | Genealogical Value | Historical Value | Monetary Value |
|-----------------|--|---|--|---|
| Keep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use as decorations in your home; rotate with seasons if appropriate • Make a book telling the story of the items you have displayed in your home • Use the items • Repurpose the items for another use • Frame special papers or photos (Make copies and store the originals to preserve them) • Wear jewelry • Shadowbox frame 3D items (include a photo of who they belonged to) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store as safely as possible, but accessible if still need to extract information; Use a flat file system or boxes and sleeves made especially for photos • Upload information to FamilySearch or other online sites • Even genealogical items can make special decorations for a home • Show the items to your family and explain why they are important | <p>Research Historical Societies, Museums and Libraries that would like to have—and would preserve—your items. Arrange in your will for the items to go to the appropriate place after your death.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it really worth as much as you think it is? • Insure Valuable items • Live with and enjoy the items • Items with monetary value may include: Jewelry, coins, artwork, Autographs/letters, Signed Memorabilia, Photos of well-known or historical persons, 1st Edition or Rare books, Vintage clothing or military items • Some people store their important financial papers, such as stock certificates, with their genealogy papers |
| Not Keep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask other family members what holds memories for them and give them those items • Use social media to find more distant family who may want an item • Ask those on FamilySearch who are active in that family if they want the item(s) • Donate to DI or an Antique store | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask those you are currently collaborating with if they want any of the items • Find the closest living relative for the item you have and see if they want it • Use social media to find homes for the rest of the items you have if possible | <p>Research Historical Societies, Museums and Libraries that would like to have—and would preserve—your items. Donate your items to the location of your choice.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sell the things in this category that you don't want • Give the things in this category to family members, or someone else, that the items would have meaning for beyond the monetary value |

You never know what will appeal to someone else!! Keep asking around and try to find homes for the items you saved from your box. It may help someone else feel a connection to their ancestors!

Handout and PowerPoint Slides with examples will be posted after 20 January 2019 here: <https://www.preservingtime.org/what-do-i-do-with-the-stuff.html> See also: <https://www.preservingtime.org/save-the-box.html>