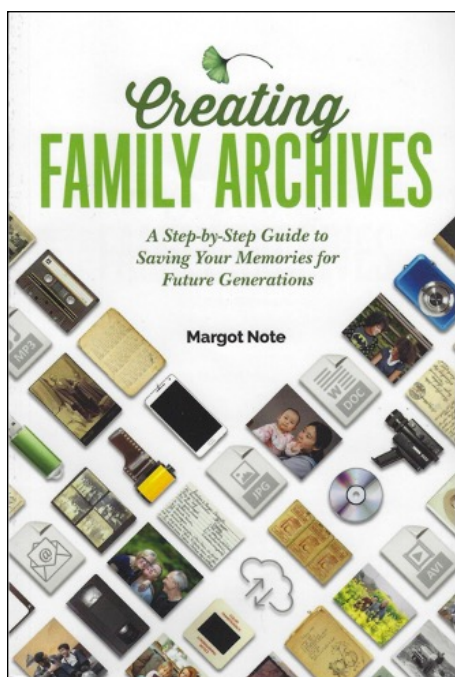


BOOK REVIEW

Submitted by Mary Ferm

CREATING FAMILY ARCHIVES: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO SAVING YOUR MEMORIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

by Margaret Note (The Society of American Archivists: Chicago, IL) 2019; 170 pages



As the inheritor of family papers, on both sides of my family as well as my husband's family, the boxes in closets in three houses haunt me. I have been looking for guidance on how to properly preserve fragile documents in a way that is do-able and what to do with all the other stuff. (Starting by laying everything I had out on a table, as recommended by one webinar, was just never going to happen.) This book by professional archivist Margaret Note, exactly fits my needs. As a professional who has worked with private clients, she is authoritative but also reasonable in her expectations of what can be done by an amateur family historian.

The author starts by asking us to consider what memories are important to the family, and then keeping that focus throughout the creation of the family archive. The chapter on what to keep, toss or give away was for me an eye-opener. The project

becomes less imposing than the prospect of having to organize and preserve everything single thing I have. She also discusses displaying and sharing your archives, something that is not covered in other how-to sources I have read. After all, I would be creating the archive for future use.

Note covers expected topics such as buying supplies, preserving papers, photos, scrapbooks and books, and digitization. The book is well-written, with helpful examples. I was alerted to the existence of this book by a review in a genealogical journal, and bought it online.