Taking Care of your Family Heirlooms

This session will cover the basic ideas of properly storing and handling family heirlooms. Katie Smith will discuss books, paper, photographs, and a little bit about textiles and other family heirlooms. In particular, she will discuss appropriate storage containers, where to put them in your home, how to handle them properly, and important tips about digitizing what you have.
Katie Smith is new to the Archives, working as the education and communication coordinator for the conservation labs at the National Archives since January. She feels passionately about at-home preservation: a passion that began to form when she learned that a portion of her family’s heirlooms were lost due to arson and theft several years ago. Since then, she has received degrees in liberal arts from Brigham Young University, a book binding degree from North Bennet Street School, and book conservation degrees from West Dean College in England. She has conserved items from all over the world for major universities, religious institutions, private individuals, cultural communities, and government bodies. These institutions includes Harvard, Cambridge, the LDS Church, the Church of England, New Zealand cultural communities, and the English Navy to name a few. Some of her recent publications include detecting forgeries and sourcing bookbinding structures in early America.

www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair
Taking Care of your Family Heirlooms
Assess What You Have
Labelling/Organizing
Temperature and Humidity

Stay away from:

- High Temperatures
- High Humidity
- Extreme Fluctuations in Temperature and Humidity
Pests
Light
Storage
Fully Support

Too large for the folder
Avoid Over-Fill
Photographs/Film
Metal Items
Textiles
Electronic/Magnetic Devices
Off the Floor
other just mode of requiring the state military establishments to conform to the limitations imposed by Congress, and also as an example and an encouragement to strict regularity in financial
Display/Use
Making Copies or LOCKSS.org: Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe
Questions to ask Vendors:

1. Will you do a pilot test?
2. Do you digitize in-house?
3. What file type am I getting back? (.mp3 for sharing, .wav for archiving).
4. Do you adjust your equipment to get the best quality product?
Where do I go for help?
www.archives.gov
http://www.conservation-us.org
Don’t get overwhelmed. Work and plan slowly. Gradually you will see the results of your efforts.
Thank you

Questions?
Thank you for attending!

If we did not get to your question, you may submit it to inquire@nara.gov

Today’s video recording and materials will remain available at www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair