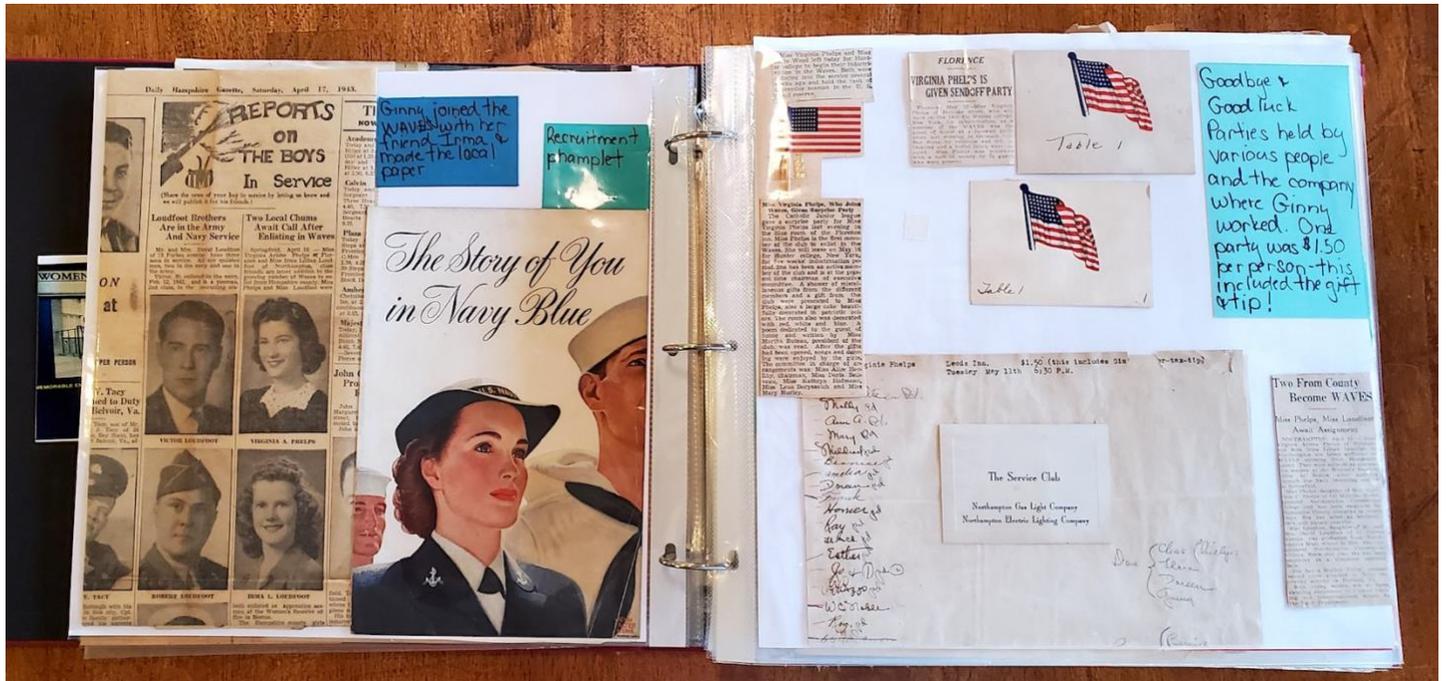


# The Gift

## A Family Digging Podcast



*The WWII US Navy Wave Scrapbook by Joanne J. Hendee*

**Paul:** Hello Family Diggers, and welcome to another show for all of us interested in genealogy. I am here today with Family Digging Podcaster, Carolyn Lancaster, and our special guest, Joanne Hendee, my wife.

Today we are going to be talking about genealogical gifts for giving. This month was my Mother, Virginia Arlene Phelps Hendee's birthday - Her 100th Birthday.

I began to wonder, "What do I get a 100 year old person for their birthday?" I turned to my wife of 50 years, Joanne Jarvis Hendee,

for consultation. Joanne is with us today to discuss her gift to Mom, a scrapbook of her time in World War II as a Navy Wave in Washington, DC.

Hello Joanne, and welcome to Family Digging.

**Joanne:** Thank you, and thank you for having me here today.

**Carolyn:** Welcome to the show, Joanne. We can't wait to hear about how you got the Navy Wave Scrapbook idea for your Mother-In-Law, how you developed it, and how she and her friends enjoyed it.

So Paul, I understand you made a gift for your Mother too. Can you tell us a bit about it?

**Paul:** Well, I need to lay the blame on my Mother for my interest in Genealogy. In 1966 she gave me 10 sheets of paper with the names of my father's family going back eight generations. I was interested, but mostly just kept it in my file cabinet until after I retired in 2014. I then began a robust search for other family members and ancestors using the internet.

Visiting Mom one day she mentioned I never research her family. As a now “dyed in the wool” genealogist, how could I not study my Mothers side of the family?

So, for her 100th birthday I decided to create her an ancestral chart which would start with her Mother and Father and go back eight generations. Due to paper space, I decided I would not include children; only heads of families would be included.

**Carolyn:** That seems like it would still be a lot of names. Did you include vitals?

**Paul:** Yes, vitals that I had were included. Also, if a photo was available, I included it as a thumbnail.

**Carolyn:** What application did you use to design the chart?

**Paul:** On my Apple computer at home I use the application MacFamilyTree to do my family genealogy. But, there are other programs that run on PCs or Macs that do basically the same thing.

**Carolyn:** Can you give us a brief rundown on how the chart is developed?

**Paul:** In the application I went to each of the ancestors’ records that I wanted to chart and then selected the chart icon. You can make many different types of charts - Descendants, Ancestral, Fan,

Family, etc.. I chose Ancestral because I wanted to show Mom her ancestors.

**Carolyn:** How did you choose what information to put on the chart for each ancestor?

**Paul:** When you create any chart, there are areas where you specify such things as how many generations, date of birth, birth place, death date, death place, photo inclusions, etc. Once you plug this information in, (“Whalla!”) you have your chart based on the data you have in your application.

**Carolyn:** OK. You now have your chart on your computer. What do you do with it? You can’t just bring your computer to your 100-year-old mother.

**Paul:** Oh no. Mom is very tech savvy, but I think she would want something to hold on to, so I exported the file to a PDF (Portable Document Format). This format is best to deliver to your printer for final output because it can clearly print to any size.

I then put my outputted PDF on a thumbdrive and took it to my printer, which was Staples. They have a 36” plotter that would print this chart out at 36” x 72” on a sheet of paper, which would roll up very nicely and was very readable for Mom. The job was done in two hours and cost \$10.

**Carolyn:** So how did your Mom like the chart?

**Paul:** After we unrolled it on the table, she loved it and was very surprised that it went back to 1713 on both her Mom's side and her Father's side.

**Carolyn:** Well, that certainly seemed to be a successful gift. Joanne, Let's talk about your scrapbook. What first gave you the idea of the gift of a scrapbook?

**Joanne:** A couple of years ago Mom gave us a trunk filled with memorabilia from her early life, and she had boxes of items that were from her Navy days when she was a Wave. As I started organizing these, I realized that there was no way, other than by putting them in a scrapbook, that I could salvage them and make them more organized.

**Carolyn:** What are some of the things people should consider when working with archival papers, pamphlets and photos?

**Joanne:** Some of the items that she had saved were pretty damaged from years of improper storage in the garage in Florida's heat and humidity. So I would say to people, if you have some of these items, to store them in temperature controlled areas.

Certainly the garage in Florida was not the best place to keep these items.

**Carolyn:** The material you were including in the scrapbook was very old. Was there any age damage that you had to repair like mold or mildew? How did you repair it??

**Joanne:** Almost every item had some kind of damage. There were a lot of photographs, newspaper articles, cartoons cut out from Newsletters, even some items like her uniform, and a lot of them did have damage. I did the best I could; I am not a professional preservationist, but the internet was my source for how to clean and take care of the items that were in the trunk.

**Carolyn:** What was the size of your scrapbook? About how many pages were there?

**Joanne:** Well, I really view this as a work in progress. I have already filled one large scrapbook and am starting a second one. There are numerous pages in each scrapbook.

**Carolyn:** How did your Mother-In-Law like her gift? Did family and friends enjoy the memories within the scrapbook too?

**Joanne:** She absolutely loved it! I spent a lot of time looking up items on the internet, trying to get background regarding history, publication dates for some of the items like newspapers and books; and her family and friends just got the biggest kick out of looking through the scrapbook.

**Paul:** Yes, if I could just add on to that, we actually had a party for Mom at the VFW, her local VFW, and all her friends went through the scrapbook, and they were absolutely stunned by all the material in there. It brought back a lot of memories to some of the older VFW members as well.

**Carolyn:** Thank you, Joanne, for joining us today on this Family Digging Podcast. You and Paul have demonstrated different ways to give the gift of genealogy. I have experienced a third way to gift genealogy, but in my case, I was on the receiving end.

After my Dad died in 1983, I realized that I knew too little about Mom's young life and family. She grew up in the Depression as a PK (preacher's kid) mostly in West Virginia. I asked her if she

would consider writing her life story - what it was like for her growing up, as she did, on constant public display, and how she lived her life.

Well, she did that from birth, through college, to when she met my Dad in 1942 in North Carolina, and what it was like for them during World War II with him in New Guinea and The Philippeans and her working for the Pennsylvania Railroad and the FBI in Philadelphia. (After that, they started making babies, and we were all familiar with that part already.)

She did a terrific job, and she made copies for all of her descendants for Christmas 1985. And, to a person, we all felt that it was the best gift we had ever received from her - and she was noted for giving us great gifts all the time. She included a healthy dose of social history, so we could see what were the circumstances in which she was living at any given point. It is still the best gift she ever gave me.

So there we have three different ways that someone can create gifts of genealogy for their loved ones. The holidays are quickly approaching. Have we given you any ideas as to how you can share genealogy with your family?

**Paul:** We hope all of our Family Diggers have enjoyed this presentation. A transcript of this podcast will be on our website at: <https://familydigging.com> under the “Transcripts” tab. We will also include a photos of the scrapbook. (See first page.) Also, in the transcript will be a link to the PDF I created for Mom for your review:

[https://familydigging.com/PDFs/Walter\\_H\\_Phelps\\_Anccestor\\_Chart.pdf](https://familydigging.com/PDFs/Walter_H_Phelps_Anccestor_Chart.pdf)

**Carolyn & Paul:** Until next time - Keep On Digging