

# Precious memories

If you have been searching through your attic during the lockdown and found your old cine films and videos, this could be the way to preserve them.

**WORDS & PICTURES** Stephen Meeds



Labourer George Willerton c.1925.  
Photo courtesy Michael Jackson

I have always had a fascination for the past, so when I inherited a lot of old photographs from my parents; I dug into the family's history. Piecing together who all those people were became an obsession, spending hours trawling through many records. So, it was no surprise I fell into a business that recovers trapped memories for people who could no longer access them.

## Archiving

The business itself was born in 2011 from a hobby. For many years I had harvested footage of our children and holidays, having purchased a camcorder just before the birth of our son in 1994. Now having a sizeable collection of videotapes containing hours of raw footage, I purchased some equipment to edit and chronograph the data into watchable movies. During this time, I noticed some recordings were faltering as they aged, with loss of picture and sometimes sound, so there became an urgency to archive it swiftly.

I became obsessive about video and spent many hours looking and learning.

The software was complex. More technical than anything else I had ever done, but the benefits outweighed the time to gain the understanding required. Soon I was turning out mini-masterpieces (purely in my opinion), compiling all our recordings into rather nice movies to sit back and watch.



Horse and binder with the Wilson family from Walcott Dales around late the Thirties early Forties. Photo courtesy Dennis Tonge

## Not fade away

Realising the importance of preserving all these memories on media that had, in real terms, a noticeably short shelf life, I embarked on a quest of preserving memories for others. I was driven by the thought that, if my recordings were deteriorating, then others would be too. Every recording is like a time capsule waiting to be unlocked and with the demise of cine projectors and video players, what could people do to recover all that data? They not only hold precious memories but show a way of life that for many had not been seen before. These archived moments mark changes in time and have, in many cases, historical importance which shouldn't be allowed to fade away.

With the addition of a website, I soon had work coming in from all over the country. The regular workflow enabled me to invest in much-needed equipment to expand the range of services I offer. The more work I have, the more memories I preserve, and that gives me great satisfaction.

I now offer a full range of transfer services, from early cine film and videotape all the way through to modern SD cards and having handled who knows how many miles of film and video during this time, my passion has never waned and my desire for preserving memories has become even stronger.

## Convert your memories

If you are interested in having your memories transferred dvd-creation convert cine film, Betamax and VHS tapes, camcorder cassettes, reel-to-reel audio tape and standard

audio cassettes to DVD/CD or digital files. Visit [www.dvd-creation.co.uk](http://www.dvd-creation.co.uk) email: [steve@dvd-creation.co.uk](mailto:steve@dvd-creation.co.uk) or contact Stephen on 01205 364382 or Facebook [@dvd.creation.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/dvd.creation.co.uk)

