



## **Motion Picture/Slide Scanning & Archiving Services**

*8mm/Super 8mm/16mm film/35mm slides & negatives  
scanned and transferred to DVD, Blu-Ray, hard drives, cloud sites*

**Your material never leaves my Geneva, Ohio, editing suite!**

### **Why you should have your film scanned, even if you had VHS tapes of it made.**

1. VHS is a low-resolution format that looks awful on your HD television.
2. VHS is a magnetic format that stores information on iron oxide particles affixed to tape. Over time, the oxide flakes off, causing dropouts. VHS tape was never intended to be an archival format.
3. VHS players are close to extinction.
4. VHS players, unless properly maintained in top working order, can eat your tape and the transfer of your family videos.
5. VHS transfers were made by attaching a video camera to a projector. The camera captured everything that came through the lens, including the inter-frame lines that result in an annoying flicker.
6. VHS transfers were unable to correct for problems in the original film, such as under/over exposure and wrong color balance.

In short, your original film is much more archival than VHS tape! Even if you had it “transferred” to VHS, you should have new digital scans of the film made. The technology for transferring and preserving motion picture film and transparencies has improved greatly over the past five years. Consider these benefits:

1. The equipment I use takes a picture of every frame of the film. These stills created from the film can be accessed if you want to make prints. Further, you can archive the stills so they will be available for use in the future.
2. We use DVD-R media with a projected lifespan of 200-300 years for the archival disc we provide with every transfer. Online/big-box transfer services are using cheap media because their main goal is to make money, not archive your film. Even our standard DVD is burned in professional media with a long-life expectancy.

3. Film decomposes. We are finding vinegar syndrome attacking many of the home movies shot in the 1930s and '40s. Vinegar syndrome is an inevitable breakdown of the acetate base that is hastened by improper storage. Even properly stored film will breakdown, it's just the nature of the chemistry used in film. If your film smells, get it transferred immediately. If it does not, still get it transferred immediately!
4. Film can become brittle, making it impossible to project. Projecting the film subjects it to possible damage from a dirty projection gate, breakage, rewinding. My scanning equipment advances the film without the use of claws; thus, even film that has stripped sprockets or other physical issues can usually be scanned.

## How much will it cost?

*You can skip this if you just want to call me and have me look at the quantity of film or slides you want scanned. Quotes are free, as is advice! 1-440-415-3596 or [carl@thefeathercottage.com](mailto:carl@thefeathercottage.com)*

If cost is your primary concern, then have a basic (raw) scan of the film done at 10 cents per foot, plus the cost of the media (see "Delivery Media" on last page).

However, if you truly appreciate the fact that you or your ancestors went to the expense of purchasing and processing movie film (\$8 to \$10 per 50 feet of Super 8mm in the 1970s), you should invest in getting the best scan possible at HD quality. You should take the time to identify who is in the film and embed that information in the final product—in short, use your film and slides to TELL YOUR FAMILY'S STORY.

And you should ARCHIVE the scan. That is very important. Remember, your VHS transfer is not archival.

I provide boutique services that require experience and artistry in a variety of disciplines. I've been involved in AV production for more than 40 years and stay current with technology. I am a filmmaker; have been since high school. You can view my work on YouTube Feather Cottage channel. And I have collected and worked with film since I was 17 years old and got my first projector for Christmas.

I am passionate about film preservation and storytelling, and our goal is to help you tell your story through the film assets in your family's possession.

But if you just want scans of your film, I can do that, too. And it will be better than anything you'll get by sending out the film to an online provider.

Finally, a big consideration in sending your films out through the mail or entrusting them to a big-box store is the risk of having your material lost in the mail or mixed up with another order at the scanning location. All my work is done in my Geneva transfer suite.

### **Video Biography**

Tell the story of your loved one with a video biography that includes an interview and film clips. This is one of the boutique video services we provide! A great birthday or anniversary gift to the whole family!

## **Basic scanning service:**

Cost is 10 cents per foot of film scanned, any quantity. ALL FILM IS HAND INSPECTED BEFORE SCANNING. If the film has breaks that need to be repaired, there will be a charge of \$1 per repair due to the high cost of splice tapes. Unlike some services, we will not splice together all of your films on one reel to save us time in transferring them. Each reel of film is inspected and scanned individually. The scanner's color balance and exposure are set to achieve the optimum scan for that reel; the process is monitored throughout the scan to assure you of the best possible raw scan for your money.

How to calculate the cost:

8mm and Super 8mm film was returned from the processing lab on 50-foot reels that measure 2.8 inches in diameter. Thus, the cost to scan one of these reels \$5.00 (.10 x 50 feet).

Other sizes of reels commonly used for this film format are:

200 feet	5 inches in diameter
400 feet	7 inches in diameter

16mm film is typically on 7-inch reels. These reels hold up to 400 feet of film.

Other 16mm film reel sizes are:

800 feet	10.5 inches in diameter
1600 feet	13.75 inches in diameter

For slides, the cost depends on the resolution desired. For archiving purposes, I strongly recommend you have the slide scanned at maximum resolution, which costs 50 cents per slide.

After scanning, the scanned frames will be exported as a Quick Time movie to a USB thumb drive or USB portable drive. The raw scan can then be viewed for sections you want to delete on the final DVD or to drop in titles. We strongly recommend that your family members review the raw scan to identify people in the film so that information, in way of titles, can be embedded in the final video. This is a gift you can give future generations who may watch the film and how no idea where the locations are, who is in the film or the story being told.

All that said, some customers want the raw scan only and no further editing or enhancements. If that is the case, the other cost will be the media onto which the movie or scans of the slides is saved (DVD, Blu-Ray or USB drive). Jump to "Delivery Media" on the next page.

### **VHS transfers**

Sometimes, all you have is the VHS tape. The film was tossed out after the transfer or has been misplaced. Or you may have a VHS tape of an event that you'd like on a DVD. I can transfer these at the rate of \$10 per hour of video transferred plus \$10 for each DVD, packaged in a plastic case with custom insert. No editing will be done. I cannot be held responsible to damage incurred during transferring tapes; there are too many things than can go wrong!

## **Editing and delivery:**

Once you provide us with the instructions for editing, titles, etc., we will create the final product from the original, HD scan. Our scanners scan every frame of the film. These scans are imported into a professional video editing software (Adobe Premiere CC) and timed to the correct frames-per-second speed for that format.

During editing, we will correct for any bad color or under/over exposure on the film, within the limitations of the format. We will add music if you want. Or, if a family member wants to provide spoken commentary as an audio file (we can help with this), we can add that person's narration.

*A note on music: The music I use is licensed for underscoring of film projects. You can safely upload what we create and not worry about copyright infringement. We've spent thousands of dollars on music licensing fees in order to provide this peace of mind for us and our customers.*

Remember, you can combine scans of slides or photos with the transferred film clips. We can scan documents such as marriage licenses, birth certificates, ticket stubs from special events featured in the film ... our service thrives on customization and storytelling!

The cost of the editing services is 15 cents per foot of film edited. This is in addition to the cost of the scan, so **your cost is 25 cents per foot with editing services added**. This does not include the delivery media.

## **Delivery media:**

Your film will be saved to a professional quality DVD and packaged in a flexible plastic DVD holder with an insert describing the contents. You will be able to play this on any DVD player that accepts standard definition DVDs. The cost for the first DVD is \$15.00; \$10 each additional one.

We recommend a high-definition Blu-Ray disc if you have a player that accepts these. The cost is \$20 for the first Blu-Ray and \$15 for each additional. These provide much more detail and look great on large-screen TVs, not so much the DVDs.

Your movies also can be saved as an MP4 file to a thumb drive or portable hard drive provided by the client. Because every frame of the film is scanned, I can provide those files, as well. There is a \$5 charge to burn the file to the hard drive or thumb (flash) drive you provide. A formatted drive of at least 32 gb is required.

## **Archiving:**

I am passionate about archiving and provide a complimentary archive data DVD with your first DVD or Blu-Ray disc. The archive discs we use are rated at 300-years lifespan. Additional archive DVDs are \$10 each.

Information overload? Call me to discuss your project!

The Feather Cottage Media  
1355 Sherman St., Geneva Ohio 44041

[carl@thefeathercottage.com](mailto:carl@thefeathercottage.com) / [thefeathercottage.com](http://thefeathercottage.com)

440-415-3596