

# Heirlooms

Heirlooms are items or souvenirs that your family treasures because they belonged to someone special, they bring back memories of a particular occasion, or they help to tell a story about a person.

Sometimes, you need to know the story to understand why the item is precious. Make sure you ask older members of the family about any heirlooms that your family keeps. That way you will know the stories and this makes the heirloom even more special. Once you know why an heirloom is important, you can pass its story on to other members of your family, perhaps telling your own children and grandchildren about it one day. Have a look at our Braund Museum to see the heirlooms there.

Here is a list of some of the heirlooms that a family might have but other things can be heirlooms too.

- Family bibles - these sometimes give a list of when people were born, were married, or when they died
- Letters and postcards
- Diaries
- Address books
- Birthday books
- Wedding invitations
- In memoriam cards - these were sent to family members when someone died
- Samplers

- Programmes
- School prizes
- Medals
- Trophies
- Anything engraved
- Documents like birth, marriage and death certificates



These heirlooms are useful because the words tell you some of the story.

Some heirlooms, like these, don't give any clues, so you need to learn their stories.



These are tools that a fisherman Braund used to make sails for his boat.

These handcuffs were used to arrest a murderer.



Photographs are a special kind of heirloom. If your family has any old photos, ask if you can have a copy. You can do this by scanning the picture, or just taking a photo of it with a phone or camera. Make sure you ask who is in the photo and where and when it was taken.