

Mourning wreath

It was quite common in the Victorian period for ladies to make wreaths, floral designs, and jewelry from the hair of their ancestors, often in memorial to the lost loved ones. Snippets of hair would be woven or twisted around wire to create intricate art forms, most often flowers. The flowers would then be arranged in a shadow box for safe keeping and added to as family members passed.

Most people did not have images of their love ones. Only the wealthy could afford a portrait artist. During the Civil War the average soldier could sit for a photograph at an affordable price, to send home to his loved ones.