

# Visual Genealogy

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- Seeing Images as Genealogy
- Selecting and setting up a scanner
- Scanning photos and slides
- Fixing photos

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# Seeing Photos as Genealogy: The Historical Value of Photos

- Historical value of the photo
- Archiving your photos
- Scanning your images
- Repairing your images

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## Historical value of photos

- What is the purpose of preserving this photo?
- How important is the background information?
- Solution
  - Scan the whole photo for the master
  - Crop and edit for printing and sharing

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## Scanning Photos and Slides

- Scan the image to your computer
- You may want more than one scanner
  - Slides and negatives
  - Photos, documents
  - Traveling, taking to libraries

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## Editing software

- You need editing software to make the most of your photos, documents, slides
  - Sometimes comes with the scanner
  - Picmonkey.com  
Online, free (for now)
  - Adobe Photoshop Elements  
(PC or Mac; steep learning curve)
  - Pixelator (Mac)

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## Some first steps

- Use a scanner that won't damage your originals
- If you use a laptop, consider connecting it to a monitor and mouse
- Consider a monitor calibrator device

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## Next steps

- Check your monitor resolution; best if it's at least 1024 x 768
- Monitor size best at least 17"
- Use neutral color theme for computer desktop background
- **Calibrate your monitor**; consider a calibration monitor such as Huey

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## Software

- To edit photos on your computer:  
You need to install the scanner driver software to operate the scanner on your computer
- To edit photos online
  - Upload them to an online editing program (such as PicMonkey.com)
  - Edit them online using the site's features
  - Download them back to your computer

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## Steps in Fixing Photos

1. Crop the image
2. Fix the defects
3. Build the color
4. Adjust the color
5. Sharpen the image

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## Identifying and handling old photos: Resources

- **Preservation: [Digitalpreservation.com/you](http://Digitalpreservation.com/you)**
- **Identifying time periods**
  - [www.ajmorris.com/roots/photo/](http://www.ajmorris.com/roots/photo/)
  - [www.classyarts.com/howto.htm](http://www.classyarts.com/howto.htm)
  - [oldphoto.com/Old%20Photo%20ID.htm](http://oldphoto.com/Old%20Photo%20ID.htm)
  - [www.olivetreegenealogy.com/photos/fashions-photos.shtml](http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/photos/fashions-photos.shtml)
  - [dancurtis.ca/2010/02/10/how-to-identify-old-family-photographs/](http://dancurtis.ca/2010/02/10/how-to-identify-old-family-photographs/)
- **Identifying individuals**
  - [genealogy.about.com/od/photo\\_dating/ss/identification.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/photo_dating/ss/identification.htm)
  - [www.mayrand.org/photoid-e.htm](http://www.mayrand.org/photoid-e.htm)
  - [www.ehow.com/how\\_4815568\\_identify-old-family-photographs.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_4815568_identify-old-family-photographs.html)

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## Genealogy documents

- Old
- Fragile
- Awkward to handle
- Irreplaceable

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## Scanning situations

- **Scanning on the go**
  - Libraries
  - Family gatherings
- **Scanning at your desk**
  - Time to check scans thoroughly
  - Time to edit scans

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## Types of scanners

- Sheet-feed
- Flatbed
- Handheld
- Smartphone apps

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## Pass-through / sheet-feed scanners

- Don't take on a research trip
- Don't use with old documents or photos
- Office use only, such as scanning business cards

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## Flatbed Scanner

- If you're careful, not damaging to document or photo
- With USB power, can run off your laptop computer – good for traveling
- Scan slides and negatives with attachment that comes with some scanners

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## Flip-Pal scanner

- Don't use it to scan documents
- Works for photos, may work for objects
- Battery-operated

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## Handheld scanner

- Practice ahead of time
- Better for books and documents
- Works better with glass to hold the pages flat, and avoid ruffling edges of books
- Battery-operated

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## Smartphone apps

- Pocket Scanner
- Cam Scanner Pro

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## Smartphone apps

- Try CamScanner Pro (or free version)
- Practice ahead of time
- Email image to yourself – handy!

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## Resolution

- **Output quality of an image**
  - PPI (pixels per inch): screen resolution
  - DPI (dots per inch): print resolution
  - SPI (samples per inch): scanning resolution
- **Types of resolution**
  - **High resolution** (hi-res): intended for printing, usually >300 samples per inch
  - **Low resolution** (low-res): intended for screen display, <100 pixels per inch
- **Digital camera/scanner terminology**
  - **Optical resolution** is the true measurement of resolution that the output device can capture
  - **Interpolated**, or **digital**, **resolution** is acquired artificially.
- **Scanning negatives and slides: Use highest resolution**

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## “Save as...”

- **Archiving or editing later**
  - TIFF
  - PNG
- **Second copy** in the native file format of your image editing software, such as a PSD (Adobe Photoshop) file.
- Archive an **unedited** version of the file

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## “I’m confused”

- It’s simpler than you think
  - Scan at a suitable resolution
  - Check your scanned image to make sure you can edit it to be usable
  - Store an unedited archive copy
  - Back up your scanned copies
  - Edit a **copy** of the archive copy, not the archive copy itself

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