

YOUR ULTIMATE FAMILY PHOTO PROJECT



Left: Digital restoration of a family history photograph using Adobe Photoshop²

2. Grow

Finding new photographs, not only of your ancestors themselves, but also of the places they lived and went to school, where they worked and worshipped, their sports teams and social activities, will enrich your family history research and enhance your understanding of *their* lives and *your* heritage.

A word of warning

Finding my great-uncle Albert in the 1921 census, described as a Butcher's Assistant at Elliott & Hunter, set me off on a photograph finding mission. Although I couldn't find a contemporary photograph, Google Earth showed that the premises still exist as a well-known coffee shop. Googling "1920s Butchers" and "1920s Butcher's Assistant" produced delightful

photographs that gave me an idea of what the premises may have looked like when my uncle worked there and the type of clothes he probably wore.

So, why aren't these photographs included here?

Copyright.

Just because a photograph is on the internet, it doesn't mean that it is in the public domain, or that it is free to be used by anyone for any purpose.

Copyright

The copyright of a photograph belongs to the person who took it (or their employer); not the person who commissioned it (unless explicitly agreed), not even the person who inherited it, and certainly not the person who found it on the internet. Copyright is a complicated subject that depends on many

Below: A selection of photographs relating to an ancestor's life, taken on genealogy road trips or sourced from the internet (Creative Commons Licenses) CC0 1.0



factors. A guide from The National Archives³ explains these factors.

Using a photograph for personal research is permitted under a 'fair dealing' clause. This clause, however, does not allow publication in any form, which includes uploading to the internet. Infringing copyright regulations can have consequences.

Copyright tips:

- Always research (and log) the copyright status of a photograph before use
- Even if the copyright has lapsed, it is courtesy to obtain the current owner's permission and to acknowledge them when using a photograph
- Look for Creative Commons Licenses⁴, which allow creators a standardised way to grant permission to use their work under copyright law
- For more information visit the Intellectual Property Office website⁵.

Taking the above into account, there are a whole host of places, both online and off line, where you may find photographs of your ancestors or photographs that relate to their lives.

Looking online

Online⁶:

- family history websites:
- online family trees
- photograph databases
- family/local history societies
- published family history books
- general search engines
- gateway sites
- orphaned photograph sites
- historic photograph collections
- newspapers
- postcards
- online auction sites
- Facebook groups
- photograph sharing sites



Search tip! When searching online, the prudent use of quotation marks, dates and relevant words, such as a location or trade, will increase your searching efficiency⁷.

For example, searching for photographs of my Bridge or Holding ancestors, with no search terms other than their name, produces photographs of bridges (the type you drive over) and people holding things, the most memorable being a very fat fanger guinea pig!

Off line:

- ask the FAN Club: family, associates, neighbours⁸
- take a genealogy road trip to an ancestral village/town, work place, school, club/sports venue, graveyard or war memorial
- visit institutions: museums, archives, libraries, galleries
- visit family/local history societies and heritage centres
- go shopping: antiques fairs and shops, car boot sales, charity shops.

Above: Just because a photograph is on the internet does not mean that it is in the public domain when it comes to copyright considerations

Above right: A photobook remembering family who served in the military

Below: A searchable Digital Photo Hub makes sharing your family photos an easy job

Add any photographs you take or find to your collections by following through the sorting and preserving flow charts in Steps 2 and 3.

3. Share

A searchable Digital Photo Hub makes sharing simplicity itself and there are many ways to share.

The simplest way is to send images via email. Digital images can also be uploaded to family history websites or your own family website or blog if you have one. They can be used to create digital slide shows or videos, or uploaded to social media or photo-sharing websites.

An electronic photograph frame, Nix Play⁹ for example, offers a captivating way to display photographs and allows upload via the internet, meaning that frames can be updated remotely.

One of the most popular ways to view and share photographs is to curate them into photobooks. Photobooks take up less space than traditional albums and can be annotated or have family history records and stories included. They can be reproduced as gifts for relatives and are an excellent way to



preserve your photographs while retaining access to them.

A whole range of photograph-based gifts are available including puzzles, calendars, mugs, jewellery, phone cases, etc¹⁰. If you can think of it, you will probably find someone who can put a photograph on it for you!

Sharing photographs and designing books and gifts are just two of the features offered by organisations that provide Personal Digital Archives. The main focus however, of such organisations is Legacy, which is the subject of the fifth step of our photogenealogy journey, next month.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ann Larkham is a qualified genealogist, passionate photogenealogist and fledgeling author, who is planning a photogenealogy book and business to help others on their photogenealogy journeys.

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