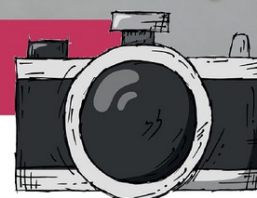


YOUR ULTIMATE FAMILY PHOTO PROJECT

PHOTOGENEALOGY: AN INTRODUCTION



Genealogist **Ann Larkham** is passionate about preserving and sharing her family photo collections. In this introductory piece, Ann provides an overview of a set of five steps for you to follow. Over the coming 5 months she will be covering each step in greater detail so that you can follow alongside, and create your own awesome home photo archive too.

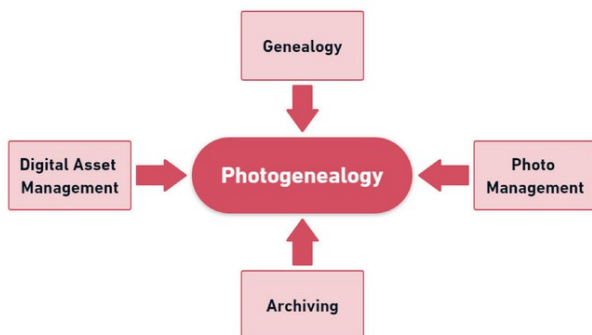
Do you have old family photographs?

If you do, you are your family's memory keeper and you may be interested in photogenealogy.

Photogenealogy is the art and science of caring for and enjoying family history photographs.

Not just for the sake of the photographs themselves, but because each photograph is a precious genealogical time capsule of clues, memories and stories.

Photogenealogy brings together best practices and industry standards from other disciplines to create an efficient process that results in a treasured legacy.



Left: A diagram depicting the disciplines integrated into photogenealogy

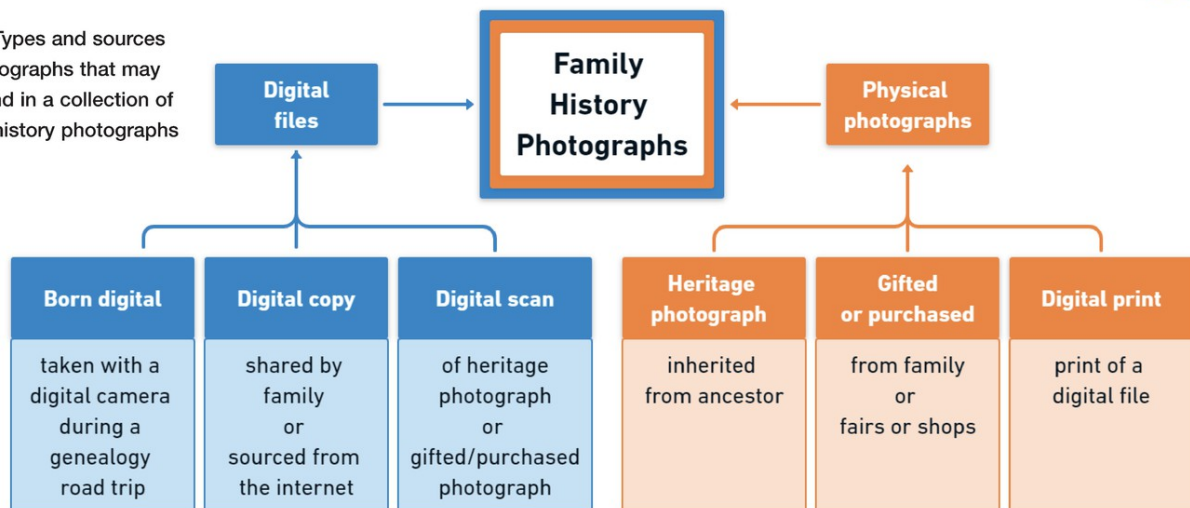
Collections

A family history photograph collection can include both digital files and physical photographs. Digital files may include scans of physical photographs, digital copies of photographs shared by family members or sourced from the internet, or digital photographs taken to enhance a collection. Physical photographs may include heritage photographs, photographs gifted by living family members or purchased from fairs or shops, or prints of digital files.

Physical family history photographs are usually black & white but can be sepia, hand-tinted, or colour. They are most commonly printed on paper or card and may be framed or



Right: Types and sources of photographs that may be found in a collection of family history photographs



in presentation folders. Early photographs may have a glass or metal support, rather than paper or card, and are usually cased or mounted. Physical photographs can exist in other formats too, the most common being slides and negatives.

The aim of photogenealogy is to bring all types of family history photographs together, to care for them, to learn from them, to enjoy them, to share them, and eventually, to pass them on. This can be a significant undertaking, so why would you do it?

As family historians, we have all experienced the thrill of connecting with our ancestors through records. It can, however, be difficult to pinpoint where this thrill comes from, and even harder to explain to others who don't share our passion. Recent research into the relationship of family history with identity and well-being, may help to explain this conundrum. The research suggested that young people who know more about their familial past show higher levels of emotional well-being, and that "Through sharing the past, families re-create themselves in the present, and project themselves into the future". [See 'Read up on it'].

While interacting with our

READ UP ON IT: 📺

The importance of familial knowledge to well-being: Duke, M.P., Lazarus, A., & Fivush, R. (2008). 'Knowledge of family history as a clinically useful index of psychological well-being and prognosis: A brief report.' *Psychotherapy Theory, Research, Practice, Training*, 45, 268-272.

family history photographs, we can reconnect with our ancestors in an even more profound way than can be achieved when using historical records alone. This is because photographs not only capture an ancestor during a moment of their lives, but also a moment of our history. The power of photographs is clearly illustrated when people who are not inspired by a pile of old records, are often captivated by a box of old photographs and the memories and stories they evoke.

Photogenealogy can stimulate and enrich our family history research. It can generate feelings of satisfaction and relief that come from knowing that our photographs are protected from damage and further deterioration. It can encourage us to enjoy our photographs every day and to share them and their stories with our relatives. And finally, photogenealogy can create an organised, future-proofed and valuable legacy to pass on to generations to come.

Right: Diagram showing the steps undertaken to create your home photo archive

