

## 15 Photo Tips You'll Love: Scanning, Identification, and Metadata

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### **Who Owned It? *Provenance***

- Who owned this picture before you (and before them)?
- Why is this picture in your collection?
- Who do you think the people are?
- Are there stories associated with the image?
- How did it end up in your collection?

### **What Type of Photo Is It? *Identify the Photographic Method***

<b>Daguerreotype</b>	<b>Ambrotype</b>	<b>Tintypes</b>	<b>Carte des Visite</b>
Mirror-like surface	Negative on glass; appears as a positive image	Negative on iron; appears as a positive image	Albumen or carbon prints—photo chemicals on paper
Must be held at an angle to be seen	Backed with a dark background	Fixed on a black metal background	Mounted on thin card stock
Usually cased	Usually cased	Paper mat or case	Occasionally found in a case
Image is reversed*	Not reversed*	Image is reversed*	Not reversed
1839	1852	1856	Circa 1859

### ***Types of Twentieth Century Images***

#### ***Home Movie Film***

Color film for 16mm cameras was available as early as 1928

#### ***Paper Prints***

Kodak introduced its black-and-white roll film 1012 in 1895 and didn't discontinue it until 1956. Color negative film was introduced in 1941.

### ***Postcards***

Real photo” postcards produced from film or glass plate negatives with postcard-style backs, appeared around 1900 and remained available for decades.

### ***Stereographs***

From 1854 to 1938, a few commercial companies produced “stereos” of travel, war, religious and other scenes—rarely do they depict people up close

### **Who Took the Picture? Research The Photographer**

Photographers placed imprints in different places, depending on the type of image. Since the majority of photographs are paper prints, look on the front of the cardboard mount, the back of the image or their name embossed in the lower right corner of some images. Imprints include the photographer’s surname and sometimes where they operated their business. Try these resources for additional help researching photographers.

- Search the photographer’s name on Google.com to discover collections of their images and new information.
- Use newspaper databases such as GenealogyBank.com to track them through articles and advertisements
- Use city directories to establish work dates.

### **What Are They Wearing? Clothing Clues and Props**

Clothing clues can determine a timeframe for an image or identify a person’s occupation or religion. Examine collars, cuffs, lapels and coat styles for men. Women’s fashions changed frequently so look for changes in bodice design, skirt length and width, and the styles of collars and sleeves.

- For twentieth century fashion consult the Historic Sears Catalog on <https://www.Ancestry.com>.
- Joan Severa’s *Dressed for the Photographer* (Kent State University Press, 1995) is still relevant today.

### **Who’s in the Picture? Add up the facts and double check your assumptions**

- Who in your family lived in that area in those years?
- How old were they then?
- Does that information agree with the information in the picture?
- Use a spreadsheet to diagram your information.