



Making Old Photos Look New:  
Tricks to Restore Your Pictures to Tell Your Family Stories  
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### Topics to cover

- Get organized for scanning or photographing
  - How you plan to organize the photographs
  - Data elements to capture along with the images
  - Naming conventions for files and metadata
  - Pick software to use for the photo restoration
- Make copies by scanning or photographing
- Restore the quality of the image digitally – working with the software of your choice
- Pick repositories to save and share the photos

### Naming files and metadata: Surnames, Locations, Dates

Consistency: Mirror the way you name your paper folders

A possible name for a file would be: SmithJohn1780deathRowley.png

Naming conventions for multiple copies of each photo

### Scanners and Cameras

**Choices:** standalone, cameras, smartphones, tablets

**What** are you scanning? Photographs, documents, newspapers, maps, keepsakes, slides, negatives, video?

**Where** are you scanning? At home versus in a library

At minimum, use a scanner that supports the size of your pictures. **At least 600 dpi resolution**

Optical character recognition works for print but not for handwriting.

Capture handwriting as photographic image.

**Adobe Acrobat software** works well for scanning documents on PC/MAC. **Scannable** is our current favorite phone software.

### Software Choices for Photo Editing

#### Software for MAC and PC

- [Adobe](#) (Photoshop, Lightroom)
- [Gimp](#) (free – steep learning curve)
- [Google +](#) (minimal enhancement)
- [Picasa](#) (free, owned by Google)
- [Snag-it](#) by TechSmith (for screen capture)
- Photos – built in, formerly Windows Photo Viewer

#### Software for MAC

- Photos – built in, formerly iPhoto (MAC)

#### Software for PC

- [FastStone Image Viewer](#)
- [Paintshop Pro](#) (\$\$)

### Smartphone/tablet apps – IOS, Android,

#### Web

- Aviary
- Flickr
- Adobe Photoshop Fix (coming soon)

- QromaScan
- Web Albums - Picasa (IOS); Picasa Me (Android)

#### Software for Cameras

- Editing software comes with many digital cameras (Cannon, Kodak, Sony, Nikon, etc.)

## Steps in Restoring Old Photos

- rotate to straighten
- remove keystone (for photographed pics or maps)
- crop (but don't remove historic detail)
- restore fading
- repair, remove blemishes
- fix red eye
- remove graininess
- sharpen image

## Software Comparisons

	Photos Windows	Photos MAC	Picasa Both	Adobe Photoshop* Both
Rotate/straighten	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Remove keystone	No	No	No	Yes
Crop	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Restore fading	Yes, Preset	Yes, Preset	Circle slider	Yes
Sepia or grayscale	Yes, Color circle wheel	No	Circle slider	Yes (smart fill, rubber stamp)
Repair, remove blemishes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Red eye	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Remove graininess, soften	Yes, Filter	Yes, Preset adjustment – noise reduction	Yes, Film grain slider	Yes
Sharpen	Try Enhance and Filters	Yes, Preset – Adjustment On/Off	Yes	Yes
Nondestructive editing	Reverts to original while in progress	Reverts to original while in progress	“Undo all edits” while in progress	Yes (keeps layers) in .psd version

\*Similar fully equipped packages include Gimp (for Windows and MAC) and FastStone Image Viewer for Windows. Gimp has the steepest learning curve.

\*\*Scannable, our favorite phone app has easy keystone removal.

Online repositories (make decision based on privacy (sharing v preservation), size limits

[Dead Fred](#)

[Drop Box](#)

[Flickr](#) – free terabyte

[Photobucket](#)

iCloud

OneDrive, etc.