

The Application
of
Digital Imaging
to
Family History



Photographs and Documents

20th November 2015

#### Purpose

To digitise family history information: to retain, enhance and display, duplicate, share online and archive.

#### Sources

Can be photographs, documents or digital files. Amongst other places these can be obtained from: the family, record offices and on-line.



# Digitising methods

Photographs and documents can be scanned or photographed.

To minimise file size, typed or printed documents can be turned into text documents using optical character recognition (OCR) software.







#### and not forgetting the camera



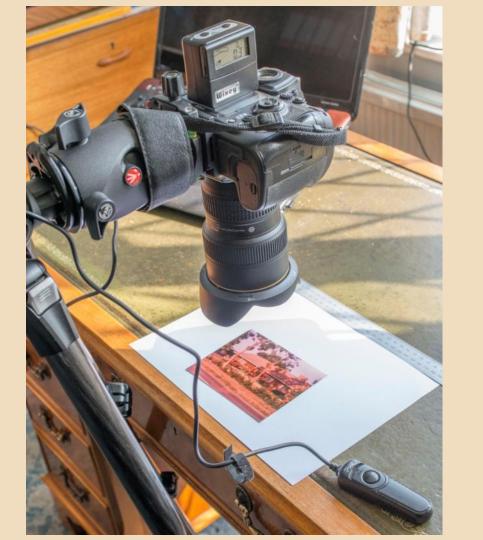
Photograph scanning, select **reflective - photo**.

Document scanning, select **reflective - document**.

Slides and negatives can be digitised using dedicated scanners.

Some flatbed scanners can provide illumination through transparent media.

On these, select film and set type of transparency, such as **B&W**, colour positive (slide) or colour negative.



Camera copying setup using tripod.

I use a cable release, close the eyepiece shutter and use mirror up to prevent camera shake from the mirror lifting.

Levelling the camera back helps maintain a parallel image, thus one less software correction.

Typed or printed documents can be turned into text documents using optical character recognition (OCR) software,

e.g. Omnipage 18,

Adobe Acrobat Pro DC (converts to .pdfs),

Abbyy Finereader and

PaperPort Professional.

#### Text documents

Text documents have the following advantages: files are much smaller, are more easily read, can be edited and are searchable, but lose context information and veracity.

# Scanning

Problems with some old photographs:

- 1 Damage,
- 2 Fading and limited tonal range,
- 3 Silvering,
- 4 Discolouration (colour prints and slides),
- 5 Textured surface
- 6 Larger than scanner platen.

# 1 Damage

Damage in scanned photos can usually be repaired by cloning or using spot healing brush in editing software.

Check 'context aware' for spot healing (if available).



Damaged photo of my 'Taid' when he was in the Singapore Volunteers.

I moved the bottom half into position in software and cloned adjacent areas to remove the joint line.

I then converted picture to black and white.



# 2 Limited tonal range

Old black and white or sepia toned photographs may have limited tonal range.

The levels tool can stretch the lightest grey to pure white and the darkest grey to jet black.

The best setting isn't necessarily to extend the tonal range between the extremes of black and white.



A very faded photo of my grandfather's sisters, Lily and Jenny, holding my mother

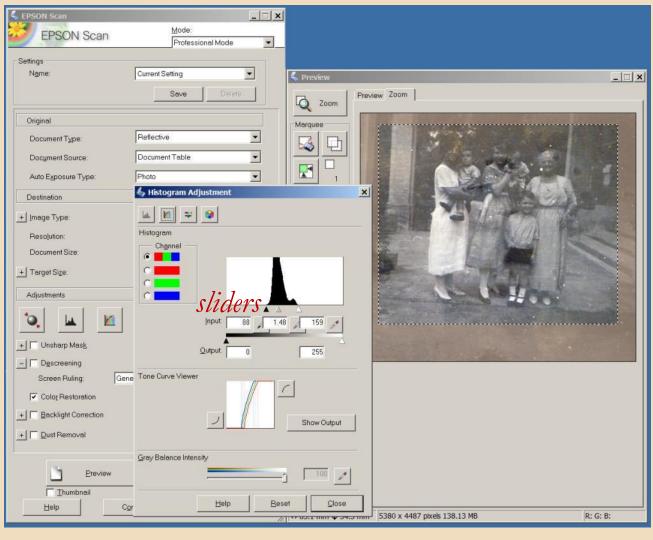
Enhanced photo using levels sliders and converting to black and white





If histogram sliders are available in scanning software then use these to extend the image tonal range for subsequent editing in software.

This photo of my father with his family was very faded



The original was
so poor it could never
yield a
good reproduction

but

it is still greatly
improved by
stretching the tonal
range.

# 3 Silvering

Black and white photos can be silvered in dark areas.

Silvering can be removed with silver dip or silver bath but, as this is a potentially damaging process, trial on an unimportant area first and apply very sparingly with cotton buds.

Don't use silver polish which is abrasive.

Don't overdo the removal.

It can be amazing how much hidden detail can be revealed, very akin to cleaning an old oil painting.



Goddard's silver dip is also suitable

but not

Silvo metal polish.



A photo of my parents taken in 1940, just slightly silvered in the bottom right corner.

before treatment



and after



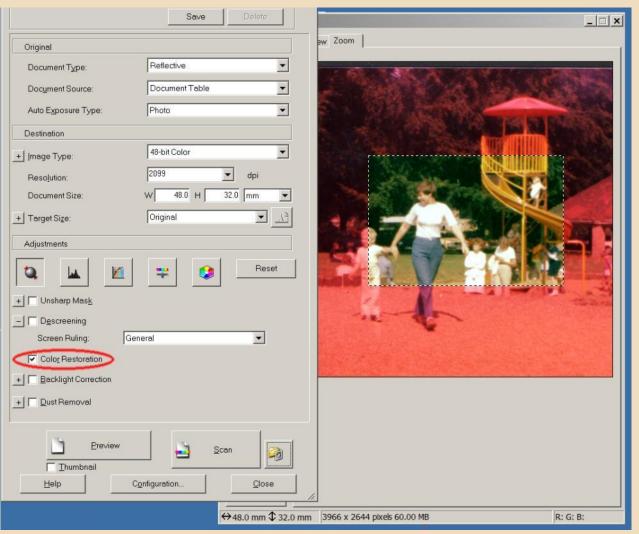
#### 4 Discolouration

Old colour photos can fade or discolour.

This can often be very effectively corrected using the scanner software colour correction selection.

Alternatively, the white balance dropper in editing software can restore colour provided that there is an area in the photo known to have been either white or grey.

Other methods to restore colour in software are generally difficult to apply.



Discoloured photo of my sister with her son.

Colour restoration using check box in scanner software.

The result can be astonishing.



Original photo of my parents bungalow



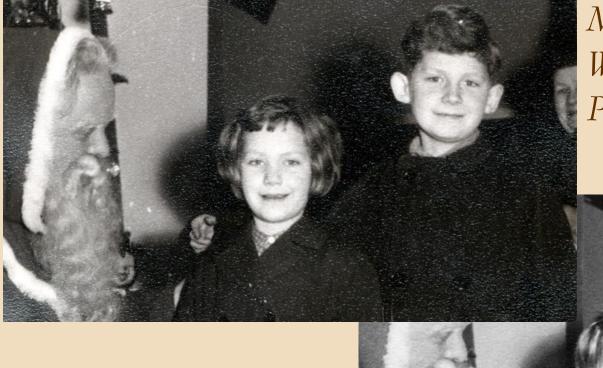
Colour adjustment using white balance dropper on gutter

# 5 Textured surface

Photos with a textured surface scan badly, giving a sparkly speckled effect.

Better copies may be obtained by re-photographing if the scan proves unsatisfactory.

Scanning would work better if wet photos were laid on the glass platen but this risks damaging irreplaceable pictures and possibly poses an electrical risk.



My sister and I at Whiteleys in 1955.
Photo as scanned, with blue speckles.

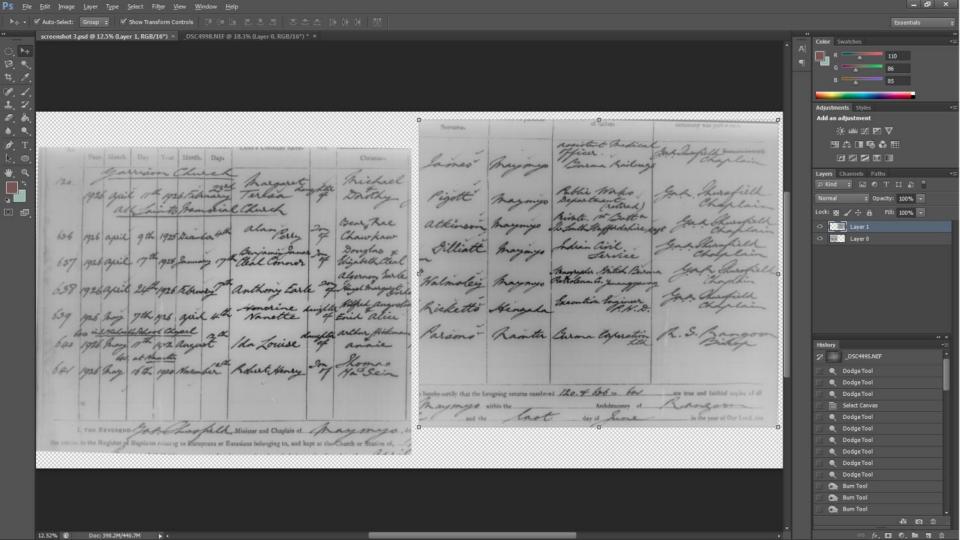
Same photo, speckle free, after re-photographing.

# 6 Large photos

Large photos (and documents) can be scanned in sections and stitched together in software.

Pre scan each section and record optimum scanning parameters then use the average of all sections so that the stitching appears seamless. Load all images together then extend canvas of base image, to accommodate remaining frames.

For each subsequent frame, select all, copy then paste into base image and line up with move tool.



# Flat bed scanning of photos

Scan to a Tiff file in 16 bit (per channel) mode if possible so that a limited tonal range can be pulled out in software without posterisation.

.jpg files can only give 8 bits per channel.

After processing the photos can be saved in 8 bit mode as .jpgs to save on storage space.

Adjust scan resolution to give a cropped size of around 60 or more mega pixels (Mpx) in 16 bit mode.

To adjust the scan size, preview in fairly high resolution and adjust the linear proportions in the ratio of the square root of the area ratio.

If the preview scan has an area of 240 Mpx then divide 60 by 240 to give 0.25.

Take the square root (0.5) and multiply one of the linear dimensions by this figure and the resulting scan will be 60 Mpx.

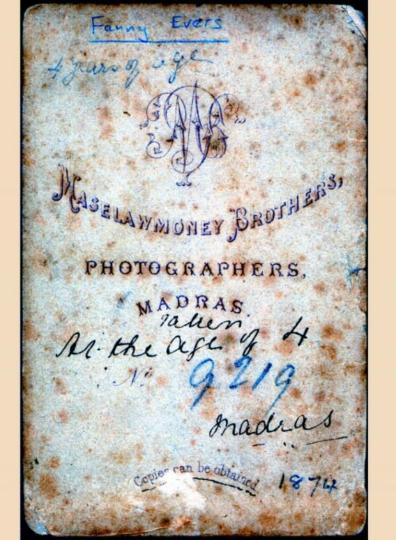
It is a good idea to make a duplicate copy the whole of the photo with frame and the back at a lower resolution.

The print size, border shape, mounting and colour can all help date and locate the picture.

If there is a photographers name, then published lists of commercial photographers can supply dates and locations where they operated and indicate dates when they changed operating premises.

Written information is even more important, sometimes identifying people and places.





If photographs are shared on the internet you may wish to include (or to remove) metadata and this option can be selected under **Save to Web**.

I generally remove metadata and reduce the file size, making the height no more than 1,080 pixels for high definition displays or 768 for older screens.

Perhaps I ought to be preparing for 4k screens (2,160 px high) or even for 5k screens (2,880px high).

Good colour balance for scanned colour negatives can be difficult to achieve if the producer and development process are unknown.

If the manufacturer and type of the negative film stock is known then these can sometimes be selected in film scanner software and should yield the best available positive.

# Information recording

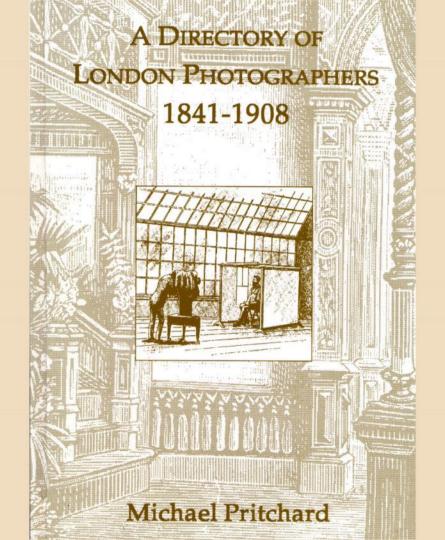
In recording old photos - colour, size and information printed or written on the back can be important for dating and for identifying people or locations.

Measure size and note, in pencil, on back or scan whole picture with thin ruler alongside.

# Information recording

There are publications that can identify commercial photographers, stating, amongst other things, when and where they operated.

Different eras had favoured print sizes and styles that can help to date them.

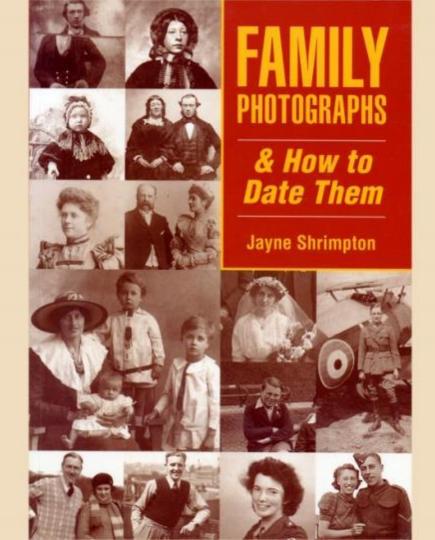


Published by:

PhotoResearch

Lambert & Okey 56 High Street, Camden Town N.W.	1888-90	Lansdell, George 10 Stonefield Street, Islington N.	1893-04
	1000 70		1033-0
Lambert, Edward James	1001 00	Laporte & Stanley	1000
56 High Street, Camden Town N.W.	1891-08-	172 Kings Road S.W.	1862-64
Lamercier, Louis		La Porte & Thompson	
131 Fleet Street E.C.	1870-75	<ol> <li>Buckingham Palace Road S.W.</li> </ol>	1882
Lamont & Ross		La Porte, Charles	
56 Huntley Street W.C.	1898	204 Kings Road, Chelsea S.W.	1866-76
Lamotte, Claude		La Porte, John	
148 Sloane Street, Chelsea S.W.	1859	84 Kings Road, Chelsea	1867
		Wandsworth Road S.W.	1869-70
Lancaster, Edward		1 Buckingham Palace Road S.W.	1872-83
22A Endell Street W.C.	1887-89		
5 New Oxford Street W.C.	1890-91	La Porte, John, & Co.	
233 High Holborn W.C.	1893	1 Buckingham Palace Road S.W.	1884-85
235 High Holborn W.C.	1894	Lapparini, Attilio	
Lancaster, Richard Stuart		42 Tottenham Court Road W.	1903-08-
120 Mile End Road E.	1894-97	Larmuth, T. H.	1905-06
Landor, Edmund		5 Carpenter Buildings, London W.	1854
61 Knightsbridge S.W.	1905	CONTRACTOR	0.575
		Laroche, Martin	
Lane, John		65 Oxford Street W.	1852-62
54 Hatfield Street, Blackfriars Road	1855	Laroche, Silvester	
143 Blackfriars Road S.	1856-68		ugust 1848
Langfiar Limited			tised the
23A Old Bond Street W.	1899-08-	daguerreotype from 1845 was ass	
		Archer in his work in developing th	
Langfiar, Adolph	TO SHEET WHEN IN	process. In 1854 was resisted Talb	
154 Holland Park Avenue W.	1906-07	claim over the new collodion proce	
95 Wigmore Street W.	1908	sucessful in defending the Talbot's	
Langfiar, Pearl		infringement of the patent - sper	
24 Westbourne Grove W.	1907-08	£2000 in the process. This a	
24 Westodalie Glove W.	1907-00	instrumental in opening up photo	
Langford, George		professional practise free of any resi	
17 Hindon Street, Pimlico S.W.	1890	died in Birmingham on 10 Novemb	
1 Caroline Street, Pimlico S.W.	1896-08-	the age of 77 years. A relative, W.	
Langton, Arthur James		practised as a photographer in Lland	tudno.
35 Buckingham Palace Road S.W.	1887-08-		
		Laroche, Thomas 191 Newington Butts S.E.	1887-88
Langton, James Arthur	research	191 Newington Butts S.E. 199 East India Dock Road E.	
307 & 309 Euston Road N.W.	1884-88	199 East India Dock Road E.	1889-00
369 Euston Road W.	1885-86		
309 Euston Road N.W.	1887-89		

Larritt, John James 12 Hannibal Road, Stepney Green E.	1864-74	Leech, George Walter 252 Cambridge Road E.	1880
Lascelles, Henry		Leigh, Harry	
34 Howland Street W.	1864-67	159 Stamford Street E.	1896
Lattimer, John Freeman Latham		Leigh, Herbert, & Co.	
307 Essex Road N.	1873-81	6 Dean Street, Soho W.	1908-
Laurens, Glanville		Lemaire, Henry	
189 Earls Court Road S.W.	1894-99	3 Blackfriars Road S.	1856-59
Lavis, George & Mrs Rebecca		Leman, Edward	
135 Regent Street W.	1864-77	2 Camden Rd, Camden Town N.W.	1863
See Creed, George.		Leman, Herbert Thomas	
Lawrence, George Henry		135 Oxford Street W.	1903-06
40 Walworth Road S.E.	1899-02	304 Regent Street W.	1907-08-
Lawrence, John		Lemere, Bedford	
411 Mare Street, Hackney N.E.	1905	78 Albert Street, Regents Park N.W.	1867-72
411 Maie Succe, Hacking 14.E.	1905	4 Featherstone Buildings W.C.	1868
Leakey, Alfred Henry		147 Strand W.C.	1869-72
99 Harrow Road W.	1904-08-		
Lean, Charles		Lemere, Bedford, & Co.	1000 00
170 Holloway Road N.	1898-00	147 Strand W.C.	1873-08-
170 Honoway Road 14.	1070-00	Le Mesurier & Marshall, Misses	
Le Beau		Red Brick House, Campden Hill Rd.	1897-04
Hackney Road 12 Febr	uary 1846	9 Kensington High Street W.	1905-08-
Le Beau & Rust		Lenthall, Henry	
11 Westbourne Grove W.	1863-64	222 Regent Street W.	1862-78
26 Westbourne Grove W.	1865		
Lee, George		Leo, Victor 83 Newington Causeway S.E.	1889
204 Kings Road, Chelsea S.W.	1879-81	65 Newington Causeway S.E.	1007
182 Kings Road, Chelsea S.W.	1882-87	Leon, Miss Marie	
**************************************		30 Regent Street S.W.	1901-08-
Lee, James	1050 61	Leon, Victor	
47 Whitechapel Road E.	1858-61	140A Jamaica Road S.E.	1899
Lee, James Hy.		140A Janiaica Road S.E.	1099
2 Prospect Terrace, Holloway Rd. N.	1884-85	Leonard, William Miles	
553 Holloway Road N.	1886-02	246 High Holborn W.C.	1857-60
72 Seven Sisters Road N.	1905-07	Le Roi, Claude, & Co.	
Lee, John Hy.		16 & 17 Poultry E.C.	1872
147 High Street, Shoreditch N.E.	1868	HALMA BARRATT PORTAGO	10/2
	1000	Leroux, Pierre	
Lee, William John		133 Queens Road, Bayswater W.	1907
72 Seven Sisters Road	1908-		



Published by:

Countryside Books



The mother's very close-fitting bodice is emphasised by the arrangement of the fabric into broad folds over the shoulders which converge into a V-shape at the front, a style similar in effect to bretelles and typical of this period. The child (born in 1855) wears a fashionable full-skirted dress with a draped bodice, which broadly echoes her mother's outfit.



Probably aged in her early teens, this young lady wears adult-style clothing but her hair is dressed in long ringlets, a style favoured for girls throughout the 1850s, 1860s and 1870s. The plain dress fabric trimmed with bands of a contrasting colour was a popular theme, while her fine collar and under sleeves appear to be decorated with lace.



The original of this photograph has been identified as a carte de visite and must therefore date from at least 1838, while the dress suggests a date no later than c. 1860. The son wears the characteristic slim-fitting frock coat of this decade. His father also wears a well-fitting frock coat and the broad, black silk cravat which was a common style during the 1850s. The mother, being an older, married woman, wears a modest day can.

This broken ambrotype demonstrates the fragility of these early glass photographs. The young man appears to be similar in age to the son in No.9 and his outfit is comparable. His waistcoat is, typically, cut low in front, its double-breasted fastening highlighted by the gilding of the buttons. For neckwear he wears a stylish coloured cravat, knotted, with the long ends tucked into the waistcoat.





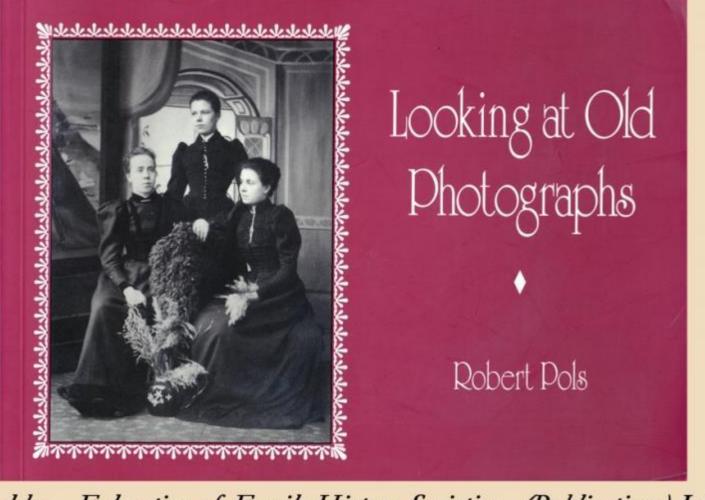
A rare example of fashionable outdoor dress both this period. Her smooth, centrallyparted hairstyle, draped low over the ears, was fashionable from around the mid-1850s through to the early 1860s, but the round, open style of her bonnet, fastening under the chin with a broad silk ribbon tied in a large bow, narrows the date to the late 1850s or 1860. She wears either a shawl or a short jacket with wide sleeves, popular throughout the 1850s and much of the 1860s, since they sat well with the expansive skirts of these years.

Simple studio props began to be used more frequently from the late 1850s. The young lady's standing position gives a clear view of the fashionable silhouette, especially the fullness of the skirt, which was approaching its maximum width at this time, aided by the vast crinoline frame. Another useful dating clue is her sleeves, which fall wide from the top in an exaggerated version of the pagoda shape, a style seen especially from 1857-1869.



17

16



Published by: Federation of Family History Societies - (Publications) Limited

#### Figures 20 & 21

Both sides, image and mount, of the same carte de visite are illustrated.

The woman's appearance suggests that this photograph dates from the 1880s. High collars with white frills became very popular, though the collar here could be a little higher for the frill to achieve the full 'pie-crust' impact. The smartness of the look was aided by the fact that the frills could often be detached for laundering. Smocked and gathered effects also came into great favour at the end of the seventies and into the eighties. The false hair of the seventies gave way in the next decade to a reappearance of the smooth head, with hair drawn into a bun at the back, as here, though the most fashion-conscious women often also wore a crimped, rather straggly fringe.

Gone, too, is the full range of decorative and colour contrasts of the seventies. This dress, rich and elaborate to our eyes, is relatively sober when compared with the excesses of previous years, though it is perhaps decorative enough to suggest the earlier part of the eighties. The contrast is gained not from juxtaposed colours and patterns, but from juxtaposed textures and responses



to light. This contrast of matt with glossy, of light-absorbent with light-reflecting, seems very characteristic of the eighties. Such reflective materials as satin, shiny silk, watered fabric and damasked velvet abound. These materials were not new or exclusive to the decade. In the forties and fifties the pioneer studio photographers were



encouraging women to wear satin, shot silk and heavily textured materials for their sittings, in order to avoid or relieve the density of black as it was rendered by early emulsions. Thus, materials such as these are not diagnostic of the eighties; but they are very common.

Other details, too, are broadly in keeping with the suggested dating. By

# Document digitising

### Problems with Documents:

- 1 large
- 2 damaged,
- 3 faded,
- 4 discoloured.

After scanning, these can be treated in a similar manner to photographs.

# Public Record Offices

Many public record office family history documents have not been digitised but, with permission, can be photographed. The British Library permits photography in the reading rooms as long as flash isn't used, but not all the printed information is consistent so, some attendants will help you with photography but, others will stop you (because I was using a zoom lens!)



### Requirements in British Library leaflet

### Requirements on British Library bag



Researching the world's knowledge www.bl.uk

#### **Reading Room Requirements**











Laptop



Mobile













Clean dry

No No Sharp Food, drink, bottled water, sweets or gum



No Cameras

Collection items cannot be removed from any Reading Room

Thank you for supporting the British Library, Earth Friendly made from bio-degradable film

A late baptism entry for one of my cousins, not yet on microfilm.

The British Library
attendant kindly held the
book up for me to take the
photograph.

Karaw-	CHURCH &	CHRIST THE KING	
CERTIFICATE C	DE BAPTISM REG. 1 Nº	ဆေး ကြော ခြင်း လက် မှတ်	
	KEG. J. N.	206	
Christian name	TER WINSTON	ဘာသော အာမည်	
Surname	WALMSLEY	ဆေးကြောရိုင်းခံသူ၏အမည်	
Date of birth	7- SEPTEMBER		
Place of birth	KALAW	မွေးဖွါးလည့်နေရပ်	
Family's abode	KAIAW	လက် <b>ရှိ</b> နေရပ်	
Father's name			
Mother's name	HONORINE WI	ALMSLEV & month	
Date of baptism	27 SEPT. 19		
Place of baptism	KALAW DITON	ောင်ကြာခြင်းပေးသောနေရပ်	
godfather	TEMPORARY C	E House memoral bicom သောနေရပ် Kopet ခေါင်းကိုင်အဘ	
godmother	, MARY NICHOLA	S. — col8tm88m8	
Minister of baptism	Father Franc. Box	DRIVI ဆေး စကြာ ခြင်း မေး သော ရ ဟန်း က ကုလင်း ခုရစ္စမားအား ပေးခြင်း ခံသောရက်စွဲ	
Date of confirmation	) pa	priest assessmentale sexonoma	
Date of marriage			
Mi Certificate issued on	APRIL 5# 1990-	ဤလက်မှတ်ရရှိသော့ခု ရက်ရွှဲ	
Signature of the Price	pgr. Augeloff	မြေတီ လက် မှတ် ထုတ် မေး သော ရဟန်း	
T in	Harina	Kalaw april 5/99	

Many family history records have been scanned and can be downloaded from a multitude of sites like 'Ancestry' and 'Find My Past',

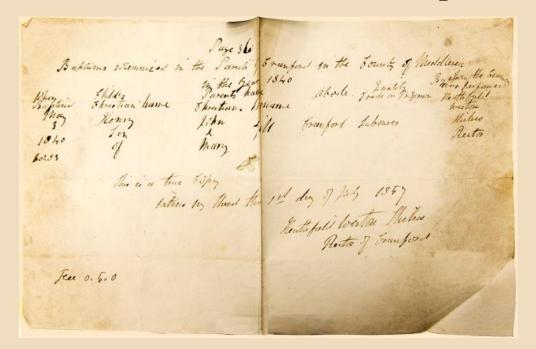
But many records are still only available in hard copy or on microfilm.

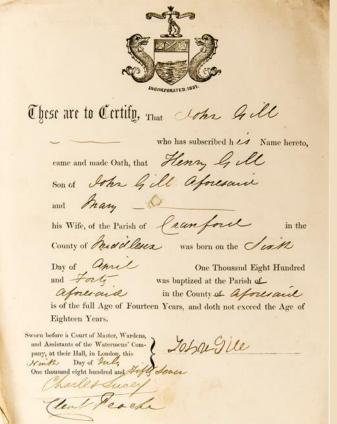
In both cases a camera can be used (with permission) and processed later in software.

Guildhall records, for example, can be photographed for a fee of £,5

a day.

### Here are two examples

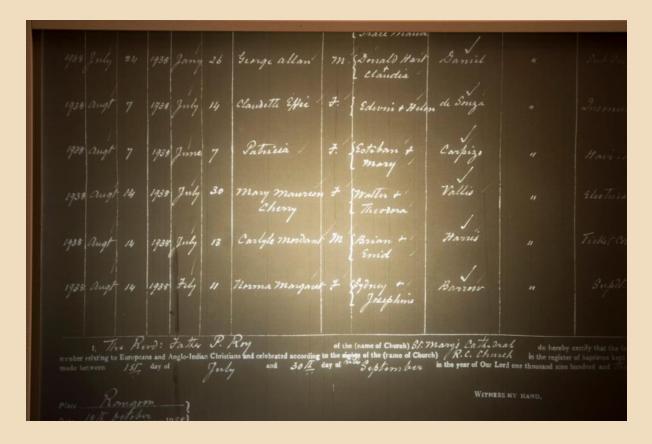




Photographs taken from microfilm readers are tricky as the level of illumination is so uneven.

The effect of poor edge illumination and of camera shake can be reduced by magnifying the image and photographing the microfilms in sections.

These frames can be adjusted in software then stitched together.



Photograph of
microfilm reader screen
showing the baptism
of another of my
Harris cousins in
Rangoon.

The hot spot at the screen centre is removed with reverse vignetting in ACR.

## Here are two frames as photographed from microfilm reader:

				George allan		Social Hart			
				Claudette Effic	7.	Edwar + Helen	de Smyr		
	1988	Jime		Patricia /		Sections +	Compize		
	1938	7.4	30	many mourses Cherry		Walter +	Valla		
38 Augt	1938	Tudy		Carlyle mondons			Harris		
	1938	74		Horma Margaret		Josephins	Barrer		
		Fa The inglo-India	P. or Christ Jerd	and fund celebrated according	to the die	e (name of Church) St. 77 ings of the (rame of Church Supters here	teany) On the One  () R.C. Chrose in the year of One Los	in the reg	eby certify that litter of baseries are bundred as

	Sub Inopla: of Police	P. Rm		
, de Singa	Incometar officer	P. Ray		
Confrige	Hoir dresser	P. Ray		
Villa (	thetained trams	g.c.machado	cati: P.	in sujene
Harris	Tricket Collector, Bai Rige	J. C. machado	"	sof-Jemudies
Bonner		t-deo	"	\$419 Les

## And the stitched baptism record after vignetting and inverting:

1938 augt 7	1938 June	7	Patricia /	7.	Seoteban +	Carpizo	"	Hair-dresser	P. Rnj	"	saf-P. Ray
			many maureen			Vallis /	"	Electrical Examm:	J.C. machado	Cath: Prison	syge made
			Carlyle mordans			Harris	"	Ticket Collector, Br: Rly	J.C. machado	11 81	d-J.C. machas
1938 Augt 14	1938 Fely	"	Horma Mangares	· #	Sydney + Josephine	Barrer	"	Supot: Secutarist	F. Leo	4	Self. F. Les
1. The Renamber relating to Europe made between 155		P. In Christ	Rey ians and celebrated according and 30 A	of the to the day of	he (name of Church) 3/.		do hereby  d in the register d one thousand nine l	certify that the foregoing returns are tru of baptisms kept at the Church or state undered and Thirty right		the entries being	163

## Saving for posterity

My view for long term archival is that, in the longer term, paper based paper records are actually far more accessible and durable than digital files.

Remember the storage systems that we thought would last forever:

78 rpm records open reel tape
cassettes 8mm film
8" floppy discs VHS video tapes

•

Remember the companies we thought would last forever:

Home and Colonial Ekco

Morris Woolworths

C and A

And programs we used to use:

Word Perfect VisiCalc

1-2-3 DBase2

Or the slowly disappearing hardware to play storage media:

Gramophones Open reel tape decks

Cassette players Film projectors

Floppy disc drives Dot matrix printers

And operating systems:

CP/M MSDOS

Even Windows and Unix (used by Apple)

may be replaced by hypervisors with unikernels as these are much faster and more secure in a Cloud environment.

Future family historians might not be able to recover files from failed cloud companies.

Recently hackers have encrypted computer files that they will restore for a substantial ransom, (provided that they haven't scrambled their encryption program).

Remember, therefore, to back up regularly to remove the risk of losing everything.

Forget CDs, DVDs hard disc or solid state drives or the Cloud for long term archival.

Use paper, slides and negatives as these will remain readable for far longer.

These still need protecting from light, damp and insect attack and some degradation with time is inevitable.

Methods of archival storage for paper.

I use a metal filing box for the more important photos, indexed by family name.

A more robust fireproof box would have been better.



Methods of archival storage for slides.

I use these storage boxes which hold 500 slides each (recovered from a skip at a recycling depot for a nominal charge).

I keep them in a dark cupboard.



Methods of archival storage for negatives and medium format slides.

This is a purpose made light tight archive storage box.

Hama make negative sleeves and some slides are in sleeves provided by the film processor.



For really important photos consider using archive grade paper and ink, possibly using a specialist printing firm.

For electronic files, the simpler they are the easier they will be to decode. I suggest that bitmaps will be the easiest to read in the longer term, say firstly, Windows type  $\sim$ .bmp files, then uncompressed TIFF ~.tif files

filoc

and finally compressed

 $\sim$ .jpg

## Presentation

There are a number of software packages that can create family trees and add graphical information such as:

Family Tree Maker from Ancestry (interacts with their website)

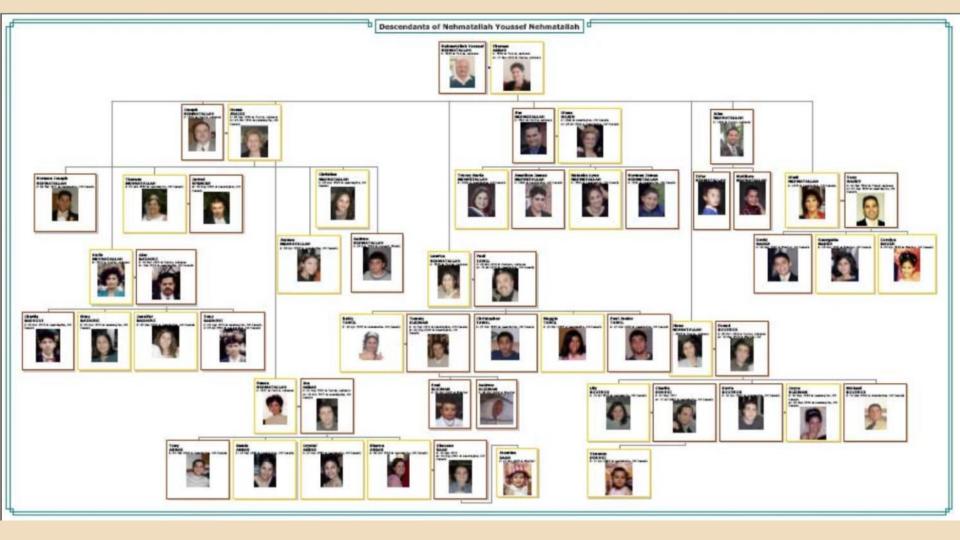
Family Historian Legacy Family Tree

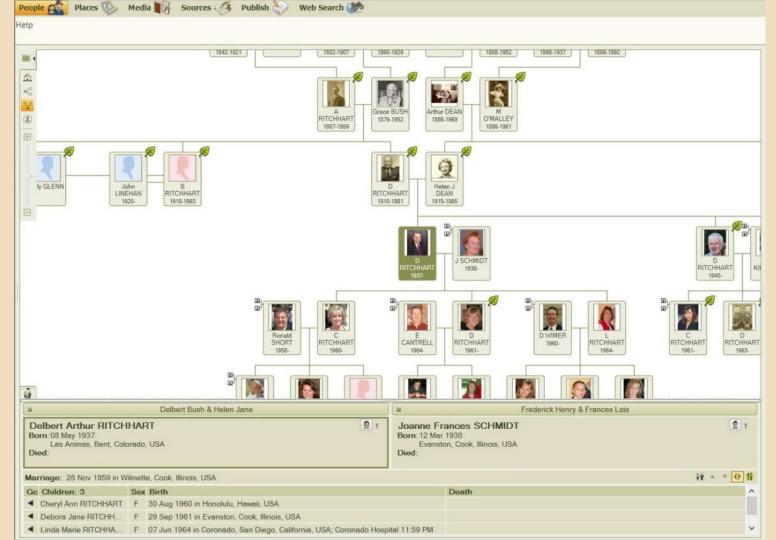
Ancestral Quest Family Tree Heritage

RootsMagic Master Genealogist

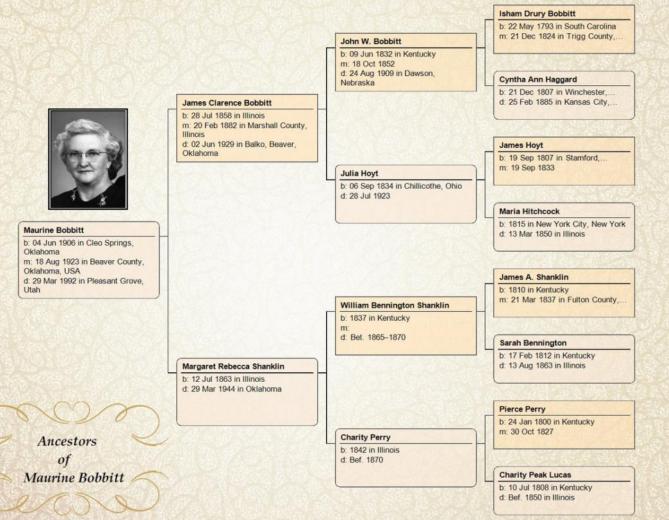
MAC Family Tree Reunion (for MAC)

Here are some samples of Family Tree Maker downloaded from the web:









I can't comment on any of them as I haven't used them.

For straightforward image viewing the free FastStone Image Viewer has several options for slide shows.

Family viewing, using a tablet or mobile and a blue tooth enabled TV works well.

I use an Apple TV box coupled to my TV with an HDMI cable. For exhibition or display  $10" \times 8"$  prints (or larger) are a good option.

## Appendix

Sources of digital images for family history research:

www.freebmd.org.uk

Birth, marriage and death indexes for England and Wales.

www.ancestry.co.uk

Birth, marriage and death indexes and census returns for England and Wales, London phone books and a great deal more.

www.familysearch.org

International genealogy website run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, **but**, contains some guesswork so check sources.

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk Birth, marriage and death indexes for Scotland and digitised images of many of the certificates and census returns for Scotland.

www.findmypast.co.uk contains, amongst other things, birth, marriage and death indexes and census returns for England and Wales. Also newspapers, an excellent resource.

www.originsnetwork.com

www.archive.timesonline.co.uk Times digital archive, 1785 -1985, superb for detailed information about newsworthy family members.

British genealogy, including wills, military records, apprenticeship records and marriage indexes.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk	Wills, WW1 medal index, naval records and
	more.
www.cyndislist.com	260,000 links to online resources for genealogy.

www.familyrecords.gov.uk Government's official genealogy portal to national records.

www.gro.gov.uk Government agency for civil registration in England

www.genuki.org.uk

Government agency for civil registration in England and Wales.

Gateway to online resources for British and Irish genealogy.

www.ireland.com/ancestor Irish family history.

www.familyhistoryonline.net Local family history society indexes.

National Burial index, indexes to baptisms, marriages and censuses.

www.oldbaileyonline.org Court proceedings with statements, 1674 - 1913.

Wonderful fleshing out information if your

ancestors became entangled in the judicial system.

www.fibis.org Families in British India Society for family history, 1600 - 1947.

www.archives.gov/research/immigration - for immigration shipping lists.

These are just the tip of the on-line iceberg of sources.