

Types of Images

Black shadow portraits, ink pen drawings Or oil paintings	1700's - 1800's
Daguerreotypes	1839 - 1857
Stereographs	1849 - 1920's
Ambrotypes	1854 - 1862
Tintypes	1856 - 1890's (some up to 1920's)
Cartes de Visites	1859 - 1914
Cabinet Cards	1866 - 1890's (Some into 1930's)
Charcoal drawings & charcoal enhanced photographs	1860's to 1920's
Postcards	1900 - 1920's

Photo Identification Tips for Family Historians

Keep old photographs in family groupings to aid in identification at a later date (Maternal line vs. Paternal line).

Search for old family photos by contacting as many living relatives as you can

When you visit your family relatives, ask them to help you identify the names of people in old family photographs, as well as when and where the pictures were taken.

Identify the photographic processes used to assist in the date of the photo.

Check for any markings or stamped information on photographs.

Check card color and thickness, corners (rounded or square) , edges (scalloped, beveled or straight), size.

Match the clues up with your knowledge of family history

Check out the scene and setting.

Focus on clothing, hairstyles and mustaches.

Use family group pictures to aid in identification of other photos of individuals.

If photo has a studio name and address use city directories to check dates photographer was at those locations.

Check individual physical characteristics (i.e. eyes, ears, nose etc.) when trying to identify people in families and individuals at different ages.

Try to identify people over time using computer technology or by comparing individual characteristics.

Store your photos in archival quality, acid free folders or boxes.

Scan your photos, store them into your computer, and keep backup copies on CD-ROM discs, flash drives or in the cloud.

Photograph Identification Bibliography

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