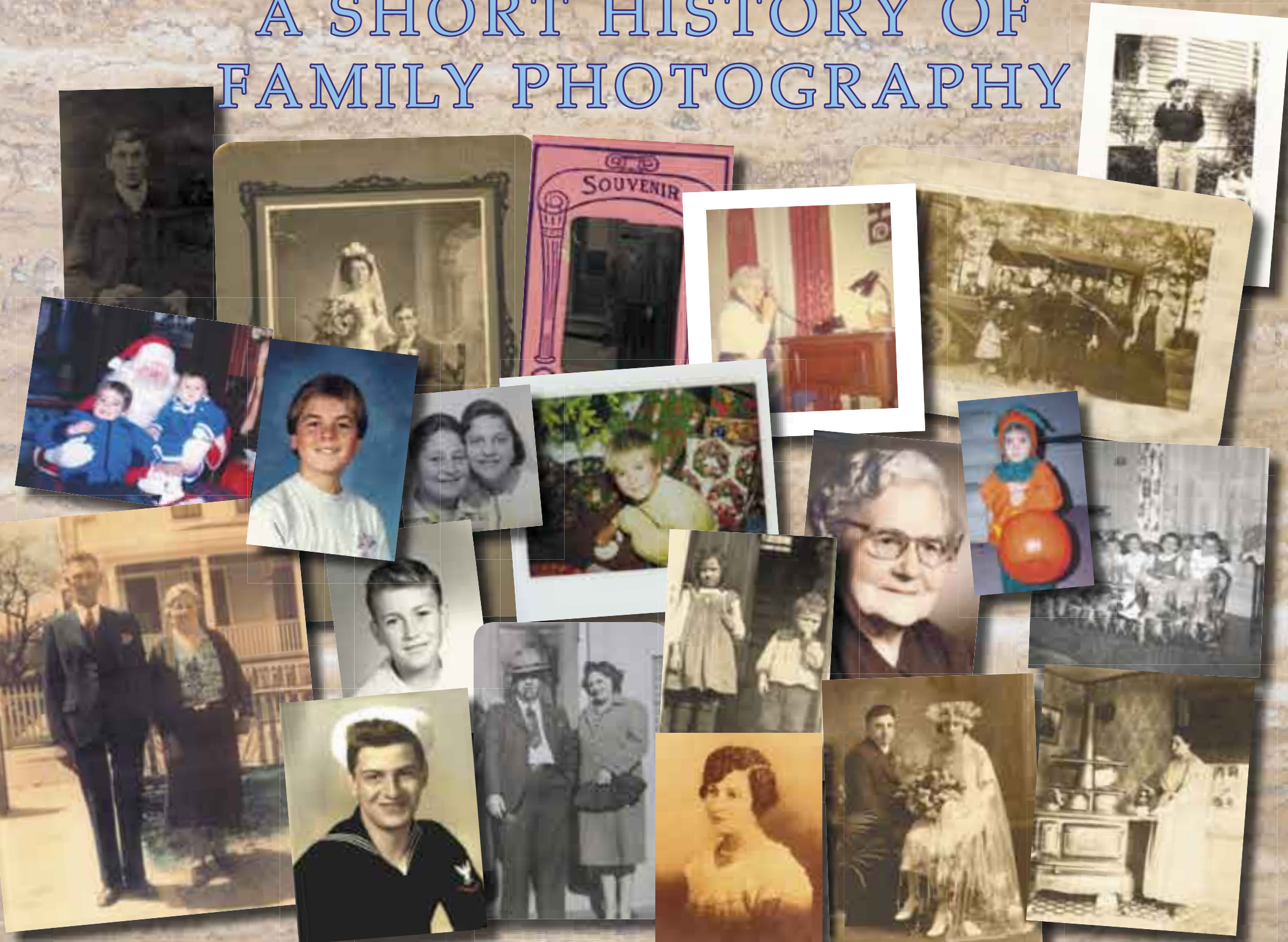


A SHORT HISTORY OF FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY



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In 1900 George Eastman produced the first camera for the general public: the Kodak Box Brownie with roll-film. The camera sold for \$1 and became an instant success. *(Photo 1)* “Family Photography” was born.

Photography has been around since the 1840s, but it wasn't until the end of the 1800s that it became popular and affordable to the general population. Before 1900, only documented special events such as marriages were photographed. Photographs required a professional photographer and were too expensive for the average family. The earliest family



Photo 1: The birth of Family Photography began with the introduction of the Box Brownie by George Eastman in 1900.

photos appeared on metal *(Photos 2 & 3)* and later on a thicker cardboard-like paper stock *(Photo 4)*. Another early source of photos was the street photographer. *(Photo 5)*

For the first time families themselves could document visual moments to remember later on, share experiences with distance family members, and document marriages *(Photos 6-8)*, vacations *(Photos 9 & 10)*, family outings and visits *(Photo 11)*, and even death photos *(Photo 12)*.

The Hamel and Landry Families were no different from other families. They, too, had discovered the Kodak Box Brownie.



Photo 2: Photo of Luc Landry on metal taken around 1890



Photo 3: Members of the Pacquette Family of Woonsocket on metal around 1890



Photo 4: This wedding photo of Great Aunt Solime's was printed on card stock and taken around 1900.



Photo 5: This photo of Luc Landry was probably taken by a street photographer in the early 1900s.



Photo 6-8: (top) Joe and Irene (Landry) Dutra's wedding on Sept. 3, 1945 (lower left) Jeanette (Hamel) Tellier's wedding photo with parents Roland and Cora Hamel on Oct. 2, 1953 (lower right) Rita (Vallieres) Landry's wedding in Feb., 1946.



Photos 9 & 10: Joseph-Wilfred Hamel at a train station in the 1920s



Photo 9: Hamel Family on an outing around 1911 (Wilfred Hamel is seen as a boy standing on the side of a car.)

(An older family Box Brownie still survives at the home of Rene Hamel in Coventry.) The Box Brownie photos are distinguished by their sepia-like color and size (*Photo 13*). For many children, photography became a popular hobby.

Another popular form of photography in the early 1920s was the postcard snapshot, which was taken from a special camera (*Photo 14*).

In the 1920s, Kodak introduced the flash camera allowing for indoor photography (*Photo 15*).

During the 1930s photo quality began to decline; images became grainier and less defined (*Photo 16*). Dates started appearing on photos during this time.

In the 1940s the mini photo album appeared and became a popular



Photo 12: Rosa Hamel in 1923



Photo 13: This photo of the Hamel Family at the beach in 1911 was probably taken by a Box Brownie camera. Rosa Hamel (dressed in black) is at center right.



Photo 14: Postcard photos were popular in the early 1900s. Eugene Pichette writes to her sister on the back of the postcard around 1920.



Photo 15: Hamel Family in the kitchen around 1926.



Photo 16: Wilfred Hamel in June, 1937.



Photo 17: Wilfred Hamel and Rita Landry at her wedding in 1946.



Photos 18 & 19: Wilfred and Yvonne Hamel in the 1940s.



way to collect and organize photos (Photo 17). During this period, black and white photos were sometimes “colorized” using a brush to apply light watercolor washes (Photos 18 & 19).

Another popular source of family photos was the amusement park photo booth (Photos 20-23).

During the last half of the 1900s the next big innovation was color photography (Photo 24).

In the 1960s, slides also became popular form of family photography, but were difficult to show because a projector was needed and a screen had to be put up (Photo 25). As the projector equipment deteriorated

Photos 20-23:
(Top left) Wilfred and Yvonne Hamel in the 1940s
(Top right) Rene Landry in the 1930s
(Bottom left) Yvonne Hamel in the 1950s
(Bottom right) Paul and Pauline Hamel around 1957

over the years, many slides ended up in storage boxes in the attic. The same fate happened to old 8 and 16 millimeter home movies.

Next the Polaroid camera, producing instant photos, entered the market and was a great innovation. For the first time, families did not have to take or send their role of film to a processor (*Photos 26-28*).

Photos taken by professional photographers were still popular throughout the century, as can be seen in wedding portraits (*Photo 29*), children's school photos (*Photos 30 & 31*), graduation photos (*Photos 32 & 33*), family portraits (*Photo 34*), Christmas card photos (*Photo 35*), and children's "Mall" photos with Santa Claus (*Photo 36*) or the Easter Bunny (*Photos 37 & 38*).

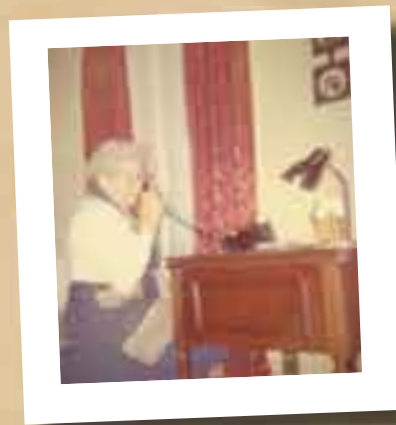


Photo 24: Elmire Landry in the 1960s



Photo 25: Slides became popular in the 1960s,



Photos 26: Eric Landry at Christmas in the 1970s



Photo 27: Raphael, Daniel and Aurelie Guien with a chimp in the 1980s.



Photos 28: Raphael, Aurelie and Daniel Guien in the 1990s



Photo 29: Alice (Landry) Tupaj's wedding photo



Photos 30 & 31: David Landry's school photo in the 1950s (left) and his son, Eric's photo in 1970s (right).



Photo 32: Jim Stevens Navy training graduation photo



Photo 33: Darleen (Landry) Guien's graduation photo in 1968



Photo 34: David and Teresa Landry in the 1990s

In the 1990s the digital age of cameras began. Digital cameras (*Photo 39*) allowed increased ease in taking photos and showing photos on a home computer or TV screen. Photos could now be cropped, altered, and printed out at home with increasing ease (*Photos 38-40*).

Today digital photography provides us with the tools to duplicate and restore antique photos using scanners and computer software on home computers. Preserving old family photos has never been easier (*Photo 41-44*). Even old photo negatives that have been in the attic for years can be brought back to life. (*Photos 45-48*).

Today another revolution in photography is taking place--the cell phone camera (*Photo 49*). Today



Photo 35: Robie and Ronnie Dallaire in the 1980s



Photo 36: Connor and Kelly Vordale in the 1990s



Photo 37: Connor Vordale in 1990s



Photo 38: Erin and Paige Landry in 2000

anyone can take, crop, alter, send, and print any photo (or video) taken from anywhere, and then sent anywhere around the world in minutes (*Photo 50*).

Despite all the revolutionary changes in photography, the “family photo” still ranks as the most popular: images of family, loved ones, and friends. See for yourself. Just ask anyone to show you their cell phone photos!

Family photography plays a major cultural role in our society. Family members still take photos of important family moments and events. (*Photos 51-54*). We still keep photos so that we can remember events later on, and we still send photos by mail or electronically to share our lives with distant family and friends.

Photos 39: In the 1990s the digital age of cameras began. Digital cameras allowed increased ease in taking photos and showing photos on a home computer or TV screen.



Photo 39: Tattoos and an ear ring was added to Ryan Kirkhart's photo.



Photo 39 & 40: Rene and Rita Landry's 60th Anniversary card (right) was made by altering the photo on the left.



Photos 41 & 42: Original (above) and retouched photo (below) of Yvonne (Landry) Hamel around 1915



Photo 43 & 44: Damaged photo (left) and retouched photo (right) of Leo Hamel around 1950

Photos 45 & 48: Elmiré Landry in her living room on Barney Street in Warren in the 1940s. The negative was found in the envelope below in the attic of Elmiré's former home in 2006.



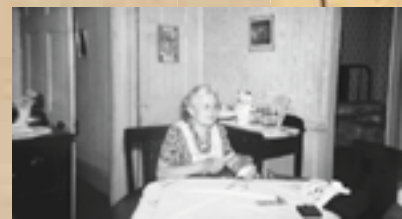
The negative



The reversed negative using front lighting



The reverse negative using back lighting. Because of the age of the negative, a sepia like color appeared when scanned



The photo was changed to black and white using Adobe Photoshop.

Using a home digital scanner and computer, negatives can be made into photos.



Photo 49: During this century, the cell phone brought another revolution in photography.



Photo 50: A photo from Michael Breyer's cell phone in 2006



Photos 51-54: (top) Collage of photos of David and Tonya Landry's wedding. (Lower left) Collage of Ryan Kirkhart and (lower right) Collage of Rene and Rita Landry's home in Auburn, California

