

## Tips for Preserving your Family Photos

Compiled by Pat Scott, Collection Development Librarian



*Is Great Aunt Harriet's portrait looking a little pale these days?*

- Hang photos on walls where they will not get direct sunlight. If possible, hang photos on an inside wall away from fireplaces or heating units.
- For your framed photos, be sure to use a mat between the photograph and the glass. Otherwise moisture can cause the photo to stick to the glass. If you try to remove it, you're likely to damage the photo.
- Don't put photos in albums that sandwich the photos between plastic sheets. Over time the plastic will stick to the photos.
- Don't glue or tape photos into albums. Storing photos in storage boxes designed for photos is better.
- If you have photo albums where the photos have been glued or taped in, you can insert sheets of acid free paper between the pages. It will help prevent the photos from sticking together.
- If you have photos that have faded, especially color photos, consider transferring them to CDs before they fade any further. Otherwise, Great Aunt Harriet may fade into oblivion. (Not a bad thing, you say?)
- If you have color slides, try to keep them in a cool place (but not the basement—it gets damp down there.)
- When dusting framed photos, use only a dry cloth, no End Dust, Pledge, or other cleaning solvents.
- It is best to store black and white photos, slides and negatives separately.

If you have daguerreotypes, tintypes, and other very old photographs, or are just curious about early photographic processes see:

<http://www.photographymuseum.com/primer.html>

<http://inventors.about.com/library/inventors/blphotographytwo.htm>