# Restoring Old Photos with Photoshop

## Acquiring the Images

You can use a camera or a digital camera to acquire images. Scanners are best because they eliminate the need for lighting the originals. If you have to use a camera, pay particular attention to diffuse even lighting and to avoiding reflections.

Scan prints at 600 dpi and slides at 1200 dpi.

Scan in full colour even if you are starting with a B/W image.

Save scanned images in TIF format rather than JPG.

## Restoration Outline

* Evaluate the image
* Straighten and crop
* Correct the tonal range
* For discoloured images convert to B/W
* For colour images, correct the colour if needed
* Remove minor blemishes
* Attend to major retouching as needed
* Apply a sepia tone if required
* Sharpen the image if needed

## Tools You Will Need

* The Crop Tool. You can straighten as well as crop with this tool
* Correct the tonal range with the Levels adjustment
* Convert discoloured B/W images to B/W using the Hue/Saturation adjustment
* Perform colour correction with the Levels adjustment eye droppers. Make use of a skin tones swatch to apply skin colour correction by painting on a new layer with the blending mode set to Color
* Remove minor blemishes using the Spot Healing brush and/or the Healing brush and also the **Edit/Fill/Content Aware** menu item
* Major retouching can be done with a mixture of several tools. The Clone Stamp tool is the fundamental tool, but the **Edit/Content-Aware Fill** menu item is good for larger areas.
* The whole image can be sepia toned by adding a Hue/Saturation adjustment layer and then ticking the **Colorize** box.

## Reference

Photoshop Restoration and Retouching by Katrin Eismann with Wayne Palmer.

This book is old but worth its weight in gold. The club library has a copy which is part of the donation of Warren Joyce’s books from Michelle Joyce.

Andrew Marriott has located on on-line restoration service at: <https://www.myheritage.com/photo-enhancer>. It looks and sounds good but I have never used it. Be sure to read the fine print before you sign up.