

PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS



Death Photography	1-2
President's Message	3
The Envelopes	4-5

The unsettling art of death photography

By Bethan Bell

In the past it was common for families to have lots of children, and also common for them to die before their fifth birthday. Life in Victorian England was suffused with death. Epidemics such as diphtheria, typhus and cholera scarred the country.

Trinkets of memento mori - literally meaning, "remember you must die" - took several forms, and existed long before Victorian times. Locks of hair cut from the dead were arranged and worn in lockets and rings, death masks were created in wax, and the images and symbols of death appeared in paintings and sculptures.

But in the mid-1800s photography was becoming increasingly popular and affordable - leading to memento mori photographic portraiture. Photographs of loved ones taken after they died may seem morbid to modern sensibilities. But in Victorian England, they became a way of commemorating the dead and blunting the sharpness of grief. In images that are both unsettling and strangely



poignant, families pose with the dead, infants appear asleep, and consumptive young ladies elegantly recline, the disease not only taking their life but increasing their beauty. Photography studios would take a memento mori picture and print it on cards for the bereaved to give to friends and relatives. On some occasions eyes would be painted on to the photograph after it was developed, which was meant to make the deceased more lifelike while other times death was more obvious. Long exposures when taking photographs meant that the dead were often seen more sharply than the slightly-blurred living, because of their lack of movement.

PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS

The first successful form of photography, the daguerreotype - a small, highly detailed picture on polished silver - was an expensive luxury, but not nearly as costly as having a portrait painted, which previously had been the only way of permanently preserving someone's image.



As the number of photographers increased, the cost of daguerreotypes fell. Less costly procedures were introduced in the 1850s, such as using thin metal, glass or paper rather than silver. Death portraiture became increasingly popular. Victorian nurseries were plagued by measles, diphtheria, scarlet fever, rubella - all of which could be fatal.

It was often the first time families thought of having a photograph taken - it was the last chance to have a permanent likeness of a beloved child. But as healthcare improved the life expectancy of children, the demand for death photography diminished. The advent of snapshots sounded the death knell for the art - as most families would have photographs taken in life.

Now, these images of men, women and children stoically containing their grief in order to preserve the likeness of a taken-too-soon loved one, continue to live up to their name. Memento mori: remember, you must die.



Message From The President

Last month we observed another Memorial Day. Ceremonies to recognize those who gave their lives in defense of our country. We placed American flags on the graves of the men and women who made a contract to serve and protect, and in so doing helped to insure our country's freedom.

I was interested in knowing more about the day we also observe as the beginning of our summer season and also how our ancestors contributed to the country we all call home.

The holiday which is observed every year on the last Monday of May, originated as Decoration Day after the Civil War in 1868, when the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union Veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois, established it as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the Union war dead with flowers. By the 20th century, competing Union and Confederate holiday traditions, celebrated on different days, had emerged, and Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service.

The contributions of our family in the Revolution have been explored by many, and include the late Hon. Governor Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker. His research also revealed family service during the Civil War.

"It is believed that this war record, though necessarily incomplete, comprising one hundred and fifty-four men, of whom twenty-seven were commissioned officers, including two generals and four colonels, is unequalled by that of any other American family. Since there have been so few attempts to group together facts of this character, the statement cannot be made with certainty as to its accuracy, but there are substantial reasons for thinking the claim to be justified, and at all events our contributions of valor and sacrifice in that most momentous struggle were so extensive as to merit attention. Of the women, three married Judges, one was the wife of a United States Senator, and another has gone back across the Atlantic to live as a Countess on the shores of Lake Geneva".

"Let others boast, if they will, that their ancestors, after passing the Channel, tarried for awhile along the Mersey and the Thames before making the bolder venture of crossing the broad Atlantic. It is our pride that we drew our inspiration with our blood from that sturdy race living where the river Rhine meets the North Sea, who encountered and resisted with like courage and success the storms of ocean and the hosts of Spain, and who, in maintaining with rugged tenacity their own freedom of thought and conscience, preserved as well the liberties of modern Europe."

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and the community in Orlando.
God bless the United States of America.

Ron Pennypacker
President
Army Strong.

The Envelopes Bruce Pennypacker

The following entries are the accounts of our search for the men and women who were serving in the Armed Forces during the general election of 1944. These brave people took the time to mail in their votes, and I'm certain that they had "encouragement" from their superiors. The envelopes for those ballots have survived, and it has been our task to return them to the families of these soldiers and sailors.

LINUS FRANK ADAMS, b. 23 Nov 1921. 1949:S/SGT Marine Fighting Squadron 217, Marine Corps Air Depot, Miramar, San Diego, CA. Address on the envelope from 1944 is 433 Church Street, Royersford, PA.

I searched for Linus on Ancestry.com and found a family tree that included him. I contacted the owner of the tree and waited several days for a reply. The owner of the tree informed me that Linus was her father's first cousin and that the last known contact from her mother was from 2003. Linus had been living in Delaware with his wife, Melly. The owner also provided a phone number.

I called the number. A woman answered and I identified myself and told her that I was trying to locate relatives of Linus. She said, "Oh, would you like to speak to him?" I heard her say that it was someone named Pennypacker and he wants to speak to Linus Adams. Linus said, "Hello."

At this point I was shocked that I had not only found the right family but that I was actually speaking to Linus himself. I repeated that I had an envelope from 1944 that he had used to send in his ballot for the election of that year. He said, "That was a long time ago" and laughed. I said that he probably didn't remember the envelope itself and he agreed.

I told him that I had grown up in Royersford and was helping my brother get these envelopes to the right families. At this point, Melly says, "I've been listening to all of this on the other line. Are you the son of Dick Pennypacker from Royersford?" I said that Dick was my uncle and that my father was Francis. She said that she knew Francis, and that she knew his wife, June. "That's my mother," I said.

Melly went on to tell me that she and my mother had gone to school together and had graduated in the same class. She said that she thought my mother was a wonderful person who was always calm and soft-spoken. She had last seen my mother at a class reunion and wondered if she was still alive. My mom had died several years earlier. Melly told me that at the last reunion, my stepfather had accompanied my mom and had taken pictures of everyone and had sent copies of the pictures to everyone. She lamented that the class was originally 72 members strong and that the numbers were dwindling. We talked about several of the other members of the class, who I knew from early childhood because they stayed close to my mom and visited her often.

PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS

Linus came back on and started telling me about how Royersford had changed so much since the early days. Linus is 93 and Melly is 91. Melly says that she still drives, but only locally. They would like to take a trip back to Royersford but it's just too far. I told them that I had another envelope that was from one of the town doctors, Dr. Glocker. They said that he was their doctor. I told them I was having trouble locating a relative of the good doctor, to which Melly said, "His son Karl runs a real estate business in the area. Wow! Another connection.

I told Linus and Melly that I would mail the envelope the next morning. I thanked Linus for his service to his country and Melly for the kind words about my Mom.

RUDOLPH KARL GLOCKER, b. 5 Aug 1905, d. 29 Sep 1981. Major United States Army Air Force. Address on the envelope from 1944 is 701 Main Street, Royersford.

Using the lead from Melly Adams, I found Karl, the son of Dr. Glocker. He was right where she said he would be. I found a phone number for Karl and called. When I told Karl that his dad had been my doctor, he said, "You must be really old!" I told him that I was working hard to get really old. After a nice chat, Karl thanked me for the envelope. I sent the envelope to Karl.

Pannebakker Family Association Web Site

If you would like a user name and password, you must contact Bruce Pennypacker at, throwcoach@gmail.com and the necessary information will be sent to you.

Below is the URL for the web site:

<http://www.pannebakkerfamilyassociation.com>

Officers

President: Ron Pennypacker
520 Loch Alsh Ave.
Ambler, PA 19002
(484) 302-6842
r.pennypacker@yahoo.com

Vice President: Linda Millerick
751 Monterey Salinas Hwy.
Salinas, CA 93908-8953
(831) 484-2834
lmcnealmillerick@yahoo.com

Secretary: Marcea P. Kligman
4170 Summit Way
Marietta, GA 30066-2346
(770) 928-9055
mpklig@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Bill McNeary
601 East Cypress Street
Charleston, MO 63834
(573) 683-1998
bmcneary@ldd.net

Membership: Sandie Miller
255 Shoreline Drive
Columbia, SC 29212-8024
(803) 749-0206
smil1025@sc.rr.com

Newsletter/WebMaster:

Bruce Pennypacker
201 Shady Brook Drive
Langhorne, PA 19047
(215) 380-1748
throwcoach@gmail.com

Pannebakker Family Association



The Pannebakker Family Association is an outgrowth of the family reunion held at Pennypacker Mills, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on July 2-4, 1999. The reunion celebrated the 300th year wedding anniversary of Hendrick Pannebecker and Eve Umstat, in Germantown, Pennsylvania in the year 1699. In the words of the Steering Committee of the reunion, "We hope that the 1999 Pfannebecker-Umstat Reunion will lead to the growth of a family association, which will provide a forum for conversation, collection and preservation of information, and a sense of lasting community among the heirs of this rich cultural heritage."