

**Allan Garon**

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**From:** "Allan Garon" <allan@garon.us>  
**Date:** Friday, July 21, 2023 3:37 PM  
**To:** "Garon (website) Allan" <allan@garon.us>  
**Subject:** Fw: Susan Pinsky has sent you her step-by-step system she uses to colorize and label old photos.

**From:** Susan Pinsky  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:09 PM  
**To:** allan@garon.us  
**Subject:** Re: Susan Pinsky has sent you her step-by-step system she uses to colorize and label old photos.

## A Step-by-Step System to Colorize and Label Old Photos.

Methodology for repairing, cleaning, enhancing, colorizing and labeling old photos.

Written by Susan Pinsky

July 2023

1st: I make the image black and white. I use a program made by AcdSee (pronounced A.C.D.C., which is a competitor to Photoshop, but I've used it for years, and I love it. You buy it once, it has no monthly charges, and it does so much more that I haven't even gotten to yet. The version I use is AcdSee Photo Studio Ultimate 2023 and I paid about \$79.95 (I paid less years ago, but I've been upgrading for years and I still think it's well worth the price.)  
<https://www.acdsee.com>



2nd: I clean up all the scratches and "ickys" (little dots and things that shouldn't be on the image), and repair as much as possible, using Acdsee "repair" tool. I adjust the levels, too.

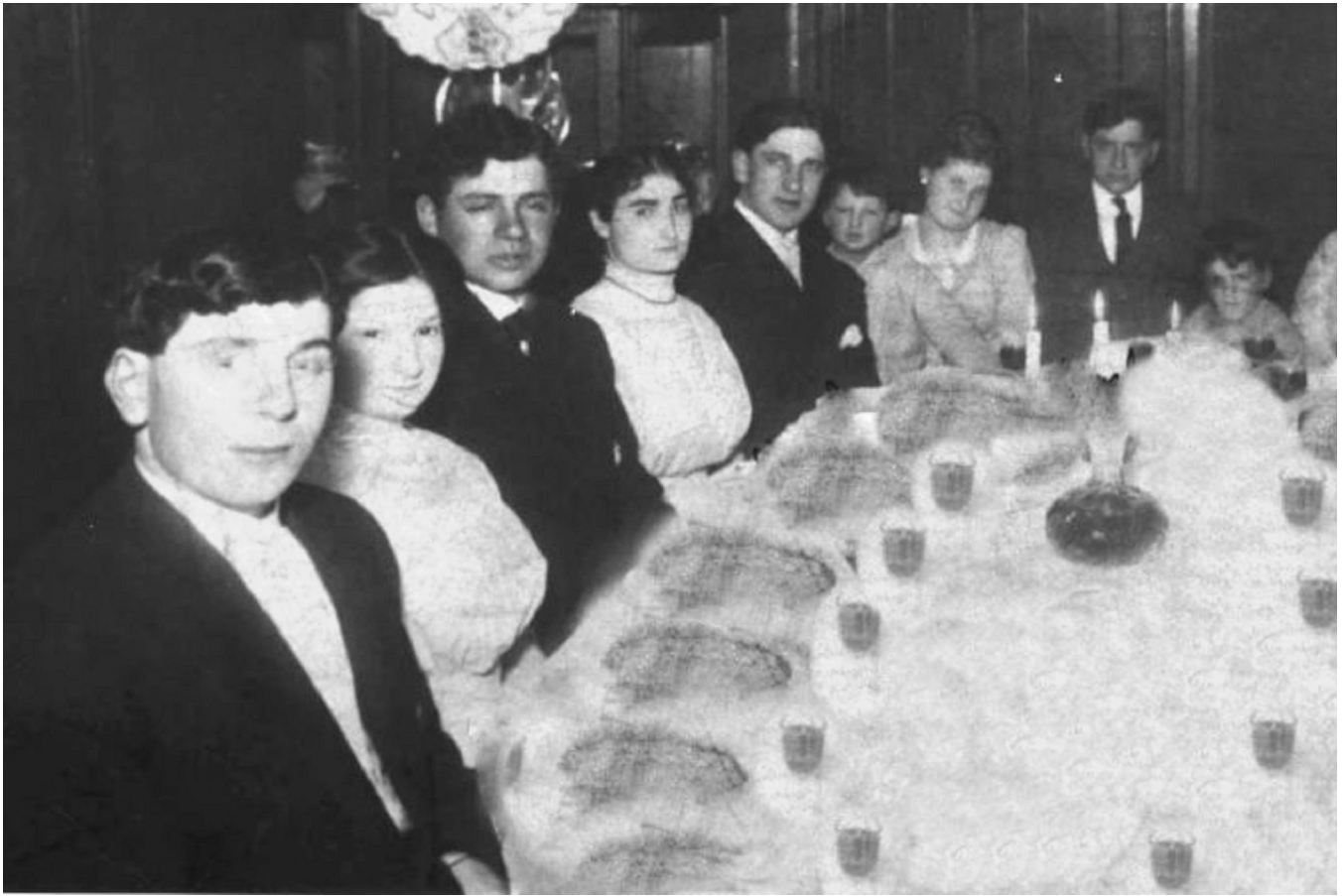


3rd: I upsize the image. I have a program called AI Enlarge Photolabs by PixBim, which I use to upscale/upsample the size. This program cost me about \$49.99 or so, and I use it on nearly everything to make these images easier to work on. It does this work in about 2.5 minutes to go from 289 kb to 1 MB. Sometimes, on really tiny images, I do it two or three times, but it does deteriorate with each version.



4th: Then I colorized it with MyHeritage, and SAVE that version, then I "enhance" with MyHeritage (it's really the same two-step process, but you can save it before "enhancing", as that often makes the faces distorted in ways that are pretty weird). I do always use the "enhance", so that I have that option to use those versions, if I want to. It's after this stage that MyHeritage gives me small facial portraits (those strangely distorted images) of each person, and I try to label each one with the names, so they can be used on the genealogy program sites as portraits. This is the time consuming part, as I don't know any of the people, and it doesn't spit them out in order in the "enhancing" part. I keep each image for later use, but it's very time consuming to clean those up to use for genealogy portraits.

5th: I go back to Acdsee and use the "Dodge and Burn" to darken and lighten, plus in that mode I use the "saturate" and "desaturate", which is really all I use on the wedding images, to saturate the flowers, the carpet, and sometimes the faces and hands. That's only good when you're sticking to ONLY black and white, but I know people did wear colors all the way back. As you can see, I try to make the best of cleaning it up, but cloning what IS there, and erasing what I don't want to see there. I'm not a professional remember, I'm a amateur, but I give it my best. So, if there's a hint of one dinner plate there I clone it to be in front of everyone. If someones face is completely unusable I often will clone someone else's, which I know is using "trickery", but it's what I do.





6th: My final program that I treasure and use every day is called PhotoGlory Pro, which allows me to choose colors to EASILY colorize backgrounds, clothing, etc. It has many options, but I generally use it only for coloring and captioning. It does offer many other benefits, but I haven't gotten to those yet. I'm pretty sure I paid \$39.20 for this program at [www.photoglory.net](http://www.photoglory.net)

7th: One thing I forgot to mention is that I do print out a black and white copy and label it with the names to be added at the end. I strive to be accurate, but it is challenging and I'm human, so I know I make mistakes.





Allan, these are all the programs I use, and my methods for getting the results I get. As I said, I'm not a Pro, I don't and won't, do this for money, but I love doing it. I get most of the images from your website, but sometimes I find a shot online, like that "1816 sketch" that I think I just found online. I know putting it through MyHeritage made it look like a photograph, but for those purists, who only want the sketch, it's still available as a sketch.

Coloring using MyHeritage is definitely better than nothing, but it's only one step. I've watched many tutorials on repairing and coloring images, so I'm constantly learning. As you can see with Rose Yessi, she looks nearly identical to Nelly Myers. I'm sorry I don't know how to bring out her real characteristics, but I don't know how to do that yet. Forgive me for using trickery, it's just for the time being.

Thank you again for all you and Nanci have done in gathering all this invaluable information. I am still deeply grateful, and glad that I could find the Goldfarb family website, which definitely is a connection.

The wonderful aspect of genealogy research is that there is no deadline. You do what you can, when you can, and please don't feel any stress about doing it. Everyone else out here is so pleased with whatever it is you are doing, so just do that, and enjoy every day.

I used YOUR wonderful Garon brothers image to colorize it, just in the same manner as I stated above. The colors chosen as the influences of my mother's side of the family. Carol Altmann Pinsky was born into a very well off family in Manhattan. Her father, Moses Altmann was an attorney, who never believed in owning property, but they lived in a 12 room apartment all my grandmothers life.

As a child I grew up dressing up in my grandmother Frances Saltzberg Altmann's old 1920-1930 silks, satin and velvet beaded dresses. Sadly I cut them off to fit me, but the colors were dazzling: purple satin, bright red beaded velvet, silver and gold lame dresses and elegant fur edged coats.

Please feel free to utilize this information about the programs I use and how I clean up old photos with anyone else. Nothing is a secret here, and I still have sooooo much to learn.

Deeply,  
Cousin Susan

Susan Pinsky  
July 2023

Editor's after note:

Our genealogy website [garon.us](http://garon.us) retains all the original scans of the black and white photos for authenticity.

The enhanced and colorized photos are used as an addition to the webpages rather than a substitution.