

To Whom it May Concern:

My father received boxes of family memorabilia that included no fewer than 2 banker boxes of old photographs. Some of the photos were taken in a photo studio, some photos are more likely taken by long dead family members. The subjects in the photos are also long dead.

We have no idea who took these pictures. We have no idea when the photographer died. In some cases, we have no idea of the identity of the people in the photographs.

We have no idea if the term of copyright. Assuming that the photographer was of the same age as my grandparents, perhaps copyright will continue for another 50 years. These photos are copyright orphans.

What I would like to do is send the boxes to have professionally digitized, index by identifiable family members, index by location, and index by subject matter and share them with my family. Perhaps even make a book documenting life turn of the 1900s for the purpose of enriching the historical American record. I can't because these photos are still in copyright and I can't find anybody willing to do the work legally.

These photos represent a period in American life dating in the 1900-1930 time frame. Right now the photos are a millstone on our necks, clearly of some historical value but unusable for educational purposes. Given their current state, in another 50 years, I will be dead and the photos will have disintegrated.

Please fix orphan copyright law to allow for these sorts of heirlooms to be preserved and entered into the historical record. Do not fix copyright law by taxing libraries.

Regards,

Audrey Julan