

SHERLOCK COHN

☞The Photo Genealogist☞

Clued-In: [More Cases from Sherlock Cohn, The Photo Genealogist](#)



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Uncovering our heritage, one face at a time

Each family photo investigation tells a different story with different clues. Yet, at the same time, every photograph requires a systematic approach to deciphering the many clues presented, doing in-depth research and matching with vital and other records to arrive at the answer that furthers our genealogical research into our family's history. This presentation is the sequel to the popular, "Clued-In: Case Studies from Sherlock Cohn, The Photo Genealogist". Of the thousands of photographic cases Sherlock has investigated over the past 15 years, six are presented here. Though the cases are unique to each family represented, they illustrate methodology that can be used by all those seeking answers to their photo mysteries.

Whether you find your mystery photographs in a jewelry box, a shoebox, a photo album or stashed away at the bottom of a drawer, in a suitcase, in a closet or a basement, wherever you find your photographs, the truth is waiting for you to unlock its mysteries.

To unlock the mysteries, every case must start with a proper date for each image. We must ask four questions: **who, what, when, where** and add two more questions: **how**, and most importantly, **why**. From these six questions, scores of other questions arise as we work through the process of finding Time, Place and Identity (TPI) in our photographs.

The Case of the Mystery Pin: A small pin with a woman's face on it, found in an old sock, illustrates the importance of knowing the provenance of a photograph in order to learn from which side of the family the image arises.

The Case of the Lady in the Locket: A mysterious young woman peers out from a locket found in a jewelry box owned by my client's mother. Who is this woman? To whom is she related? This segment

illustrates the importance of proceeding with caution when investigating a photograph in order to identify the correct generation.

The Case of the Trombonist's Mum: The photograph of a young musician from Birmingham is found hidden in a closet in my client's family basement. We know who he is but is the photograph of a woman found in a separate envelope, his mother? This case illustrates the importance of getting the correct date of a photograph.

The Case of the Bialystoker Photographer: Inheriting a family photo album can unlock many mysteries of time and identity. But clues about the photographer can add not only the place, but more precisely pinpoint the date. This case illustrates how to narrow down dates using clues provided by the photographer him or herself.

The Case of the On-board Mystery: A picture postcard, a mysterious X, and an inscription written in Russian on the back of the card leads us to a greater understanding of an historical event. This case teaches us the importance of a good translation.

The Case of the DP Monument: One photograph of a young girl taken at a Displaced Persons' camp in Germany after The Holocaust helps us discover how using a series of images can help us construct a chronology and tell the story of a loved one's life.