

Photoshop Elements SIG ~ October 2005

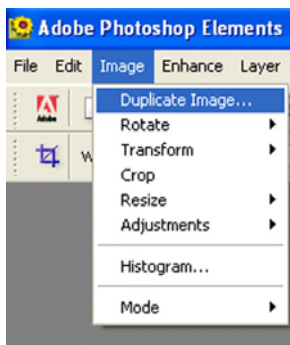
by Judy DiFrancesco, SIG Co-Lead

Basic Photo Enhancement

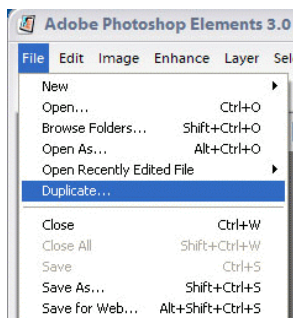
When I look at a photo on my computer I almost always see something that I think I can improve. That may not always be true, but nevertheless, it never hurts to try, because you can always undo what you've done if you go about the editing in the right way.

(If you're really going to mess around with an important photo, you may want to make a duplicate copy of the photo and work on that, leaving the original alone altogether.)

To duplicate the image, begin by opening your photo in Elements. In PE2, immediately click Image, Duplicate Image...



In PE3, click File, Duplicate.



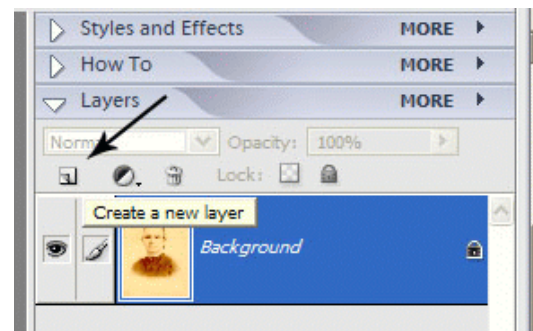
Now you have two copies, and you will work on the duplicate copy. Next, save the file as a PSD file. File, Save As, change the file type to PSD, and change anything else you want like the name or location of the file. As you

work on the file and save it, it will always go to the new location and use the new filename.

There's one more step that's important before we begin to do the editing. We have talked about this before, but as a reminder, we need to duplicate the background layer so we aren't working on the original layer. It's important to do that when you are going to do Enhancing and Filtering, because those techniques can change the character of the pixels and prevent you from getting the picture back to its original state. If you do these things on a layer and don't like it, you can always throw the layer away. That's another good reason for doing each different step in a new layer, and NAMING it.

So let's begin.....

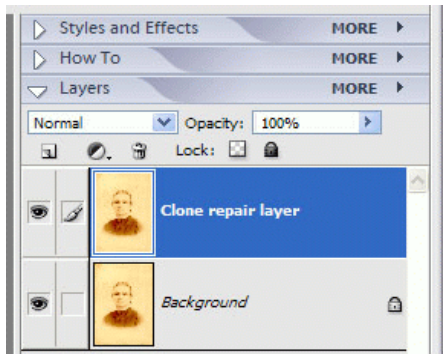
1. Open a photo in Photoshop Elements
2. Duplicate the file.
3. With the duplicate file selected, click File, Save As.. Name the file and save as a PSD file. At this time you can also change the location if you like. In the Layers Palette, drag the picture icon and drop it



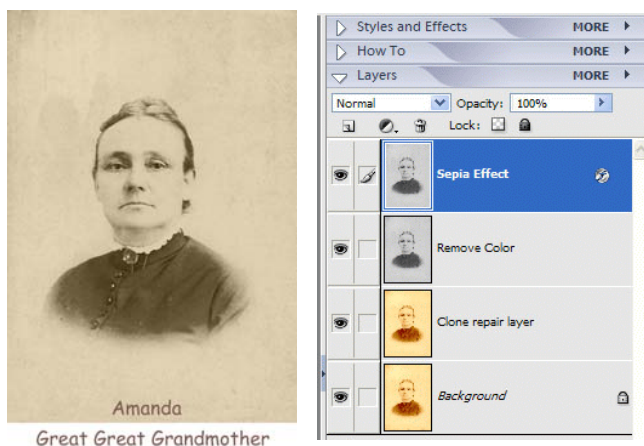
on the "create a new layer" icon.

4. Double-click on the layer name and rename it. In our example here, I am going to use the clone tool to remove some of

the imperfections in the photo. I'm not going to edit the picture itself, but just remove the obvious marks that are from 'picture wear'.



5. Next, drag that layer to make another layer. In this layer, I will remove the color. Creating a B/W photo. Click Enhance, Adjust Color, Remove Color. (Don't forget to name this layer, "Remove Color").
6. Now drag that layer to make another layer. Name this layer, "Sepia Effect". Click on the Effects palette, Layer Styles, Photographic Effects. Click on Sepia.
7. Amanda is ready. Save.



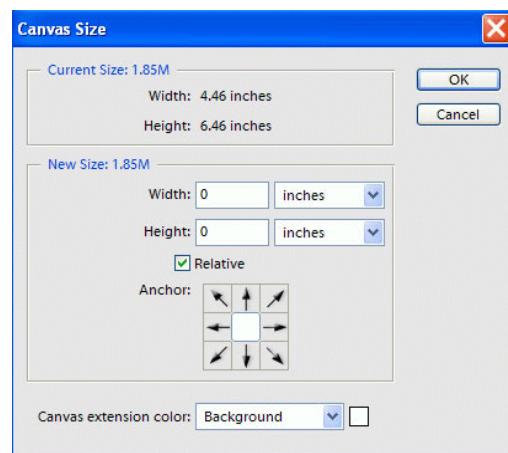
Labeling A Photo

At this point I could just click on the T icon (*text*) and put a label on the photo. I can choose the font, size and color before or after typing the label. If I do it after, I just

have to make sure that layer is still highlighted. Each time you create a new line of text, the program automatically makes a new layer.

I don't always want my label on the picture. Sometimes I prefer that it appears above or below the picture. To do that, I enlarge the canvas to make room for the text. Here's how...

1. Click Image, Resize, Canvas Size....



2. Now look at the Canvas Size Dialog box.
3. In the Current Size box you can see the actual size of the photo and the size of the file.
4. In the New Size section you decide how much background you want to add to the picture, and where you want to add it. If you choose Height and Width and don't click the Anchor graphic, the space will be added evenly all the way around.
5. I want to add space only at the bottom to make a place for my label. To do that, I want to anchor the current photo at the top. I will click on the arrow at top row center so the photo stays at the top and the space is added at the bottom.
6. I can also tell it here what color I want that space to be. If I forget to do that, I can always use the Paint Bucket tool to

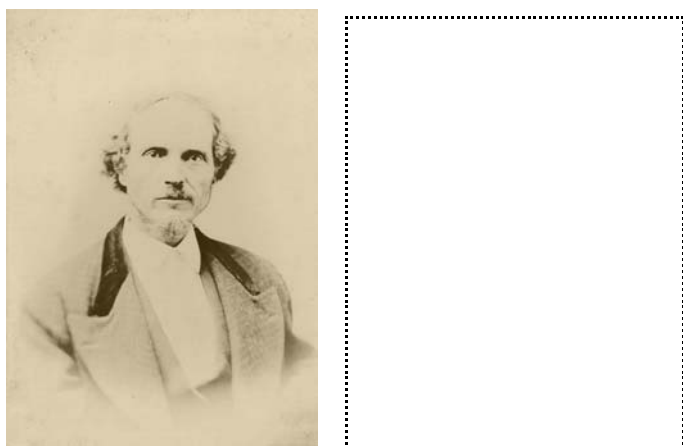
make that area the color I want. (*I do white if my background will be plain paper.*)

7. I usually just add an inch, because if it's too much, I can always crop after the text is in place. Save.

Combining Photos to Print on One Page

I want to print two photos with captions on an 8½" X 11" sheet. Here's how....

1. Open all the files you want to put on the page. Click the "new" blank document icon, or press Ctrl+N.
2. When the dialog box opens, click the



drop-down box next to Preset: and choose 8x10. (*The color should be RGB and the background white*)

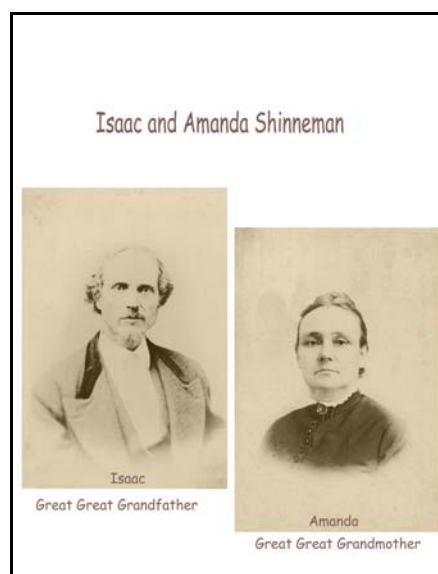
3. Predetermine about how large you want the image to appear on the new page. Then check each picture's file dimension. To do that, click on a file, then click Image, Resize, Image Size...
4. In the example we are working with, I am going to bring two photos to the new page, so the width of the photos is the most important dimension this time. It doesn't have to be exact, but with an 8½" sheet of paper, I know I don't want the pictures to be more than 4". (*If you resize the pictures in this way, you won't get funny*

pixeling because you stretched it wrong.)

5. My pictures here are about the same width, so I'm going to make each of them 4", and since I plan to print the sheet, I will set the resolution at 300.
6. Another step to remember, if you have already captioned any of the images, you must be sure the most recent copy of the image is highlighted and that the text you want to move with it is locked.
7. When the images are ready, I will click on one of them, and making sure the Move Tool is selected, I will simply drag it over to the blank page. Then I will drag the other image.
8. Now I can position them to suit me, and then add titling using the T icon. I can type the text and also drag it to position it on the page.
9. Be sure to save the new file as a PSD file.

NOTE: About entering Text....

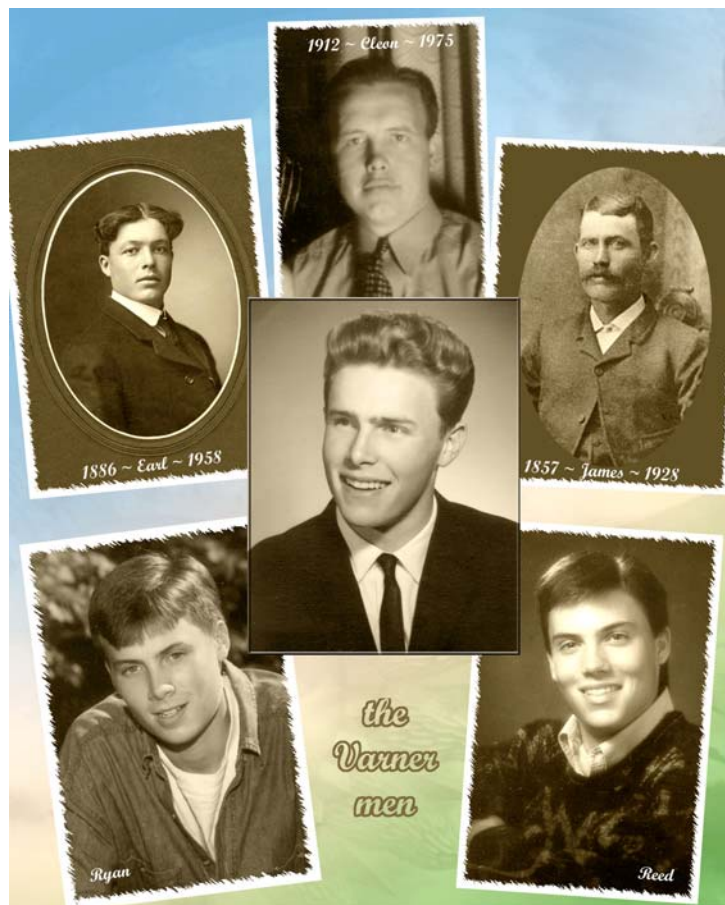
If you should begin to enter some text and don't see anything, it's because the foreground color is set to the same as your page color.



The lesson and photo page produced on the previous pages was created as part of a memory book for an elderly aunt. The page was one of many and the picture quality was not as important as the collection and genealogy information that accompanied them.

The collage below was created as a single production, printed and framed as a birthday gift. The page contained much more detail which required much planning, setup, and editing.

Not all projects have the same value requirement in the finished product. It is helpful to decide what your goals and expectations for the project are before you begin.



Please go to www.computerbooters.com and print this handout in color.