

## Farmers & Photography

### Part II

I want to talk again about the photography here at the White Spring Ranch, in Genesee. Not only did John Lorang, of the pioneer generation, take artistic photographs, but so did his son Henry and Henry's sons Jim and Dan. Some of these photographs will be on exhibit at the Moscow Chamber lobby in September, but many more are available on Facebook, on our regular site at [www.WhiteSpringRanch.org](http://www.WhiteSpringRanch.org) and here at the Ranch.

They not only recorded their history in Genesee, but recorded it well and often. The preservation here was for a specific reason.

I seem to keep mentioning that the 1873 section of the Farmhouse was covered with foam when I got here. It was an audacious and amazing attempt to preserve this older section of the farmhouse and it truly spoke to me in a way that I will never forget. When we tried to remove this foam during the restoration, it was more difficult than we thought. Part of the kitchen wall had been punched in when an old car ran away from Dan one year and hit the wall. When it came time to foam this area Dan simply added more foam. Underneath it all were well preserved boards of the 1873 farmhouse. The punched in wall was pulled out again. I very soon began to realize why this preservation was so important.

This part of the Farmhouse is about 1873, but had been added on in 1890. It was an older home moved from the farmland just purchased and brought up by horses to add a kitchen and washroom to the original homestead. These kitchen and washroom additions were at least 10 years older than the 1884 Homestead, because this newly purchased farmland was patent in 1875.

Inside this foamed home were card boxes with notes. Dozens and dozens of notes, describing the collection in each, why it was preserved and a background story to go in each note.

*"This is my World One mirror that I carried in my left breast pocket all during my 16 months service-1 year overseas. Steel mirrors worn that way have saved lives but it so happened that I wasn't near the shooting until the Armistice although I was in France on Nov. 11, 1918 (just missed going into the trenches). I suppose it could be brightened without ruining it.*

*Hy Lorang"*

Then not only did Henry preserve his WWI artifacts, 200 letters and 3 journals, but he also photographed his time in England and France. He photographed his children at home during the 1930's, 1940's and later.

Henry was trying to raise 11 children, 100 chickens and several hogs to keep everyone alive. Making it through the Great Depression he paid for supplies with apples and eggs. Surviving through the winters, he had to keep the fires going for both family and stock. But he also had his father's camera. A 1909 John Eastman Kodak No.2A Folding pocket Brownie, among others. And he continued to journal, preserve letters and leave notes for whoever would find these in the future....

*"You're an oldtimer if you know how to play "Loo", Flinch & Euchre & Pedro or "High-five".*

*If you can remember when men parted the hair in the middle, when they wore peg-top pants & button shoes & fancy white vests, pleated-bosom shirts without collar & cuffs which were separate from shirt & were made of rubber or celluloid. The collar stood high under the chin and a lever button at back of neck and front so as not to break the celluloid when putting it on. The cuffs were round and about 4 inches wide with levered grips to hold on to sleeve and levered cuff-links inserted through eye-shaped holes. Where neck-ties were worn a real wide scarf hung-down or a real narrow bow-tie about ½ inches wide and a classy tie was made of two different colors in each half of the tie (Cuff buttons were usually heavy so they would rattle when one shook hands.) The coat -not jackets- were long and when buttoned, only top button was used so that the heavy watch chain & locket could be noticed as it crossed from a vest button hole to a vest pocket where the watch was carried and later the watch was carried in top of pants at the end of a watch fob hanging out. A plug-hat derby was a must and pinc-nez glasses with just plain window glass that were kept on with a pincers that clamped on the nose at the inside corners of the eyes & had dainty gold chain fastened through a small hole in*

*the outer edge of a lens & the other end had a hook over an ear to keep glasses from falling and breaking.*

*Women of course wore real long skirts & one didn't dare show an ankle & the waist line was so laced that a man who had long fingers could girth the smaller ladies waists. (They had to wear girdles and invariably starved themselves almost to illness to attain the desired effect.) Their blouses or waist were usually white and starched with ruffles down front & on the cuffs & many wore collars & ties & cuffs with links. If the whole dress was of the same material there usually was a balloon puff at the shoulder & the rest of the sleeve was skin tight. A handmaid or handy husband was needed to button the dress at back. Hats in winter had great ostrich plumes imbedded in simulated beaver and come Easter one didn't dare not to come out in the spring hat made of light straw or white fluffy material with broad brims and all of last summers dried flowers- or a facsimile thereof on top of brim all way round. Coats varied but were long-fur signified riches. Shoes of course were buttoned and sox who knows?"*

After recording these notes, Henry would go out and photograph. He found the first airflight from the Kelso Airline in 1930. It was taken at a Clarkston landing and a copy was given to the Kelso Airline recently. He photographed the children. We have a wonderful Summer photo of six of the children in the Clearwater River with a housekeeper that was giving a hand, 1932.

When son Jim left home after enlisting in 1942 for service in the Pacific during WWII, Henry photographed him, hoping he would return after this War was over. When son John left in 1944, he photographed him too. John carved his initial and date in the wooden cabin garage door. "J.L. '44"

In 1946, John and Jim returned. Henry's oldest son Bob did not. We remember him here. While on leave, John picked up a souvenir for his Dad that you couldn't find today. "A piece of cracked window-pane from the 'tiara' of the Statue of Liberty just below the 'rays' of the crown about 260 feet from the base. About forty persons could stand in the head at one time. The right arm is 42 feet long and 12 persons can stand in the torch. John got this glass specimen when he visited in N. Y. on New Years & the following few days in January 1946-on leave from Navy Base in Miami. "

On July 9, 1956 Henry wrote, "Hogs Moscow-haul Hay." He was 68.

Henry then continued to write memories of the early days and costumes...  
*"Under the dresses the women wore as many as 3 to 4 undershirts & they were starched, so that when a woman came walking along you could hear one even before you saw her, on account of the ruffling of the skirts."*

Henry Lorang continued this until he passed in January 1968. Writing journals, preserving his and his parent's letters, making notes and taking photographs. We are trying to post more of them at [www.WhiteSpringRanch.org](http://www.WhiteSpringRanch.org). Stay tuned for more...

