Hermon Historical Centre

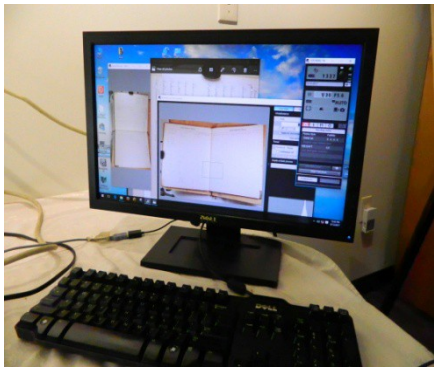
Archiving Process Used at the Centre

Historians all over the world are using computer technology to scan and store images of historical text documents and photographs. These digital scans greatly improve the organization and distribution of original materials to the public via the World Wide Web. There are several types of scanners. Flat bed devices are good for scanning sheets of paper, photos and to some degree, books. Drum scanners offer very high resolution and are used mainly in reproducing photographs and transparencies. Both flat bed and drum scanners are not easily portable, expensive and are usually slow to operate.

High resolution digital cameras are a recent development in scanning tools. By using a digital camera, the preservation and distribution of rare and fragile historical items become simple and inexpensive. Other advantages of using a camera is it's portability, cost and speed.

One camera that can be used is the Canon Digital single lens reflex. It connects directly to a computer running Canon's EOS software. Utilizing the computer monitor display, all the important settings can be controlled and the picture taken.

The EOS version that comes with the Canon T5i camera makes the scanning process seamless.



EOS can zoom in so that the focus can be sharpened and a live histogram (graph) is visible for fine exposure tuning. The information provided by the active histogram enables optimal exposure settings.

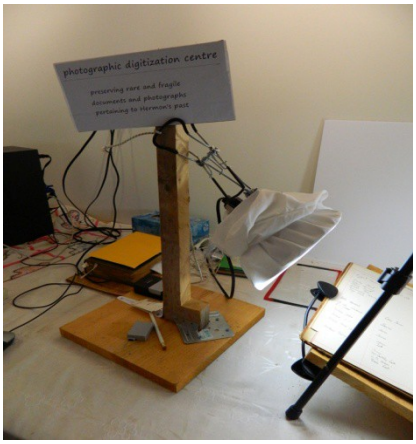
Shutter speed, aperture, ISO speed and focus can also be changed from the computer.
A “Live View” mode is provided that displays a picture of the subject as a preview and final view after the image is made.

The camera must be held very steady while the picture is being taken so that slow shutter speeds can be used.

A tripod that allows for the camera to be mounted upside down is the best choice.

If a tripod isn't available, C clamps and a wooden beam can be clamped onto a shelf to make a home made camera mount.

Lighting on the subject is critical for good results. Soft, even lights with no glare and white reflective surfaces work well

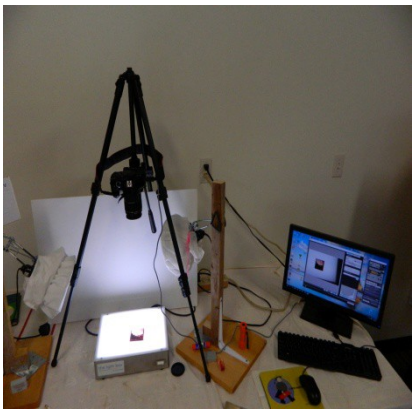


Wooden light stands and clip on utility lights using 60 W. fluorescent bulbs are inexpensive and can be set up quickly.

Pillow covering material over the reflector can be used to effect a diffuse and even lighting.

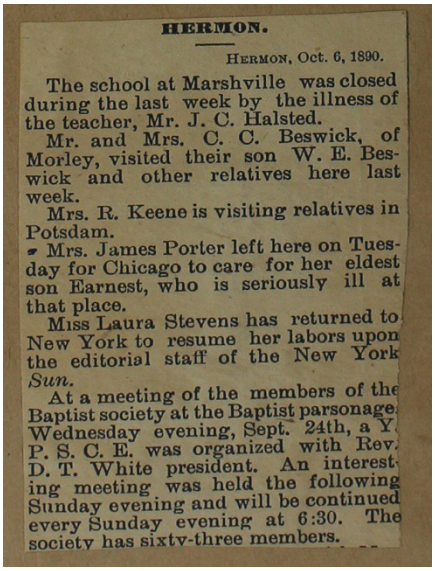
A pair of wooden boards makes a cradle to hold old books and prevent damage to the bindings. The camera must be angled to give a flat view of each page.

One side of the book is shot and then the setup is changed to shoot the other side.
The EOS software allows the file naming to be changed for each position to allow easy organization of the pages into proper order.



Negatives are scanned with a light box. The light box provides the lighting needed for a clear picture. It projects the light through the negative. Because it's a negative, the image has to be inverted with software.

The camera produces images in a .jpg format. This is an image format which is essentially an electronic picture with no searchable features. That is fine for portraits or other types of pictures which have no text.



HERMON.

HERMON, Oct. 6, 1890.

The school at Marshville was closed during the last week by the illness of the teacher, Mr. J. C. Halsted.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Beswick, of Morley, visited their son W. E. Beswick and other relatives here last week.

Mrs. R. Keene is visiting relatives in Potsdam.

Mrs. James Porter left here on Tuesday for Chicago to care for her eldest son Earnest, who is seriously ill at that place.

Miss Laura Stevens has returned to New York to resume her labors upon the editorial staff of the New York *Sun*.

At a meeting of the members of the Baptist society at the Baptist parsonage Wednesday evening, Sept. 24th, a Y. P. S. C. E. was organized with Rev. D. T. White president. An interesting meeting was held the following Sunday evening and will be continued every Sunday evening at 6:30. The society has sixty-three members.

To organize and distribute scanned text documents, such as newspaper articles, the image is converted to a .pdf format which is commonly recognized throughout the web.

An additional task is to make the .pdf file searchable, so that it facilitates retrieving a name, or any word that one might be researching.

Software applications that we use are Adobe Acrobat, ABBYY Fine Reader 14, and Photoshop.

We look forward to digitizing the material we have at the Centre and adding it to our website, hermonhistory.org. It is an ongoing process as we explore the many documents now in our possession and those which will be contributed to our collection. We welcome any questions about our digitization process and invite local historians and anyone with an interest in history to visit our Centre!

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