

Website Art Hunt: Tom, Gladys and Patsy

Visit Historic Arkansas Museum's online collection to find this painting and answer the following questions about it.

Who is the photographer? _____

What year was it taken? _____



ABOUT THE ARTIST AND THE ARTWORK:

This photographer who worked in Heber Springs often sold “penny portraits” to the community that were meant to be gifts to family and friends. The photographer is remembered as a reclusive and eccentric member of the community. His work came to national attention after his death and he is praised for showing the stark reality of rural life in Arkansas in the mid-20th Century. He worked solely in **silver gelatin prints**. The onset of World War II brought servicemen and their families to his studio in search of photographic mementos they might exchange prior to **deployment**. Unfortunately, we don't know any details about the family pictured here.

FAST FACTS: This artist claimed he was delivered to his parents' doorstep by a tornado. He was a veteran of World War II and his dad fought in the Civil War.

ENGAGE: Take a closer look at the photograph. What stands out when you first look at the photograph? Can you tell anything about the family? What kind of uniform is the man wearing? _____

Now, find a picture of you with your family. What stands out when you look at your family photograph? _____

EXPLORE: Silver Gelatin was one of the most used photographic processes in the 20th century. Go to Wikipedia and look up “gelatin silver process” Briefly describe the process of silver gelatin printing. _____

VOCABULARY:

deployment - when military service men and women leave their families and go to war, usually for long periods of time.

Frameworks: R.1.VAA.3

Historic Arkansas Museum is a historic site museum, interpreting the territorial and early statehood periods of Arkansas. For other educational materials, including videos, online tours and more, visit our website or our Facebook page.



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