

# **Computers, Cameras, Software – decisions, decisions, decisions**

**What has the Church Records  
Preservation Committee learned that can  
help you make your decisions?**

**Larry Lavery, Sept. 2010**

# RGS Volunteering

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**A two way street..**

- **The committee benefits from you**
- **You learn new skills**

**Get involved in a committee that interests you.**

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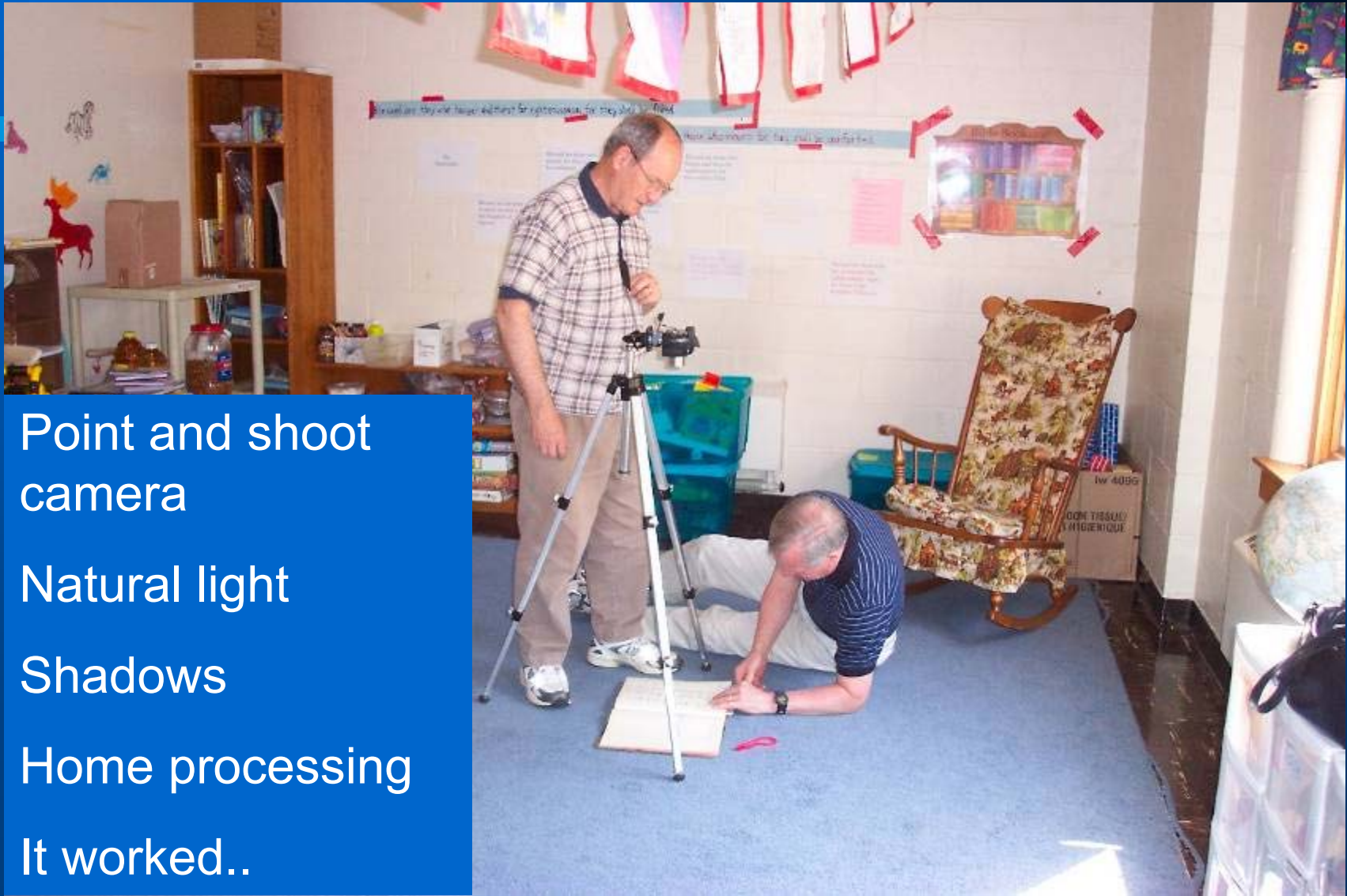
# Agenda

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- History
- PC or MAC
- Desktop or laptop
- Digital Camera selection
- Photo editing software
- Questions

# In the beginning...

Point and shoot  
camera  
Natural light  
Shadows  
Home processing  
It worked..



# Lab tour in Salt Lake City



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- **Three committee members purchased Canon A640 cameras.**
  - **10 mega pixel**
  - **The least expensive Canon camera that supports 'remote access' via a USB connection**



# LDS contribution – Microfilm camera fixtures



## PC or MAC?      Desktop or Laptop?

What are you going to use it for?

Create a prioritized list of the features that are important to you.

Remember.. 3 years from now your new computer will be obsolete.

# The Church Records Prioritized List

- **Portability**
- **Supports camera 'Remote Access'**
- **Great graphics** (screen size, resolution..)
- **Good reliability and support**
- **Performance**
- **Cost**
- **Short learning curve**
- **File transfer between committee members**

# Our 1<sup>st</sup> choice, Apple iMAC



# We were lucky!

- We had actual experience with MAC and PC

Roger – MacBook

Roscoe – PC laptop

Bob – PC laptop

- Saw a performance issue with the MAC and the Canon 'remote access' software
- Reproduced problem at the Eastview Apple store with the iMac
- Problem is with the Canon software for Mac

# Switched to a PC platform

## Purchased:

- 2 desk top computers (Microworx)  
Win XP, DVI video card
- 4 external, 1 terabyte drives  
Backup image files
- 2 external 22" displays  
DVI/HDMI capable  
1680 X 1050 pixel resolution

# Why not a laptop?

- Large display needed to process images  
No DVI capability (has changed)

- Proprietary hardware  
Upgrades limited to memory and hard drive

## Difficult to service

- 4 years later the CRPC did purchase two laptops for imaging records on site

## Unforeseen advantages of PC choice

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- **Familiarity**

  - Most CRPC members use a PC
  - Two use MACs

- **Members prefer to work on their home computer**

- **File transfer**

**Vendors - local, big box or internet**

- **Depression era mentality?**

**Your computer WILL fail**

**Fix and patch**

**OS obsolescence will get you**

- **Local purchase**

**Good for the economy**

**Desktop**

**Custom built**

**Software source discs**

**Laptop – sales outlet**

**Local service.. Maybe**

## Vendors - local, big box or internet

- **Create your list of requirements**
- **Educate yourself – read reviews**
- **Shop**
  - Local vendors
  - Big Box stores
  - Internet
    - Reputable vendors(Amazon.com etc)
- **Look at**
  - Features
  - Price
  - Warranty process

## **Vendors - local, big box or internet**

- **Local businesses suffering**
  - Customer support 1<sup>st</sup> to go**
  - Charging for Service that was free**
- **Warranty**
  - Each vendor has different policy**
  - Get it in writing – policies change**
  - My latest experience**
    - Microworx, LyteSpeed, Best Buy, Staples, Amazon.com etc.**

# Digital Cameras

- The pixel war

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- CRPC requirements will be different from yours

  - High pixel density

  - Remote Access

  - Sharp images (lens)

  - Manual focus

  - Image data formats

  - Cost

# Digital Cameras

- **Cameras we have used**

  - Kodak DX7590, 5 mega pixel**

  - Local purchase**

  - Canon A640, 10 mega pixel**

  - Internet purchase**

  - Canon EOS T2i, 18 mega pixel**

  - Local purchase – bid**

- **'Remote Access' feature**

  - Slide copier**

  - Time lapse photography**

  - 3<sup>rd</sup> party software**

# Software

- Preserving images

Retain the highest quality possible

Data formats we use

JPG (lossy compression ☹)

TIFF, PDF

Data backup

Camera images (JPG)

Cropped / enhanced images (TIFF)

Book (PDF)

External hard drives

Sync toy – a Windows application

# Software

- Editing images – in order of difficulty

## Picasa (Google)

Good viewer and basic editor

Easy to use

Now includes MAC

Free

## Photoshop Elements (Adobe)

Mini Photoshop

Recommended for home user

Batch processing limited

MAC and PC

cost \$50 (download)

## Software

- Editing images – in order of difficulty

### Irfanview

Very capable program

Geeky

PC only

3<sup>rd</sup> party 'plug ins'

Free

### Photoshop (Adobe)

Full featured

Batch capability plus 'Actions'

You will never fully master it

MAC and PC

Costly \$80 - \$700

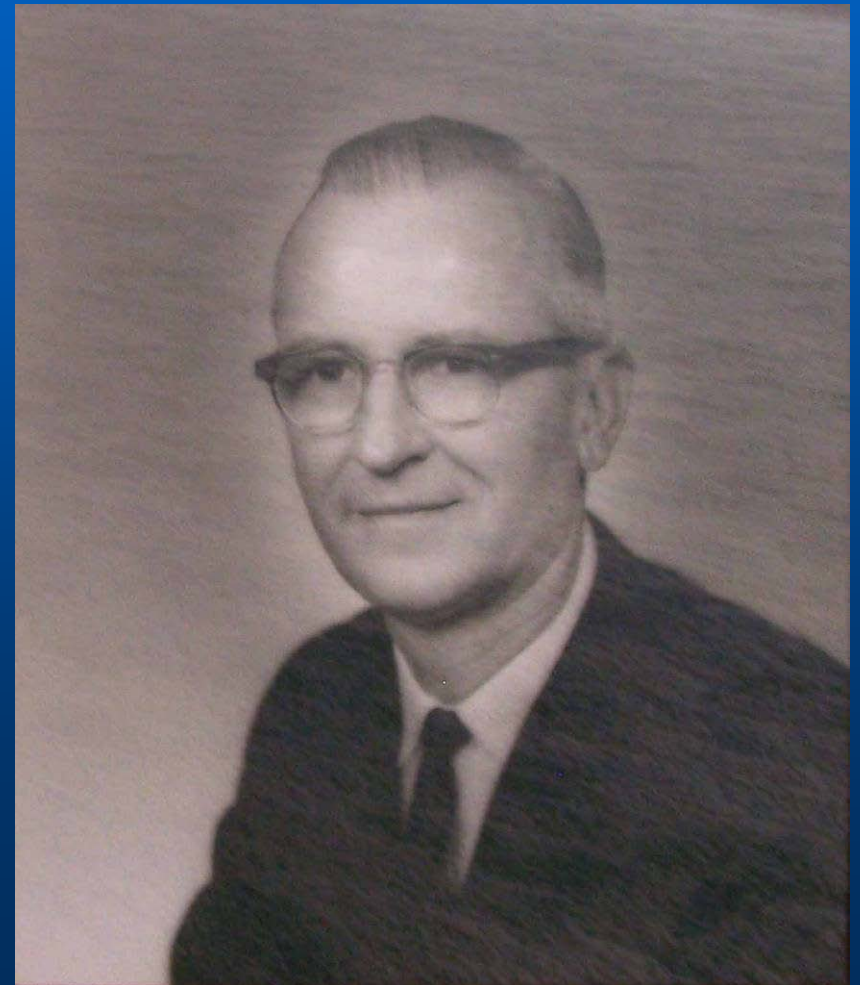
# Example of 'Perspective correction'

Picasa – no

Photoshop Elements – multiple steps

Irfanview – no (plug in?)

Photoshop - easy



Thank you,  
any questions?

