

This artifact is a rare and mostly intact family photo album of an African American family from the 1880's and up. This photo album was donated to our local library many years ago, and there is no paperwork about where it came from. It was donated to us this past year for preservation. The album is an extraordinary artifact from the Victorian era and includes around 50 photographs. We don't know any of the subjects, but based on the clothing, and noting that photography was expensive, we believe the family was upper class. The pictures were taken at different places in America: Greensboro, Baltimore, New York, Chicago, Boston, and even our small city of Danville. Moreover, there is a lock of hair that was carefully added next to a baby picture. As a portrait of Black Americans in the Gilded Age, it is irreplaceable, both for its rarity and for the story that it tells.