



Our family, 1946

Introduction

If I had a book written by my great-great-great aunt about her life in the 1800s, what would I want it to tell me? That's where I started in writing my story. I would want to know more than anecdotes about her life. I'd want to know what she thought, how her family behaved, what they ate, what popular culture dictated, what her clothes were like, how much things cost, where she traveled, and who were some of the characters she met along the way. That's what I've tried to include in my story, the story of a little girl from a small town in Oregon who ended up making friends in the Kingdom of Tonga and spent time living in Paris.

Funny thing about memories, some are as clear as yesterday, others are just fleeting wisps of a thought. Some may exist only because of a photograph or because someone told you a story when you were young. Many, perhaps, are completely altered by time.