



Case Study

Kodak Alaris technology unites families with wartime photos

Photo scanning solution and a team of eager Rochesterians help bring decades-old prints to life

Using the **Kodak** Picture Saver Scanning System PS50, the Korean War Veterans Chapter of Monroe County and *Democrat and Chronicle* in Rochester, NY teamed up to create an online gallery of recently discovered photographs from the summer of 1950.

Situation

Veteran Betty Perkins-Carpenter unexpectedly received more than 150 8" x 10" wartime photographs from the Commander of her Korean War Veterans Chapter.

Objective

Perkins-Carpenter wanted to connect the valuable pictures with the service people who appear in them or their families.

Solution

Kodak Alaris scanned all the images using the **Kodak** Picture Saver Scanning System PS50 supported by the **Kodak** Gentle Photo Separation Module, along with built-in Optical Character Recognition and **Kodak** Perfect Touch image enhancement technology.

Results

The team created an online gallery at <http://koreanwar.democratandchronicle.com> that lets users browse the images and search for specific names, locations, hometowns and dates.

When Betty Perkins-Carpenter received an armful of old photographs from the Commander of her Korean War Veterans Chapter, she knew she had a mission. Perkins-Carpenter wanted to share the pictures with the people in the photos, but since many of them were now well into their 80s, she recognized that she'd have to act quickly.

"The pictures are amazing black and white photographs taken by the Department of Defense in 1950," says Perkins-Carpenter. "The minute you look at them you realize there are so many stories and family members behind each picture. They gave me goose bumps when I first saw them."

The first big break came when Perkins-Carpenter and several of the photos were featured on the TV news in her hometown of Rochester, New York. Fortunately, Tiana Stephens was watching. "I briefly saw an image that I thought was my grandfather, who passed away in 2005," says Stephens. "It didn't seem possible. Here I am in Rochester. But I'm from Denver and my grandfather was from North Carolina. So I didn't really do anything for a year. Later on looking through my own photos one day, I remembered the story and finally reached out to Betty," says Stephens. "I met Betty at her house. When I got there she had the photo I had seen sitting on the bureau. I placed my own photo of my grandfather next to it and it was like a mirror image. We were so excited! We jumped up and down and we cried." Tiana's grandfather was stationed in Japan where her grandmother worked on an Air Force base. With this photo in hand, Tiana went back to her family in Colorado to share the story and show her grandmother this incredible image. "I got to hear so many stories I had never heard before because of this one photo," says Stephens.



“The **Kodak** Picture Saver Scanning System was designed from the ground up to be a photo scanner. Many manufacturers have document scanners that can also scan photos. We look at it the other way around.”

Bruce Holroyd, Worldwide Product Manager for Photo Scanning Products, Kodak Alaris

Following their meeting, the two women joined together in a quest to connect veterans and their families with the forgotten images. “I knew just where to start,” says Stephens. “We’re in Rochester, New York, the home of Kodak Alaris, so I reached out to them for help scanning the pictures so we could eventually post them online.”

High-resolution scanning that's fast but gentle

The first step was carefully scanning each photo and the critical information about the subjects printed on the back of each one. The **Kodak** Picture Saver Scanning System PS50 can scan up to 50 4" x 6" images per minute at 300 dpi, and it can also scan images at 600 and 1200

dpi. The PS80 Scanning System can scan up to 85 4" x 6" images per minute, and is a complement to the PS50 scanning solution. Armed with this technology, Kodak Alaris quickly completed the job.

The **Kodak** Picture Saver Scanning System was the ideal solution because there were more than 150 8" x 10" photographs to be scanned at high resolution with critical, identifying information on the backs of each. The **Kodak** Gentle Photo Separation Module protected each image through the scanner transport. Built-in Optical Character Recognition (OCR) captured the caption information from the backs of the images, which could later be searched on the Web. And the ability to scan each image front and back in one pass kept the digital images together with their captions.

“This scanner was designed from the ground up to be a photo scanner,” explains Holroyd. “We designed specific photo features into the system like the specially designed transport that treats each photo with extra-gentle care, and built-in **Kodak Perfect Touch** Technology to add color and luster to faded images.”

The Picture Saver Scanning System also has optional accessories that improve the photo scanning process. A3 and legal-size flatbed accessories, for example, handle very fragile or bound materials. And the **Kodak** Photo Selector Accessory lets users automatically extract images from a multi-picture photo album page into separate image files – all while retaining the original flatbed image.

“Partnering with Kodak Alaris helped us to enable this important project. If we had to scan each image on a flatbed scanner individually, we might not have taken this project on.”

Annette Meade, a member of the Gannett Local Digital Solutions Network

In a fortunate coincidence, Annette Meade from the *Democrat and Chronicle* was meeting at the Veterans Outreach Center in Rochester at the same time the photo project was underway. Their marketing director mentioned that her friend Tiana Stephens was at Kodak Alaris that day discussing pictures taken during the Korean War. When Meade heard that the hope was to make these scanned images available to be viewed nationally, everything came together. “My eyes lit up when I heard of the challenge,” said Meade. “We build Websites. That’s part of what we do. We could facilitate this project. Kodak Alaris had already scanned the photos so we had really great, high-quality digital files to begin working with. Without Kodak Alaris’ technology, I don’t know that we could have taken this project on. It would have been very labor and time intensive. Partnering with Kodak Alaris enabled this project and helped move the timeline along much faster. Together we could make these images accessible across the nation.”

Thanks to the efforts of all the contributors, Perkins-Carpenter’s vision became a reality. There is now an online gallery at <http://koreanwar.democratandchronicle.com> that enables users to browse the images and search for specific references to names, locations, hometowns and dates. When a visitor rolls the cursor over an image, it flips over to reveal the caption on the back. There is also a link on each image that can be used to e-mail Betty Perkins-Carpenter and Tiana Stephens for more details or to “claim” the image.

“This project meant a lot to me,” says Kodak Alaris’s Holroyd. “My father was very interested in genealogy. Together we used to copy family photos in our basement dark room. I have some of these images hanging in my living room today. Working with Tiana and Betty to connect people with their memories lets me do this for others.”

“There are families who will treasure these pictures,” says Perkins-Carpenter. “Many veterans don’t like to talk about their time in Korea, but when they see a picture so much more happens. Families can talk and share moments of history.”



Betty Perkins-Carpenter,
Korean War Veteran

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