

A peep into the Victorian Image Collection

Part 12 – Groups

By Ron Cosens

As the Christmas season approaches, maybe it is the time to look at people getting together – mainly families - but also GROUPS of friends and acquaintances meeting up for leisure and educational purposes as well.

Taking photographs of groups of people has its challenges but these challenges became easier to overcome as exposure times reduced and as photographs were more easily taken by electric light or taken out of doors.

Several companies emerged that specialised in taking group photographs of schools and sent their employees around the country. George Holden managed the Elementary Schools Photographing Co. and then became the photographic artist of the Home and Colonial Photo Co. with bases in Plymouth and Johannesburg!

Wohlgemuth & Co. of Glasgow offered an interesting and unusual marketing ploy; INDIVIDUAL, framed portraits enlarged up to 'Life Size' from their GROUP shots. How good could those portraits be?



SPECIALITY.
FROM ORIGINAL NEGATIVE DIRECT.
Any one out of this group Enlarged to Cabinet Size, with Frame and Mount, for 4/, or enlarged to Life Size, and Painted in Oil, with Gold Frame, complete, from 30/ upwards.

Victorian photographs often offer unexpected details as shown in the image below – it is very unusual to see the underneath of Victorian shoes; but in this case there is a whole row of them. Great information for a keen cobbling researcher!



Gallery All photographs have been dated from studio and mount details.

Cabinet Cards (cab)

Families



*Superb early family portrait
(cab c1868 Ambleside)*



*Another early family portrait to be
proud of (cab c1872 Birnam)*



*No one is looking at the camera
(cab c1874 Canterbury)*



*Lovely, relaxed, outdoor picture
(cab 1877 Maidstone)*



*Interesting poses but all looking one way
(cab c1880 Worthing)*



*Interesting poses but all looking the
other way (cab c1882 London SE)*



*The Reece family, high street baker and confectioner
(cab 1888 Smethwick)*



*Twelve children; a REALLY big family
(cab c1901 Glasgow)*

A peep into the Victorian collection (continued)



Out for a walk – with binoculars
(cab c1869 Keswick or Gilsland Spa)



Clevedon British School, Group 3
(cab 1901 Portishead)



An outdoor group of ill-at-ease gentlemen
(cab c1870 Ambleside)



A strange, incongruous group
(cab 1884 Shanklin)



Mr. Reeve, booze & baccy dealer
(cab c1902 Willoughby)



All dressed up at 8.05 at the train station
(cab c1905 Unknown)



Don't know where nor when – BUT WHO MOVED!!

You can find more of these wonderful images on
the dedicated page on the PCCGB website:
<https://bit.ly/3NZ8yDx>

further images and information:
ron.cosens@btinternet.com
or www.cartedeviseite.co.uk