

Family Portraits

By W. E. Hill

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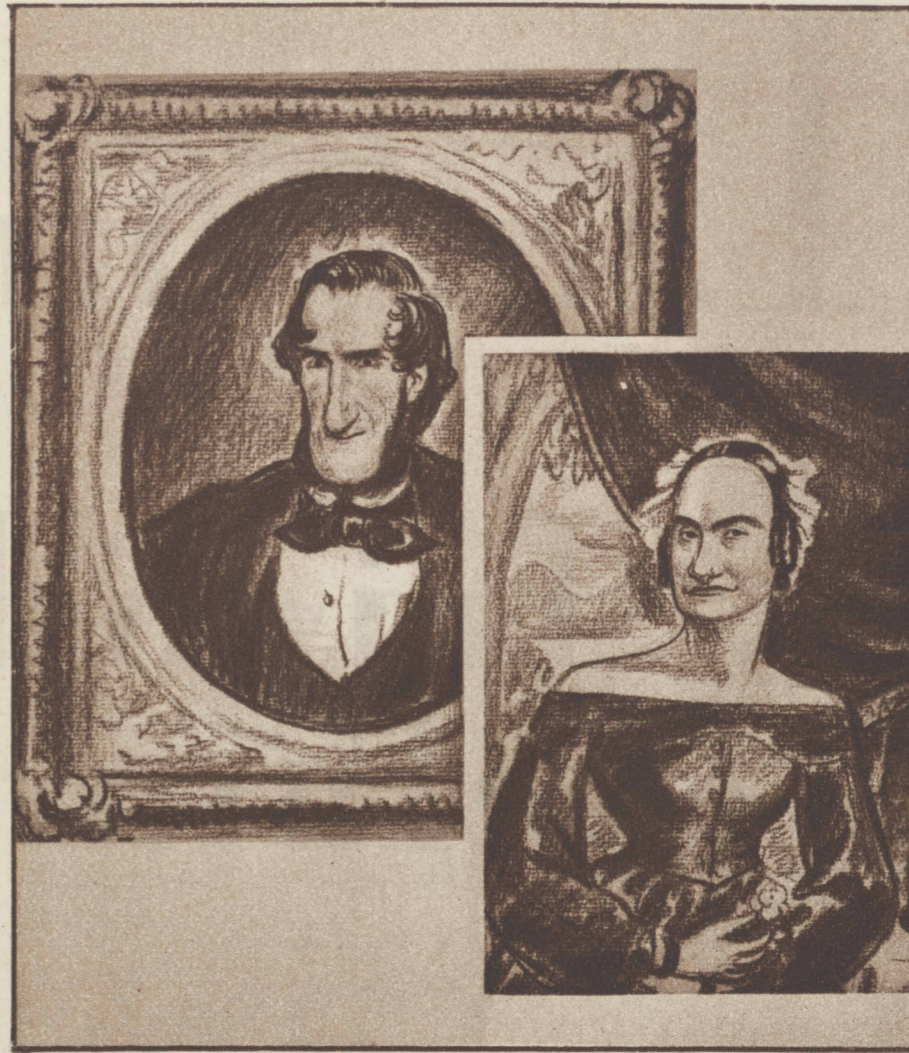
The society portrait—vintage 1900. There was a great to-do when this portrait of May and Dotsie, the rich oil king's daughters, was first exhibited in Paris. Some said it idealized them and some said it didn't. Now that the hats and hair have gone out of style, the portrait is going the way of the auction rooms.



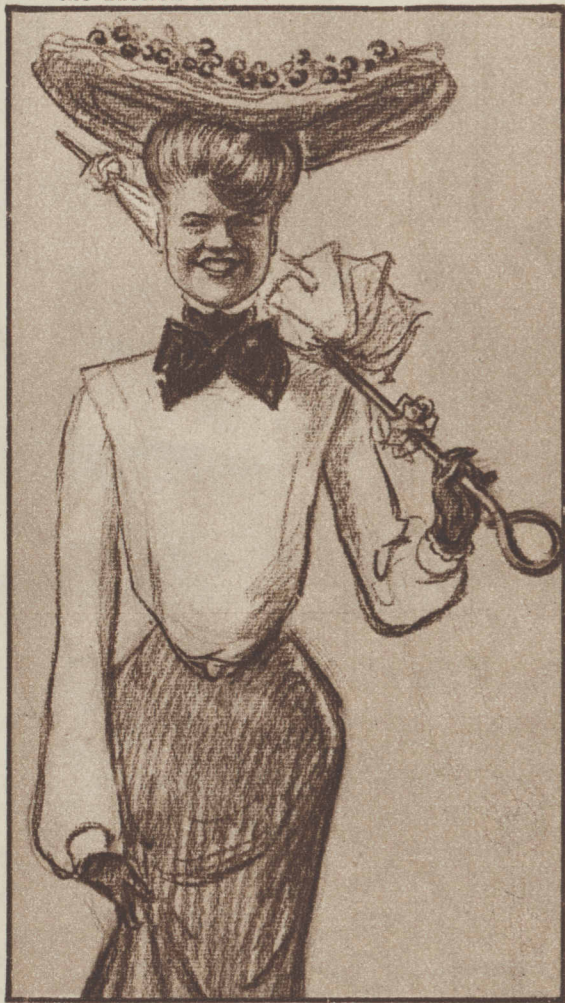
The bride of the eighties. Back in 1880 people said, "I have never seen a lovelier picture of a bride, Gertrude, dear," and Aunt Gertrude sent a copy to all the relatives for a Christmas present.



The prize photographic study. This lovely pose of Cousin Dorothy took first prize in a competition back in 1910, and Dorothy was indeed proud. Critics said it was such a natural grouping.



The heirlooms. Meet Great-Aunt Mehitabel and Great-Uncle Japhet, awaiting distribution under the terms of a will. Cousin Addie, their late owner, having said at one time or another, "Of course, I shall leave the portraits to you," to whichever cousin or niece was for the moment in favor, there will be a certain amount of friction among the heirs when the estate is settled.



Snapshot enlargement. Aunt Helen didn't have the least idea this was being taken at the time, which is probably why it was so good. Besides, it was so stylish (the picture hat and the Gibson waist, etc.) and looked so like Aunt Helen at her best (which wasn't often) that the family had this enlargement made and a neat frame put on it. It's got to the guest room wall now.



The graduation photo. Yes, this was dad back in 1907 or 1908, we forget which year, when he had all his hair and went in for collegiate sartorial effect.



The comic postal card. This amusement park photo showing Cousin Caddie and Cousin Ruthie in a prop automobile with two cute boy friends was thought just a little too daring to be shown to the common herd back in 1908. But those who did see it were very appreciative. Every so often it comes to light, and then Cousin Caddie and Cousin Ruthie shriek, "O, how it dates us; we really ought to destroy it!"



Childhood's joyous hour. This photographic portrait of Denise and William presents what was considered the very last word in children's wear once upon a time.



The modern portrait. This likeness by a famous French portrait painter was very expensive and is therefore highly regarded in the immediate family circle.



The crayon portrait. Uncle Clark's likeness has been up in the attic for years now, but time was when it was in the parlor, and every time Aunt Kittabel gazed upon the portrait in the plush trimmed gilt frame she would say, "It just seems as though Clark were going to speak!"



Daguerreotype. Great-Grandmother Finnegan was, so legend relates, a great beauty in her day, and all the men were crazy over her. You'll have to take our word for it, and not Mr. Daguerre's.



The profile of the nineties. "Why," people exclaimed, "have portraits painted when a good photograph is so much better?" Indeed, Aunt Frannie was pretty pleased with the result herself.