



ABOUT

[Fortepan Iowa](#) features curated photos taken by ordinary Iowans over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The photos represent the personal, whimsical, poetic, significant, and accidentally artistic moments of everyday Iowa life, and tell a rich story of Iowa's great diversity and complexity.

The project serves as an ever-growing **public website**, providing opportunities for deep reflection on who we are as a State. Our aim is to find and digitize **evocative archival photographs taken by everyday Iowans**—photographs that might disappear or be thrown away—and organize them into an easily searchable visual chronology, with other functionalities that help you browse through, geo-locate, tag, comment upon, and download the images.

The project duplicates and builds upon the hugely successful Hungarian public website “Fortepan,” an interactive photo chronology developed by Miklós Tamási and András Szepessy in 2009. The name “Fortepan” comes from the Hungarian company FORTE, which made the popular black and white negative film, “Fortepan” that was sold throughout the world after World War II until 2001. It's appropriate that we name the archive Fortepan, since many of the images, especially in Hungary, were taken with Fortepan film. As Fortepan's **first “sister” site**, Fortepan Iowa aims to reveal the spirit, identity, and history of everyday Iowans.

All Fortepan Iowa images are available for public download and carry a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0) license [[View License Deed](#) | [View Legal Code](#)]. We invite you to View, Tag, Comment on, or Download any Fortepan Iowa image you care to engage with. They are for you. They are for all of us. They represent a “public park” of Iowa images, an Iowa commons of shared public history.

This archive, as part of the Fortepan movement, represents a new archival paradigm that showcases the image, gives photographs immediate historical context through its timeline-based interface, and encourages many levels of public participation.

We recognize the broad range of images that we have curated into this archive, including images that may be offensive or portray negative stereotypes. We think these images are important for the overall conversation about who we are as Iowans. They provide a fuller understanding and representation of different time periods in Iowa's history. All images should be viewed in the context of their time periods. Fortepan Iowa does not endorse the views represented in such images.

USE

VIEW

Timeline Display: Choose manual or auto view, and decide whether you want a white (default) or black “lightroom” background. Advance each image individually with white Right/Left arrows. Click the small double chevrons in the thumbnail timeline to rapidly advance the thumbnail photos 10 images at a time. Hold the double chevron down to slowly crawl through these images.

Grid/Browser Display: Sort through the grid to view a series of photos you have identified into a group. Choose the black or white display option.

TAG

We catalogue each image using up to three of our [38 controlled vocabulary terms](#); the rest of the tagging is up to you. Sign in and tag what you see in a picture: horse, corn, bridge, park, picnic...whatever general terms you think will help others find a photo. Tags are vetted, so please tag responsibly.

COMMENT

Every photograph is equipped with a forum. If you know specific details within an image, like the make of a motorcycle, the breed of a cow, the name of a street, the type of ceremony, etc., share it here. Also share your stories. How else will we learn that the trampoline was invented in Cedar Rapids, that the house in the background was a 1920 speakeasy, or that the confident 10-year-old farm girl ended up having a fabulous career in Washington D.C.? Help us complicate Iowa history by sharing the stories that make Iowa unique. Comments are edited, so please comment responsibly. For privacy purposes, we only allow the donor to identify individuals in the photograph.

DOWNLOAD

Click the “download” button to download any high-resolution Fortepan Iowa image for your own use. Each image has a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license \(CC-BY-SA\)](#). This means you are free to **share** (copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format), and **adapt** (remix, transform, and build upon) any Fortepan Iowa photograph for any purpose, even commercially, as long as you **Attribute** and **ShareAlike**.

To learn more about using downloaded Fortepan Iowa photographs under the CC-BY-SA license, please continue on to the next section, “USING FORTEPAN IOWA PHOTOS.”

CREATE AND ATTRIBUTE

Fortepan Iowa photos are free to use under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license \(CC-BY-SA\)](#). You must always attribute every Fortepan Iowa photograph you use: To **ATTRIBUTE** a Fortepan Iowa photograph (e.g., FI_2348.jpg,” donated by Lissa Potter), please use the following model:

“FI_2348” by Lissa Potter/Fortepan Iowa, “http://fortepan.us/FI_2348.jpg,” [CC-BY-SA](#).

The ShareAlike mechanism is included in the version 4.0 licenses as follows:

- If You Share an Adapted Fortepan Iowa image You produce, the following conditions also apply.
 - The Adapter’s License You apply must be a Creative Commons license with the same License Elements, this version or later, or a BY-NC-SA Compatible License.
 - You must include the text of, or the URI or hyperlink to, the Adapter's License You apply. You may satisfy this condition in any reasonable manner based on the medium, means, and context in which You Share Adapted Material.
 - You may not offer or impose any additional or different terms or conditions on, or apply any Effective Technological Measures to, Adapted Material that restrict exercise of the rights granted under the Adapter's License You apply.

SHAREALIKE EXPLAINED

All Fortepan images are ShareAlike to ensure that the images themselves always stay free, even if they are modified and adapted by others. The ShareAlike license has several intended effects:

- The original Fortepan image always remains freely available to use and remix. Anyone who has access to the photograph may use it, even if they encounter the work in a modified form.
- Adaptations of a Fortepan image are always freely available to use and remix. Anything made from the original photograph is just as free as the original image was, and you may use a Fortepan Iowa image remix as a starting point for your own work, just as easily as starting from the original Fortepan Iowa image. For example, this looping video of these smokers was adapted from “[fortepan_7416](#)” by Fortepan, [CC-BY-SA 3.0](#). Anyone is free to download and build upon this animated adaptation:



- The ShareAlike licenses are designed to result in the creation of new works for the commons through their copyleft mechanism. Because new contributions to adaptations (when distributed) must be licensed under the same or a compatible license, people who wish to remix SA works also contribute back to the commons as a condition of using the SA work.

KEY POINTS ABOUT THE SHAREALIKE LICENSE

The ShareAlike condition applies only for works considered adaptations under copyright law, not simply in collections with other works (also referred to as mere aggregations). Therefore, publishing a series of Fortepan images, unaltered, in a book or in an online gallery, does not require a ShareAlike license. For example, take a look at this [Fortepan](#) image:



Original fortepan image, “[fortepan_25246](#),” by



Here is a slightly modified version of the same

Fortepan, [CC-BY-SA 3.0](#).

"[fortepan_25246](#)" image – a frame and a blue duotone have been added, and there is a little tear on the left side--do you see it? The modification is so marginable, though, that it does not count as an adaptation, and thus it does not require a ShareAlike license.

This digital photomontage, "Fan," is altered so considerably that we can definitely call it an "adaptation" (or remix) of the original, wouldn't you agree?



A license for this work should link back to the original photograph, and explain how that photograph was modified. The attribution should look like this:

"Fan" by Bettina Fabos. Based on the original image, "[fortepan_25246](#)" by Fortepan, [CC-BY-SA 3.0](#), Removed background and applied colored layers. "Fan" is licensed under [CC-BY-SA 4.0](#).

Accordingly, if you remix and share a Fortepan image, you must apply the [CC-BY-SA 4.0](#) license (or a later license version), or a [BY-SA Compatible License](#). That way we can always find a way back to the original work, so it always stays free.

The ShareAlike term applies to licensed uses of Fortepan images only, not other uses by the rightsholder of the original photograph. Licensors that make their photographs available under an SA license in Fortepan are always free to share their works under other terms if they wish.

Any Fortepan image used for the purposes of criticism or parody does not require a ShareAlike license.

Any link to a Fortepan image does not require a ShareAlike designation.

A ShareAlike license on an adapted Fortepan image cannot be modified through any additional explanations.

Unless other restrictions are present, the work may be used for *any* purpose (even commercially), without the need to make distinctions about allowable types of uses.

The ShareAlike condition only applies to a Fortepan image when it is publicly shared. You are not obligated to share things you make from Fortepan photos--you may create remixes and adaptations that you do not publish. If you are using Fortepan images privately and not sharing them with others, you do not have to comply with the license conditions. For example, if you download, print, and hang a Fortepan photo in your living room, you do not have to license your printed image under an SA or compatible license unless you plan to share it with others.

Anyone who builds on the original photo should provide a URL or a link back to the original.

POSSIBLE USES OF FORTEPAN PHOTOS

- Use a Fortepan photo, unmodified, in a larger work (e.g., a curated collection of photographs, organized in a series). Unless the larger work would be considered an adaptation of it, using a ShareAlike photo as a separate element within it does not require original materials in the larger work to be ShareAlike or compatible. The larger work may be licensed under any terms.
- Publish a Fortepan photo in a book, newspaper article, or Facebook post. It depends if the image is modified or not. A modified Fortepan photo needs a ShareAlike license; an unmodified photo does not.



This photo, appearing in the [Index.hu](https://index.hu) online news magazine (and also on Facebook), is not modified, so it does not require a ShareAlike license.

- Wheat-paste a Fortepan photo on the side of a building. If the wheat-pasted image is adapted (e.g., parts of the image are cut out from the background or altered, as below), the wheat-paste requires a ShareAlike license.



- Fortepan photo(s) in a digital project. If the Fortepan image, or images, are altered, as in this photomontage, then the parts of the project derived from the Fortepan photos require a Share Alike license.



In this example, two separate licenses are assigned to this section of the digital project, [Proud and Torn, a Visual Memoir of Hungarian History](#):

1. "Shoes," by Dana Potter. Based on the original image, "[fortepan_103911](#)," Budapest Főváros Levéltára / Fortepan, [CC-BY-SA 3.0](#). Selected shoes from background, applied a brown duotone. [Proud and Torn, a Visual Memoir of Hungarian History, "1956."](#) [CC-BY-SA 4.0](#).
2. "Long lines," by Dana Potter. Based on two original images, "[fortepan_31273](#)" by [Lechner Nonprofit Kft. Dokumentációs Központ](#)/Fortepan, [CC-BY-SA 3.0](#), and "[fortepan_17956](#)" by [Magyar Rendőr](#)/Fortepan, [CC-BY-SA 3.0](#). Applied photomontage and alternating brown and blue duotones. [Proud and Torn, a Visual Memoir of Hungarian History, "1956."](#) [CC-BY-SA 4.0](#).

CHOOSING SA FOR YOUR CONTENT

Before opting to use an SA license for your material, consider the following:

- SA may be incompatible with other material you want to use in your remix. SA does not mix well with CC-licensed images “NC” (non-commercial), or “ND” (no derivatives). For more information about compatibility, see the [CC license compatibility chart, here](#). Because the ShareAlike licenses require that adapted material of a ShareAlike work be licensed under a ShareAlike or a compatible license, you should be aware of the licenses covering the other materials that you want to use in your remix.
- BY-SA allows your work to be used commercially. While the BY-SA license requires that commercial entities using the work comply with the terms of the license, they may sell or otherwise use your work or their adaptation of your work for commercial purposes.

This information in this section, “Using Fortepan Photos” was adapted from “[ShareAlike Interpretation](#),” by Creative Commons, [CC-BY 4.0](#).

CONTRIBUTE

We welcome photographs from family collections, libraries, historical societies, museums, and other archives or collections. Our focus is everyday Iowa. We scan all photos (up to 1000 images per collection) at high resolution from our home base at the University of Northern Iowa, or at one of our scanning hubs at our participating public libraries in Anamosa, Cedar Falls, Ottumwa, Sumner, and Webster City. If you happen to own glass slides or film negatives that seem worthless because you don’t have a way to view them or you have lost track of their family significance—please don’t throw them away! We can digitize them! We can also digitize very large print photographs. Contact fortepan@uni.edu.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

We choose photographs for Fortepan Iowa based on their **unique lens into the everyday world**. We look for:

- Photos of **PLACE** that connect people to a particular location, for example, a school, a downtown, a workplace, a particular recreation area.
- **ACTION** photos that tell a story, or are perhaps funny, or tragic, or involve a situation that people might identify with, like a political rally, or a certain kind of motorbike.
- Photos that communicate a particular **CULTURAL PRACTICE**. We are excited to see different cultural practices across multiple Fortepan archives.
- Photos of **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**. We are interested in any recognizable historical moment, and are especially curious about images taken from the unique perspective of an amateur photographer.
- **IMAGES THAT CAPTIVATE**. This is a catch-all category for those photos that hold magic—a personally touching detail or some kind of accidental framing, a special balance between dark and light, a particular human expression, the magnetic pull of two or more objects in a frame, the isolation, in a compelling way, of a particular thing or person—that elevates an everyday photograph into a piece of art. Very often these photos are unintentionally magical. We are not going to lie...it’s the accidentally magical images in Fortepan Iowa that give us the most pleasure. They keep the Fortepan archives surprising and lyrical.
- Finally, we have a special love for photographs with people **IN THE ACT** of taking a photograph.

Fortepan Iowa does not include:

- Copies of photographs, such as newspaper clippings or scanned prints of the original.
- Photos that are out of focus (unless they are, for example, out of focus in a way that is visually compelling).
- Photos that are overly banal or posed (although some posed photographs can be very special!).
- Photos that are especially violent, horrifying, or upsetting. Even though these types of activities are part of history, they are not part of the past we choose to preserve.

Because Fortepan Iowa is geographically based, we feature photographs from every corner of the state. The archive also contains images beyond Iowa, because we are interested in where Iowans travel, whether it's for vacation, work, or service, or visiting extended families. We are also interested in how (and from where) Iowans became Iowans, and where they go once they leave. Our lives are comprised of interconnected networks that span geographical space and time. Capturing how we make community is part of this project.

HOW TO DONATE

There are two parts of our donation process, Scanning and Gifting.

Scanning

We have volunteer scanners who can scan entire family collections up to 1,000 images. We have the capacity to scan print photographs (any size), 35mm slides, and large format photo transparencies, including glass slides. We heavily prize positive and negative transparencies because they generate the highest quality digital photos, and they are the most likely to be thrown away.

When we accept your images to scan, you need to:

1. Clearly mark the box or envelope with your address.
2. Sign this [PERMISSION TO SCAN](#) form.
3. Tell us how you'd like to receive the digital images: through
 - a. Google Drive
 - b. WeTransfer or
 - c. an external USB drive--we request that it's larger than 8 GB, and that you supply it in the box with your images-to-be-scanned.
4. Any specific directions you may have about the photographs or the albums that contain them.

We will count all images before we scan them, and make sure we return every image back to you. We are also able to scan photos adhered to the pages of a photo album without having to remove the photos.

Our volunteers are exceedingly careful with collections and follow a scanning protocol that generates images with 1300 ppi and an approximately 7,000 x 10,000 pixel ratio. Depending on the size of your collection, we could be finished scanning it within a day or a few months. Our volunteer scanning efforts are completely free.

Gifting

Fortepan Iowa is entirely based on the ethic of sharing. Our project is part of a growing global movement called the [Creative Commons](#), which has, through a nonprofit organization, developed a set of licenses that are layered on

top of copyright to help people determine the conditions on which their work can be used. Because we aim to encourage sharing and engagement with the collection for the greater good, we have chosen the liberal “Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike” license, abbreviated CC-BY-SA, for every Fortepan Iowa image. CC-BY-SA is one of six available licenses under the Creative Commons: it ensures every donor gets credit, and that each image will always remain “free.”

The [DEED OF GIFT](#) we ask you to sign is for the *digital rights* (and the digital rights only) to the photos in your collection that *we digitize and select for upload*. This gift does not apply to the original photographs. It also doesn’t apply to any other scanned version(s) of your photograph.

Before gifting selected images in your collection to Fortepan Iowa, please:

1. Read the “[DEED of GIFT](#)” form, which conveys that you will donate *only the digitized images that we select to upload to Fortepan Iowa*, and explains how each Fortepan Iowa image is assigned a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0](#) license .
2. Become familiar with the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0](#) license. Here is a [shorthand description of the license, or “License Deed.”](#) Here is the lengthier [Legal Code](#). Under this license, every image uploaded to Fortepan Iowa is made available for others to use in creative and thoughtful ways. For example, a student might choose a Fortepan Iowa photo for a school project; a publisher might print a Fortepan Iowa on a book cover; an artist might create something beautiful or provocative through a Fortepan Iowa photo collage; or a bank or library might exhibit a historical Fortepan Iowa image in their entryway. The ethic behind Fortepan Iowa is that the images are free for everyone to use, that your history is important to--and part of--Iowa History, and that our collective history is all the richer when we include stories and images of everyday life.

If anyone makes use of a photograph you donate to Fortepan Iowa, they will attribute you as the donor of the image, and provide a link or URL to the original image in the archive. If anyone adapts a photo from your collection, they are required, under CC-BY-SA, to license the new adapted work under the same license, ensuring that the photograph will always remain “free,” and that you will always be attributed.

3. Fill out the **spreadsheet** we enclose with your digital scans. When we finish scanning, we will send you a spreadsheet listing all the images we have selected to upload to Fortepan Iowa. Please provide as much data as you can (or want to) on each photo: Dates, location (as precise as possible), photographer, names (if you wish), and any other comments you think are valuable to share.

Photographer: Please note that we’d like to know, if possible, who took the photo of each image donated to Fortepan Iowa. Photographer’s rights, broadly covered under “**similar rights**,” include *the rights of the photographer who took the original image*. We request that you make every effort to **determine the photographer behind the image** so we can credit that person in the spreadsheet column “Photographer.” If that person is still living, **please obtain their permission** to donate the photo they took to Fortepan Iowa.

People in the photos: It is your responsibility to verify that anyone still living who appears in the photos selected for Fortepan Iowa has given you consent to share the image publicly. The CC-BY-SA license does not cover **privacy rights**. It is, however, ethically consistent with Fortepan Iowa that donors confirm, with those portrayed in the archive’s photos, their full approval.

NOTE: **Moral rights** are generally covered by CC-BY-SA's attribution clause. According to the [Creative Commons](#), "The two most common types of moral rights are the **right to be recognized as the author of the work** (known traditionally as the "right of paternity"), and the **right to protect the work's integrity** (generally, the right to object to distortion of or the introduction of undesired changes to the work)."¹ All CC licenses preserve moral rights to the extent they exist.²

FAMILY COLLECTIONS: When you donate the digital scans we generate from your family's collection to Fortepan Iowa, you are sharing and combining your family's history with the larger collective history of Iowa.

OTHER COLLECTIONS. If you manage a collection within a library, historical society, museum, or archive, we will happily accept any collection that has been already scanned, provided that the images are of high enough resolution. We will also help you scan your collection.

From our experience, Fortepan Iowa's ability to foster engagement with photographs and collections in turn draws more name recognition and interest in the hosting library, museum, or archive. We look forward to working with you, and helping you publicize the important work you do.

VOLUNTEER

We would love your help. Come join our community! We need help scanning, proofing metadata, editing tags and comments, and posting on Facebook. We have Fortepan Iowa scanning hubs at the University of Northern Iowa, Anamosa Library and Learning Center, Cedar Falls Public Library, Sumner Public Library, Ottumwa Public Library, and Kendall Young Public Library in Webster City. Contact fortepan@uni.edu.



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¹ Copyright Basics," by Creative Commons, ["https://certificates.creativecommons.org/cccertedu/chapter/2-1-copyright-basics/,"](https://certificates.creativecommons.org/cccertedu/chapter/2-1-copyright-basics/) CC-BY.

² "What are Moral Rights," by Creative Commons, ["https://creativecommons.org/faq/#What_are_moral_rights,"](https://creativecommons.org/faq/#What_are_moral_rights) CC-BY.