

Multimedia Files in Reunion 6™—Part 1: Linking Pictures

Introduction—For years, Reunion has had the capability of linking to picture files so they can be displayed either in Reunion or as prints produced by its companion program, *SuperChart*. In the past, pictures had to be in the Macintosh PICT format. Now, Reunion has multimedia features capable of linking to pictures in several different formats, to sound files, and to movie files.

You can also use Reunion to build HTML-based files containing genealogy data, pictures, sounds, and movies. Then, you can “show the world” your research via your personal World Wide Web site. In this document, we’ll discuss linking pictures in Reunion.

Later, in other documents, we’ll cover other multimedia features available with Reunion.

Picture File Formats—Reunion displays files in the following formats: PICT, JPEG/JFIF, GIF, MacPaint, Silicon Graphics (SUN Rasterfile), Photoshop 2.5 (PSD), and Quick Time. The following paragraphs discuss these common picture file formats.

PICT—This file format can be in black and white, color, or greyscale. It is a “combination” format that can contain both a vector-based and a raster-based image. If a vector based application (Claris-Draw) was used to create the file, that vector format will be saved in the file. However, a companion raster-based format “goes along” with it so it can be seen on your (raster-based) computer screen. If the file was created by a raster-based application or was converted to a raster format, the file will lose its vector-based qualities. For example, the illustrations in this document originated as raster-based, then were changed to PICT so the word processor I use would recognize them.

JPEG/JFIF—A raster-based format designed specifically for photographs. It can display up to millions of colors and contains a “compression” function that reduces the file size when saved. However, the compression is “lossy” so it loses some color detail when compressed. This is the common format used for *photographs* displayed on Web pages.

GIF—A raster-based format limited to 256 individual colors or 256 black-and-white shades. This is the other common format used on Web pages, normally for *drawings or graphics*, not photographs. It contains a compression function that *is not lossy*, and is very efficient since only colors necessary to display the image are stored. The GIF format can be animated, that is, it can contain several similar images that are flipped quickly to produce a primitive “movie.” The images can also be changed slowly to produce a “moving billboard” effect. Another GIF feature is “transparency” that is, one color is made transparent, so the background shows around the graphic.

MacPaint—An old Macintosh raster format. As far as I know, it is still black & white, so it produces “greyscale” by “dithering” small dots in the image, like black & white newspaper print.

Photoshop 2.5—A popular full-color (up to millions of colors) raster-based format. The current version is around 5 or 6, so version 2.5 is quite old. The advantage is that any photoshop format can be “saved-down” to version 2.5 for use by Reunion.

SUN Rasterfile—A raster-based format similar to the photoshop format. It is commonly used by many computers using the UNIX operating system.

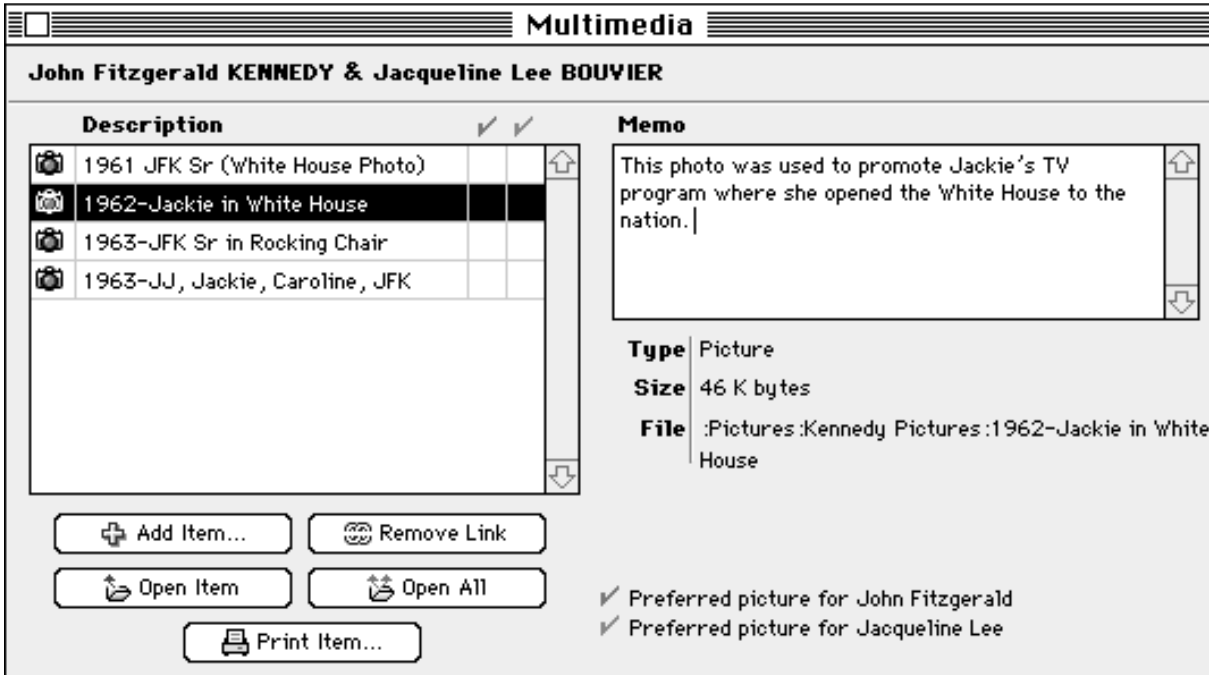
QuickTime—Originally a Macintosh format used for QuickTime movies and sound. The latest versions handle many different formats, including PC movies, sound, and image formats.

Picture File Preparation—Although Reunion can display your files using any of the above formats, *it cannot prepare the file* for presentation. Use one or more graphic applications to crop, size, color balance, retouch, and reformat your pictures as needed. If you scan pictures, they are often in TIFF format. If you have received the file from the Internet or if you use a digital camera, it is probably in the JPEG format. Often, a “light edition” of a graphic application is “bundled” with a new scanner or digital camera; and works well as a “starter.” The *Graphic Converter* shareware program is an excellent, yet inexpensive, choice for reformatting and minor retouching.

Adding Family Pictures to Reunion—Pictures are the most often used multimedia feature, so let's discuss how any number of pictures can be linked for viewing from a single Family Card.



First, go to the Family Card where you want to link the pictures, click the **Multi-M** button and select the **Multimedia Window**. RESULT: The Multimedia dialog box opens (below).



Click the **Add Item** button and an Open dialog box appears. Navigate to the photo you want, then click the **Open** button on the dialog box to place the filename of the photo in the **Description** list. If you wish, type your own description of the photo in the **Memo** box. Notice the technical description of the photo and the pathname of the folders that contain it are listed on the right.

Keep repeating the above steps to add all the photos you want associated with this Family Card. Remember, this Multimedia dialog box simply creates a *list of links* to the actual photographs.

I like to begin each photo's filename with the year I think it was taken. That way, the viewer will have an idea of the chronological order of the photos. I also like to place all the photo files I have made especially for my genealogical records in the Picture folder that was created when Reunion was first installed. For further organization, I place groups of photos (like the *Kennedy Pictures*) in separate folders as shown in the above illustration.

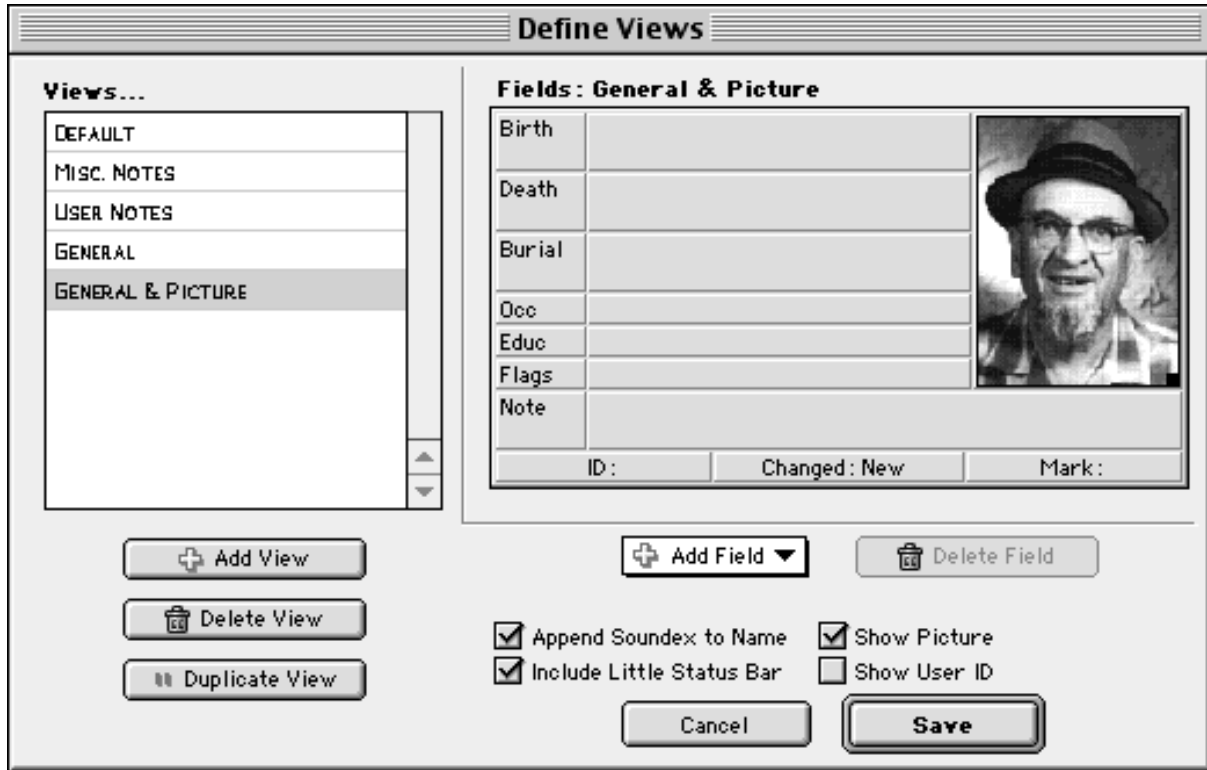
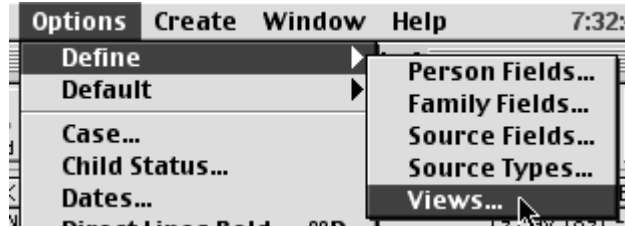
Use the **Remove Link** button to remove a photo from this list; the photo file *will not* be destroyed. Use the **Open Item** or **Open All** buttons to open one or all of the photographs in the list.

When the **Open All** button is clicked, the photos will be presented with the first in the list shown first and the last photo displayed last. That means several of the early photos will be covered by the later photos. You can adjust the way these photos are presented by simply re-ordering the list using the drag-and-drop method.

When all the photos are linked, close the Multimedia dialog box, then open all the photo windows by selecting the **Open All** command from the **Multi-M** button. Then you can see how each photo will be viewed. Adjust the size and position of each photo as you'd like to have it displayed. The photo windows won't move once you have positioned and closed them.

Adding Small Pictures to a Family Card—Now that you know how to link photos to a family card, you may want to put one or two of these small “preferred” photos of the father and mother directly on the card. Here’s how:

First, select **Options/Define/Views** from the main menu. RESULT: The Define Views dialog box opens, similar to the one below.



In this example, the **General** view was chosen by the Reunion user. We’ll now make a new view that is similar to this view, but with room to display a small picture.

Select the **General** view (or whatever view you have used in Reunion) in the **Views** list at the left, then click the **Duplicate View** button. RESULT: A view named **General Copy** appears.

Change the name to **General & Picture** (or any name you desire). This view will be substituted on all Reunion family cards when a picture is to be inserted, so I suggest it be a copy of the view you have used throughout all of your other Reunion screens.

Click the **Show Picture** checkbox. RESULT: A small picture is inserted to the right of the view.

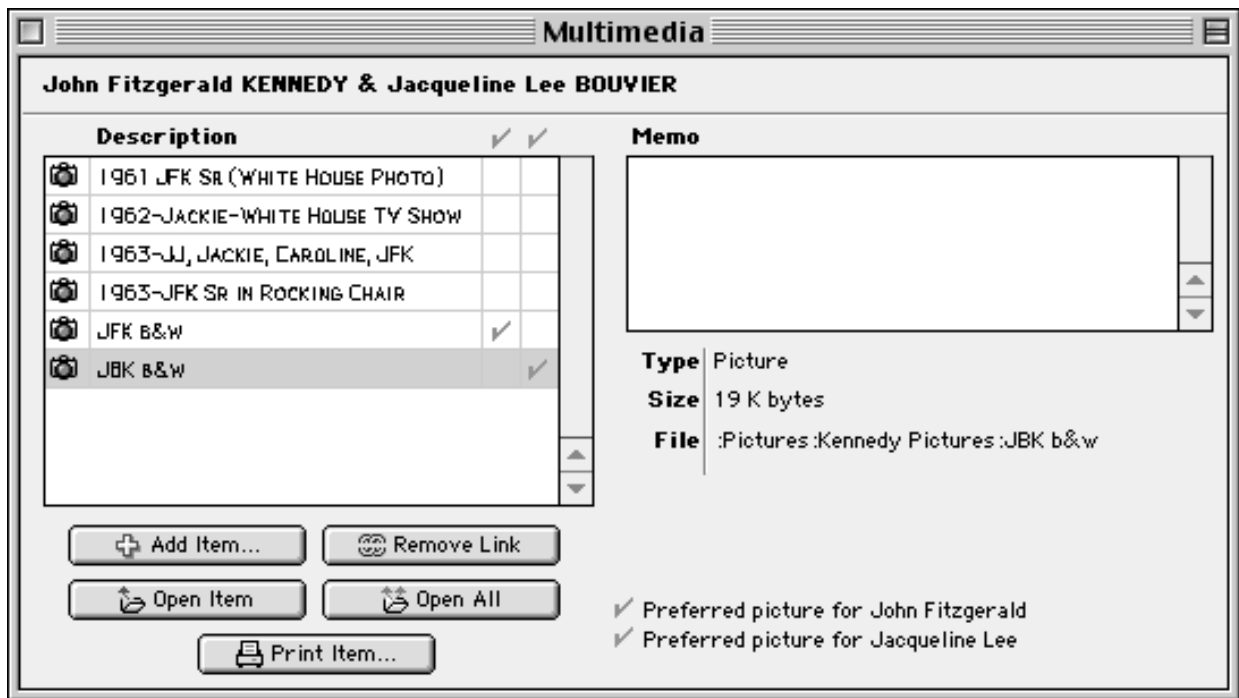
Click the picture to select it. Use the small square dot (called a “Handle”) at the bottom-right of the picture to drag down and make the photo larger. Remember, pictures in your family cards will all have the **same height** selected here; the width of the picture depends upon the individual photo.

When you are satisfied, click the **Save** button to save and close the dialog box.

Inserting Small Pictures into your Family Card—Now, open the Family Card where you want to insert a picture.

Click the **Multi-M** button and select the **Multimedia Window**. RESULT: The Multimedia dialog box opens again (next page).





In this example, I chose to add two small black and white pictures (JFK B&W and JBK B&W) to the list just for the small pictures. If I wished, I could have used one of the pictures already in the list. Reunion automatically re-sizes any picture so it will fit correctly and the colors are preserved.

Click in the box under the blue checkmark to select the “preferred” picture for the father and click in the box under the orange checkmark to select the “preferred” picture for the mother.

Printing Linked Pictures—To keep a paper record of the photos you have linked and where they are in your computer, just click the **Print Item** button while the desired picture is selected.

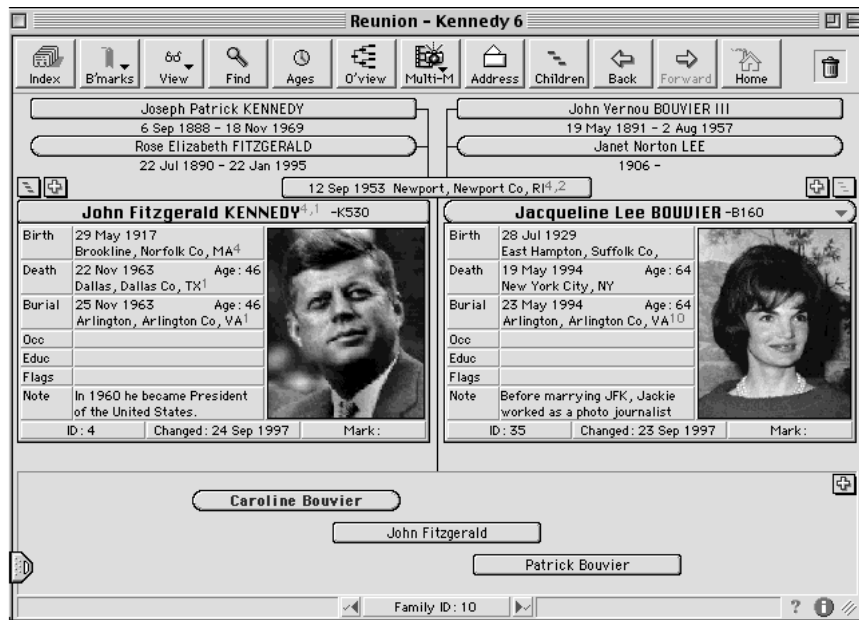
The Finished Card—

This is a sample of our finished Family Card containing pictures.

If the camera’s flash on the **Multi-M** button is lighted, a viewer knows that some pictures, sounds, or movies are linked to the card.

More Help on Linking Pictures—

For more information on using multimedia with Reunion, see the **Multimedia, Pictures, Sounds and Movies** pages in the *Using Advanced Features* section of the Reunion manual.



I hope this short tutorial has been of some help to you.

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