

Lucy photos

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To: Bill Rapaport <wjrapaport@gmail.com>

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Hello Bill —

How wonderful to hear from you.

My sincere apologies for taking so long to respond back but I had to do some searching through older files on my iPad.

Last year when I began the Lucylane project I had difficulty finding an early picture of Dede that fully captured the strong willed spiritedness of this young woman that I wanted to utilize for her painting. Amy Poehler's Amazon documentary debuted around this same time and up popped on my television screen the perfect photograph. I immediately took screen shots of the vintage photo and sent them to Mary who agreed with me that it was exactly right.

Freddy was more of a challenge because there were no clear photographs of him as a child. I had to use my imagination to combine what was available of him along with studying the features of Dede and young Lucy. Features such as auburn hair and big blue eyes were obvious choices. In her autobiography Lucy mentioned that this was her natural hair color. Little boys in the teens and twenties of the last century were commonly photographed (and painted) wearing sailor suits so that seemed a natural way to depict him.

I toyed with making young Lucy look more formal by straightening the bow on her dress. Oddly enough it felt more realistic to show Lucy as the tomboy that she truly was with the bow crooked. I could not help but laugh and think she had been forced by her mother to wear the party dress and stand still long enough to have her picture taken.

Lucy's autobiography was of great assistance to me in having a sense of the personalities of these people at that particular time in their lives. I wanted to feel the energy of the household in 1920. The wall paper sample Mary sent me was of terrific assistance in coordinating them for the parlor.

When I painted the portrait of Grandpa Hunt and Florabelle I could not tell if her hair was blonde or grey judging from the black and white photograph. Lucy's autobiography confirmed that her hair was salt and pepper grey. The big surprise was her mention that Grandpa Hunt had sandy blonde hair well into his seventies.

All of that was incorporated into their painting.

All of my very best to you and Mary. Have a beautiful Sunday.



"DEDE" BALL  
LUCY & FRED