



History of the camera

The use of photographic film was pioneered by George Eastman, who started manufacturing paper film in 1885 before switching to celluloid in 1889. His first camera, which he called the "Kodak," was first offered for sale in 1888. It was a simple box camera with a fixed-focus lens and single shutter speed, which along with its relatively low price appealed to the average consumer. The Kodak came pre-loaded with film for 100 exposures and needed to be sent back to the factory for processing and reloading when the roll was finished. By the end of the 19th century, Eastman had expanded his lineup to several models including both box and folding cameras. In 1900, Eastman took mass-market photography one step further with the Brownie, a simple and very inexpensive box camera that introduced the concept of the snapshot. The Brownie was extremely popular and various models remained on sale until the 1960s. *

The woman who owned the trunk was headed to the 1932 political conventions in Chicago. She would have been able to capture many influential people who were attending social and political events during her visit to the city.

* Excerpt from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_camera