

Title: Acts of Love

December 2020. My mother's scar is faint, but it is still there. I have always known that scar was from the smallpox vaccine she received as a child. Smallpox seems such a distant threat to us now, yet there are still several generations alive today that bear that mark of human achievement right there on their skin. Now that I have children of my own, I look at my mother and mother-in-law and see their scars as evidence of an act of love they made as children, before their own children and grandchildren were ever so much as a twinkle in their eyes. Because they were vaccinated, I never had to be vaccinated, and my children never have to fear this disease. A vaccine isn't just for the individual, it is for everyone that comes after. With the COVID-19 vaccine very much on my mind, I took portraits of the scars on my mother and mother-in-law. They won't always be with us, and one day, the last generation that bears those scars will be gone. But their act of love will continue forever.

Note: This is the caption for the two photographs I am submitting. The photographs should be placed side by side, the jpeg ending in 1 should be on the left side. If this caption is too long, I can edit it down. Thanks!

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