

Oldest Photographer Dead: Josiah Johnson Hawes," 10 August 1901

(keywords: Josiah Johnson Hawes, Albert Sands Southworth, François Gouraud, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

THE DAGUERRETYPE: AN ARCHIVE OF SOURCE TEXTS, GRAPHICS, AND EPHEMERA

The research archive of Gary W. Ewer regarding the history of the daguerreotype

<http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

EWER ARCHIVE N9010001

Published in:

New York Times 50:16,097 (10 August 1901): 7.

**OLDEST PHOTOGRAPHER DEAD.
HE WAS JOSIAH JOHNSON HAWES, Friend
of Dickens, Rufus Choate, and
Gen. Benjamin F. Butler**

Special to The New York Times.

BOSTON, Aug. 9—Josiah Johnson Hawes of this city, who is supposed to have been the oldest photographer in the world, died on Wednesday while on a vacation trip to New Hampshire.

He was in his ninety-fourth year. In early life he was a painter of oil portraits and of miniatures on ivory. When M. Gourod [Gouraud—edit.] came to Boston, in 1841, to tell about Daguerre's discovery, Mr. Hawes made his acquaintance and took the American agency for the process of which Daguerre was the inventor. When two years later, Dr. Draper of New York made some discoveries which reduced the time of exposure from one-half hour to twenty-five seconds, Mr. Hawes fitted up a portrait studio and started into the business of photography, in which he continued for so many years. The skylight which he had had made at 19 Tremont Row, was the first one built for photographic purposed in America.

In his little studio at that address the first camera picture of Daniel Webster was made on the morning when the famous Anthony Burns speech was delivered from the balcony of the Revere House. The old photographer had at least a dozen other daguerrotypes [sic] of Webster made at different periods of the great orator's career.

Jenny Lind and her lover, Goldschmidt, whom she afterward married, were photographed by Mr. Hawes; also Oliver Wendell Holmes, Theodore Parker, Emerson, Thomas Starr King, Longfellow, Whittier, Louis Kossuth, and Baron Rothschild. Pictures of all these adorned Mr. Hawes's studio walls, making the place a place of interest to both lovers of modern history and curiosity hunters.

To the studio, approached by a dingy, old-fashioned flight of stairs, climbed many other celebrities. Charles Dickens used to go there to see Mr. Hawes, although he never consented to have a picture taken. James T. Fields was a frequent visitor, too, and Rufus Choate, who one had an office in the same building, was a good friend of the photographer, as was Gen. Benjamin F. Butler.

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Notably absent from this obituary is any mention of Hawes' business partner from 1843–1863, Albert Sands Southworth, with whom he achieved his fame and created his best body of work.

While Hawes may have been the oldest living active photographer, he was not the last of the surviving practitioners of the art. Abraham Bogardus lived until 1908, and John A. Anderson (who worked the process primarily as an amateur) lived until 1917. (Regarding the latter, see, J. A. Anderson, "The Daguerreotype," *American Photography* 9:12 [December 1915]: 683–84.)

1. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/P9150001_ANDERSON_AMER_PHOTOG_1915-12.pdf

EWER ARCHIVE N9010001

URL: http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/N9010001_HAWES-OBIT_NY-TIMES_1901-09-10.pdf

Document author: Gary W. Ewer

Creation date: 2008-12-10 / Last revision: 2010-12-16

Citation information: *New York Times* 50:16,097 (10 August 1901): 7.

Prepared from: imaged original text provided by the online resource, *Historic New York Times* (ProQuest.).

Original spelling/punctuation/grammar generally maintained without correction. Any in-text corrections are bracketed.

The *source text* is Public Domain and may be freely quoted. As noted below, this document is copyright.

If citing directly from this document, please reference the Ewer Archive number and provide the following citation credit:

Gary W. Ewer, ed., *The Daguerreotype: an Archive of Source Texts, Graphics, and Ephemera*, <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>

THE NECESSARY DISCLAIMERS:

The document creator has made every effort to insure the accuracy of the transcription. However, the information provided in this document is provided without warranty, either express or implied. The document creator will not be liable for any damages caused or alleged to be caused directly, indirectly, incidentally, or consequentially by the information provided by this text.

The document creator assumes no responsibility for accuracy of fact; the text is prepared "as found." Factual inaccuracies of the original text are generally **not** noted by the document creator. If this text is used in academic papers, accuracy should be confirmed by consulting original sources.

The document creator also assumes no responsibility regarding the correctness, suitability, or safety of any chemical or photographic processes that may be described by this text. Many of the chemicals used in early photographic processes are extremely toxic and should not be handled without a *thorough* knowledge of safe use.

The opinions expressed in this text are solely those of the original author and are not necessarily those of the Archive editor. Some texts may contain derogatory words. Any such word is certainly one that would not be used today. The words remain in the transcription, however, to maintain truthfulness to the original text.

© 2008, Gary W. Ewer. <http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org>
