Early Black Photographers
in New Jersey: William M. Dutton,
Isaiah Burton, Levi W. Bankson, & Albert T. Moore

Digital Supplement to “Exceptional Cameraworkers: Early Black Photographers in New Jersey”
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by
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William Dutton’s daguerreotype gallery in Jersey City in 1855–1857 was across from Joseph Dixon’s factory, seen here in an 1854 drawing. Dutton then photographed in New York and Brooklyn, where he lived until his death in 1904. I have not found any examples of Dutton’s photographs despite his long career.
Isaiah Burton’s photographs to be included in New Jersey’s Colored People’s Exhibit, Cotton Expo, New Orleans

Trenton State Gazette
Dec. 17, 1884

Colored People’s Exhibits: What Those From This State Will Show at New Orleans—An Interview With Commissioner Herbert.

Isaiah Burton, of this city, Honorary Commissioner of the Department of Colored Exhibits of the World’s Exposition, left Trenton last night for New Orleans, where he will act as Secretary to ex-Senator E. P. Reed and B. Bruce, Chief of the Department. He takes the Baltimore and Ohio route by way of Cincinnati, Cairo and Jackson, Ill.

A Gazette representative found Commissioner Herbert at the rooms of the Detective Club, at an early hour last evening, and inquired how the New Jersey colored exhibits would compare with those from other States.

"They will equal the showing made by any State in the Union—possibly not in number, but certainly in variety, value, and beauty," was the reply. "We will show about three hundred and fifty exhibits," he continued, "representing nearly seventy-five different industries. Our principal exhibit will be a model of the Central Railroad of New Jersey at the height of seven feet six inches."

In reply to a request to describe the most interesting exhibits, Mr. Herbert said: "Probably they will be determined by individual taste and opinion. For myself I consider any exhibit important that indicates mechanical skill and inventive genius in the exhibit. Eben A. Niekne, of Haddonfield, Camden county, is the owner of the only pottery within forty miles of Haddonfield. He shows all kinds of stone and brickmaking ware, including Egyptian vases, fountains, etc."

Including Egyptian vases, fountains, etc. of the shapes are strikingly beautiful. Albin Lyons, of Haddonfield, exhibits a large copper-plate engraving valued at $80; Mr. Van Buren generalized on the Petersburg scene, exhibits a remarkably perfect horizontal steam engine and boiler made by him from original designs expressly for the Exposition. Bell & Colling, 325 Kincaid Street, Camden, send a walnut-framed satin covered coach. By the way, Camden makes better showing than any city in the State. Mrs. F. A. Cooper, while I read a few of the most curious and valuable:"

"Set of organ pipes, J. B. Thompson, 620 Kincaid ave.; case of honedare, C. W. Watson & Co., 469 Kincaid ave.; full rigged ship, Wm. H. Smith, 714 Eycamere ave.; Andrew B. Smith,Upjohn Wilson and others send oil paintings; A. L. Green, ornamented penmanship and watercolors; A. C. Stevens, Masonic medals; Isaiah Burton, photographer; Charles Barnes, plaster plaques named trowel top; A. T. Bowman, shoe blacks; Joseph J. Merrill, chemical extractors; J. T. Derrickson, 12 kinds of preserves; William J. Perry, live furniture—but the Camden lot is as long as your arm. The Pierce Bros., of Bridgetown, sent 29 kinds of cloth and yarn. The yard is span by Robert, the cloth is carded by Gillean and finished by Alonzo. John Good, of Goodwin, a cane made from the tooth of a white; M. C. Pierce, harness and blacksmith work; J. H. Richardson, raw and manufactured tobacco. A. Banks, of Burlington, sends a steamship made of immortelles; then we have hams, baskets, prose work, original music, women’s work, wool, saddle hats, tiles, bricks, wax work, millinery, floor, tile, fertilizers, mock saving, silhouette covers, designs in carriage striping, hair covers, designs in carriage striping, hair work, landscape gardening, wood turning, cooperage, cigars, rag carpet, tin and sheet iron work, and, in the language of auction advertisements, “other things too numerous to mention.”

“What have you from Trenton?"

“A locomotive model from the State Prison, blacksmith’s drills, wrenches and steel horse shoes from Samuel H. Van Dyke, North Willow street; poudrette from Matthew Marden, 33 Passaic street; fancy bricks, from colored workmen in employ of Tell & Hill and Peter Pol; prepared kalsomine, Alfred Steruly, 52 Tupper street; gilded picture frames, John M. Herbert; painted satin dress front, Ada Herbert; a sharp made of Cape flowers from M. A. Brown, 410 Broad street; cigars from James B. Crippen, 20 West Hanover street, and a pair of fine pantaloons made by Israel Brown’s journeyman. There are about a dozen others, but these I have named are the most important."

“From what section of the State did you get the best?”

“Newark and Jersey City, I have nothing from Jersey City, but ten exhibits from Newark. The poor results in Newark was largely owing to the illness of the District Commissioner. The magnificent showing of the First district is the result of the industry, intelligence and public spiritedness of District Commissioner Philip T. Colling.”

“What salary do you receive as Commissioner?”

“None. When traveling under special orders from the Chief of the Department I was allowed four dollars per day to cover incidental expenses and the amounts actually disbursed for transportation.”
Colored Peoples Department, Cotton Expo, New Orleans, 1885, in which Isaiah Burton of Camden, NJ, was scheduled to participate.
Levi W. Bankson was a musician during his military service in the Civil War.

Military Invalid Pension Card
Private, Co. E, 25th Regiment U.S. Colored Infantry
Invalid pension, May 8, 1879
Died, March 16, 1909
Widow pension, May 24, 1909
HOWE'S
Merchantville Directory.

1888–89.

This handsome residence borough, of about 900 inhabitants, is located on the C & B branch, Amboy division, Penn. R. R., in Stockton township, 4 miles east of Camden, the county seat and banking town. It contains several beautiful residences, and has 5 churches—African Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Methodist. Daily stage to Camden and Mt. Laurel. Express, N. J. Telegraph, W. U. and B. & O. Gottlieb C. Mick, postmaster.

ABEL HENRY S, stock reporter, Phila, h Park av ab Gilmore
Abel Joshua H. porter, Oak Grove House, h do
Adkins Margaret, seamstress, h Cedar
Alger Bros (George W Alger), plumbers, Center cor Chestnut
Alger George W (Algor Bros), h Moorestown
Allen Channing, cigar mnfr, Phila, h Walnut av
Allman Jacob, h Walnut av
Altenus Edward E, bookkeeper, Phila, h Walnut av
Anderson George, laborer, h Center bel Front
Anderson George, laborer, h Pine cor 2d
Arey Sarah H, wid William H, h Cedar
Asbury M E Church (colored), Cedar
Ashburn Margaret F, h Chapel ab Maple av
Ashburn Margaret W, h Chapel ab Maple av
Atkinson John, laborer, h Pine bel Chapel rd
Atkinson William, saloon, Chapel rd cor Cedar, h do
BALL CHARLES S, bookkeeper, Phila, h Maple av nr Morris
Bankson Levi W, photographer and music agent, h Pine bel 2d
Barrett John J, sea captain, h Center ab Roger av
Barrett Thomas F, sea captain, h Park av ab Gilmore
Bartine David H, physician, Maple av nr Park av, h do
Grave of Levi W. Bankson, Civil War veteran, who became a photographer around 1890 in Camden County, NJ
In addition to photography, around 1890, Levi Bankson was a collector for the Equitable Beneficial Association, an insurance company. This Equitable policy is from the 1930s and is not connected to Bankson, who became a Justice of the Peace in the early 1900s.
Subject unknown, circa 1910, by Ideal Photo Co., New Brunswick, NJ, owned and operated by Albert T. Moore, who moved to Atlantic City in 1913.
Honor for Local Photographer

A. T. Moore, the George street photographer, has been chosen as the official photographer for the Emancipation Proclamation exhibition, to be celebrated in September, 1913, in Philadelphia, Pa.

He will have the photograph work for Atlantic City, Camden, Asbury Park, Long Branch, and all of South Jersey, and will use his five passenger Maxwell car for this work.

The local business will be carried on at the George street address by Carl C. Francis, who has been with Mr. Moore since last April, and who was formerly connected with Mr. Cole, of Asbury Park, where he had full control of the film developing. Mr. Moore has sold his interest in the business to Julius Kuchma.

The position given Mr. Moore is a deserved recognition of his ability. He started in business on Church street nine years ago with a capital of less than $100, and has had marked success.
Moore owned a Maxwell when he lived in Atlantic City, 1913–1917, and worked part-time as a chauffeur in addition to photography and running a billiards parlor with his wife.
In about 1917, Moore became partners with Benjamin M. Trzaska in South River, NJ. This photo is by the firm of a WWI rally in front of Sts. Peter and Paul Church.
In 1920, Trzaska left the partnership and Moore continued the photo business alone until the 1930s. This Moore photo is of a patriotic rally of Sons of Italy and a Hungarian immigrant group.
Polish Giants
baseball team, South River,
by Albert T. Moore, 1923–1924
45 Obert Street, South River, Site of A.T. Moore’s Photography Studio, 1920s
Albert T. Moore, South River, from New Brunswick Sunday Times, March 30, 1924
By 1940, Moore moved to Wilmington, Delaware, where he was a photographer in the 1940s. He and his wife continued to live in this building from 1943 until his death in 1957. In his later years, Moore rented the first floor to a restaurant business.
The End

For more on the history of photography,
see
Saretzky Online
http://saretzky.com