

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"

New Jersey Studies, Summer 2023

by

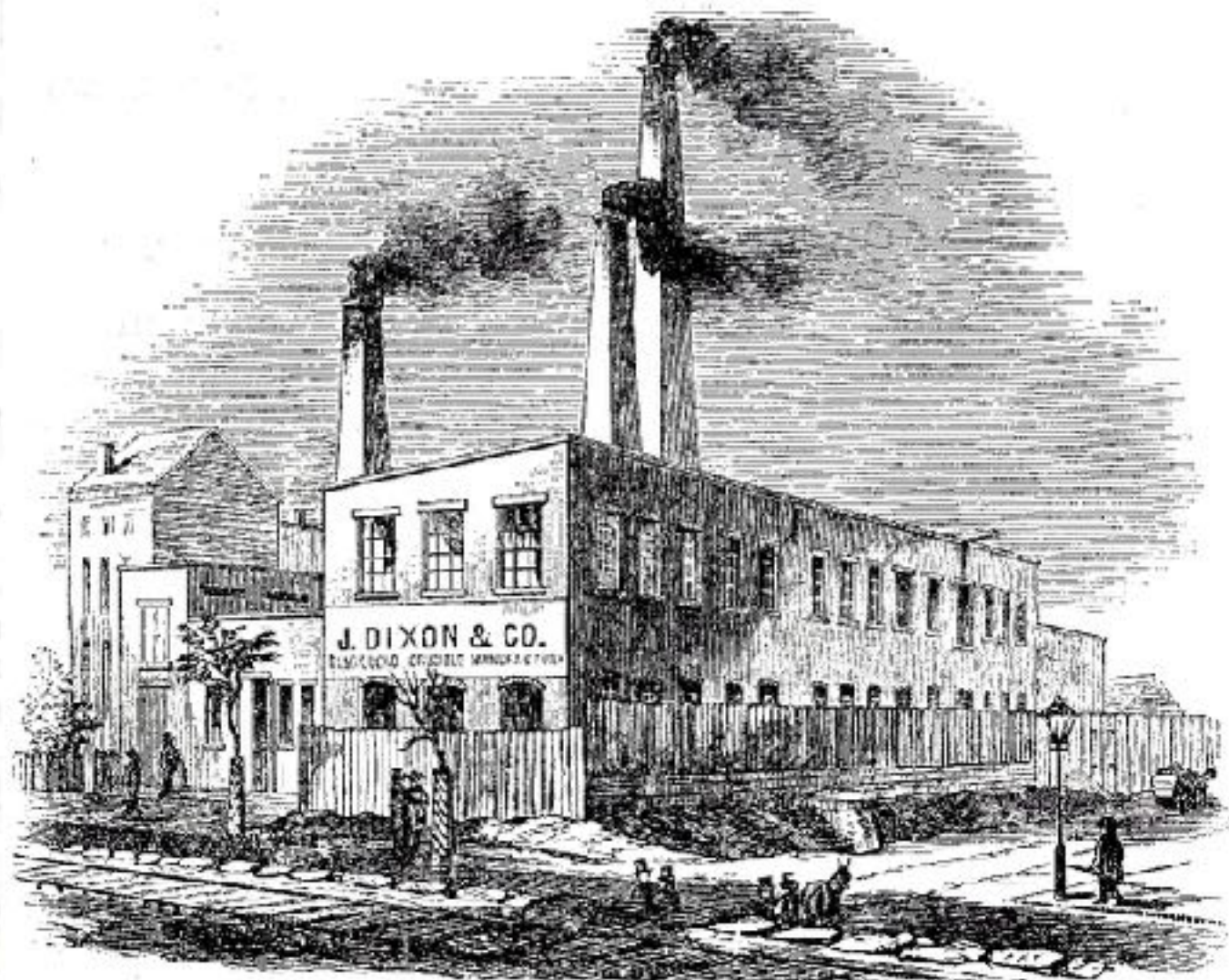
Gary D. Saretzky

# Graphite

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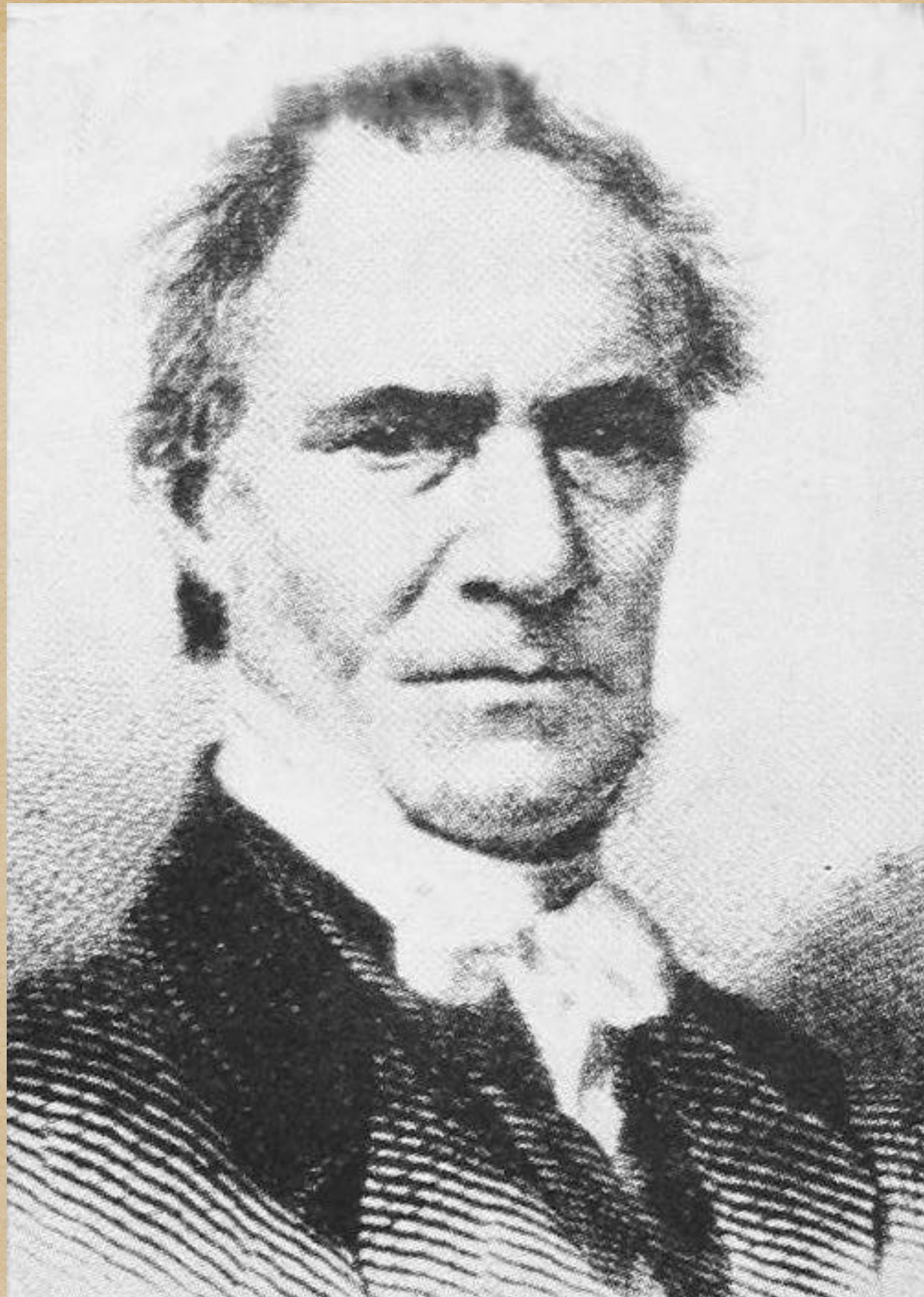


Works of the Dixon Company in Jersey City, N. J. in 1854  
From Wood Cut Made At That Time

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.

Jersey City Public Library



Joseph Dixon

1799–1869

Manufacturer of lead crucibles  
and other products using graphite,  
including the wooden pencil

## COLORED PEOPLE'S EXHIBITS.

What Those from This State Will Show at New Orleans—An Interview With Commissioner Herbert.

R. Henri Herbert, 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 and U. S. Register B. K. Bruce, Chief of the Department. He takes the Baltimore and Ohio route by way of Cincinnati, Cairo and Jackson, Miss.

A GAZETTE representative found Commissioner Herbert at the rooms of the Eclectic 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 shipment was made on the 1st inst., with the State Collective Exhibit. The last of our goods were sent on the 8th."

In reply to a request to describe the most important 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 exhibitor. Barton A. Nicken, of Haddonfield, Camden county, is the owner of the only pottery within 40 miles of Haddonfield. He shows all kinds of stone and Rockingham ware, including Egyptian vases, fountains, &c.

including Egyptian vases, fountains, &c. Some of the shapes are strikingly beautiful. Albro Lyons, of Plainfield, exhibits a large copper-plate engraving valued at \$400. Wm. Van Rensselaer, engineer of the Paterson Splice Mills, exhibits a remarkably perfect horizontal steam engine and boiler made by him from original designs expressly for the Exposition. Bell & Colding, 720 Kaighns Point avenue, Camden, send a walnut-framed satin covered couch. By the way, Camden makes a better showing than any city in the State. Listen for a moment while I read a few of the most curious and valuable:

"Set of organ-pipes, J. B. Thompson, 626 Kaighns ave.; case of hosiery, C. W. Watson & Co., 640 Kaighns ave.; full-rigged ship, Wm. H. Smith, 714 Sycamore st.; Andrew Rensch, Ephraim Wilson and others send oil paintings; A. L. Green, ornamental penmanship and water colors; A. C. Stevens, Masonic medals; **Isaiah Burton**, photographs; Charles Barnes, plaster paris mantel top; A. T. Bowman, shoe blacking; Joseph J. Merrill, chemical extracts; J. T. Derrickson, 13 kinds of preserves; William J. Derry, wire furniture—but the Camden list yet is as long as your arm. The Pierce Bros., of Bridgeton, sent 20 kinds of cloth and yarn. The yarn is spun by Robert, the cloth is carded by Gideon and finished by Alonzo. John Gould, of Gouldtown, a cane made from the tooth of a whale; M. C. Pierce, horse-shoes and blacksmith's work; J. H. Richardson, raw and manufactured tobaccos. Alex. Banks, of Burlington, sends a steamship made of immortelles; then we have brooms, baskets, press work, original music, women's work, axe helves, wines, bricks, wax work, millinery, flour, tile, fertilizers, scroll sawing, rifle-sight covers, designs in carriage striping, hair

covers, designs in carriage striping, hair work, landscape gardening, wood turning, cooperage, cigars, rag carpets, 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 Madden, 37 Passaic street; fancy bricks, from colored workmen in employ of Fell & Hell and Peter Fell; prepared kalsomines, Alfred Seruby, 52 Tucker street; gilded picture frames, John M. Herbert; painted satin dress front, Ida Herbert; a sharp made of Cape flowers from M. A. Brown, 410 Broad street; cigars from James B. Crippen, 26 West Hanover street, and a pair of fine pantaloons made by Israel Brown's journeyman. There are about a dozen others, but those I have named are the most important."

"From what section of the State did you get the least?"

"Newark and Jersey City. I have nothing from Jersey City, and but ten exhibits from Newark. The poor result 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 Phillip T. Colding."

"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."

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

Centennial Photographic Co. Philadelphia, 1876.



1881. New Orleans. 1885.

Colored Peoples Department, Cotton Expo, New Orleans, 1885,  
in which Isaiah Burton of Camden, NJ, was scheduled to participate.

NAME OF SOLDIER:					Bankson, Levi W				
SERVICE:					Late rank, P Co. E 25 Regt U.S.C. Inf.				
TERM OF SERVICE:					Enlisted _____, 1 Discharged _____, 1				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	LAW.	CERTIFICATE NO.					
1879 May 8	Invalid,	284, 806	J	203, 846					
1909 Mar 24	Widow,	916, 222	o a						
	Minor,								
ADDITIONAL SERVICES:									
REMARKS:									
WRW N. D. A					Died Mar 16, 1909, at				

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 4 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.

**A**BEL HENRY S, stock reporter, Phila, h Park av ab  
Gilmore  
Abel Joshua H, porter, Oak Grove House, h do  
Adkins Margaret, seamstress, h Cedar  
Algor Bros (George W Algor), plumbers, Center cor Chestnut  
Algor George W (Algor Bros), h Moorestown  
Allen Channing, cigar mnfr, Phila, h Walnut av  
Allman Jacob, h Walnut av  
Altemus Edward E, bookkeeper, Phila, h Walnut av  
Anderson George, laborer, h Center bel Front  
Anderson George, laborer, h Pine cor 2d  
Aroy Sarah H, wid William R, h Cedar  
Ashbury M E Church (colored), Cedar  
Ashburn Margaret F, h Chapel ab Maple av  
Ashburn Margaret W, wid James C, h Chapel ab Maple av  
Atkinson John, laborer, h Pine bel Chapel rd  
Atkinson William, saloon, Chapel rd cor Cedar, h do  
**B**ALL 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

Levi W. Bankson  
Photographer and Music Agent  
Howe's Merchantville Directory

1888—1889



Grave of Levi W. Bankson, Civil War veteran, who became  
a photographer around 1890 in Camden County, NJ



*Sample*  
**THE EQUITABLE**

**Beneficial Association**

MAIN OFFICE

319 MARKET STREET, CAMDEN, N. J.

Pays Benefits in Sickness, Accident or Death



**WHEN TAKEN SICK**

Send word at once to the office, giving name and address, and give the number of your Certificate, when Sick Blank will be furnished for your attending doctor to sign.

**NOTICE**—Have this Book where you can always get it, so as not to keep the Collector waiting, and see that all money is promptly entered at the time of paying your dues.

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.



*Ideal Studios*  
78 CHURCH ST.  
NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J.

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.



Subject unknown, circa 1910,  
by Ideal Photo Co.,  
New Brunswick, NJ, owned and operated  
by Albert T. Moore.

# 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.

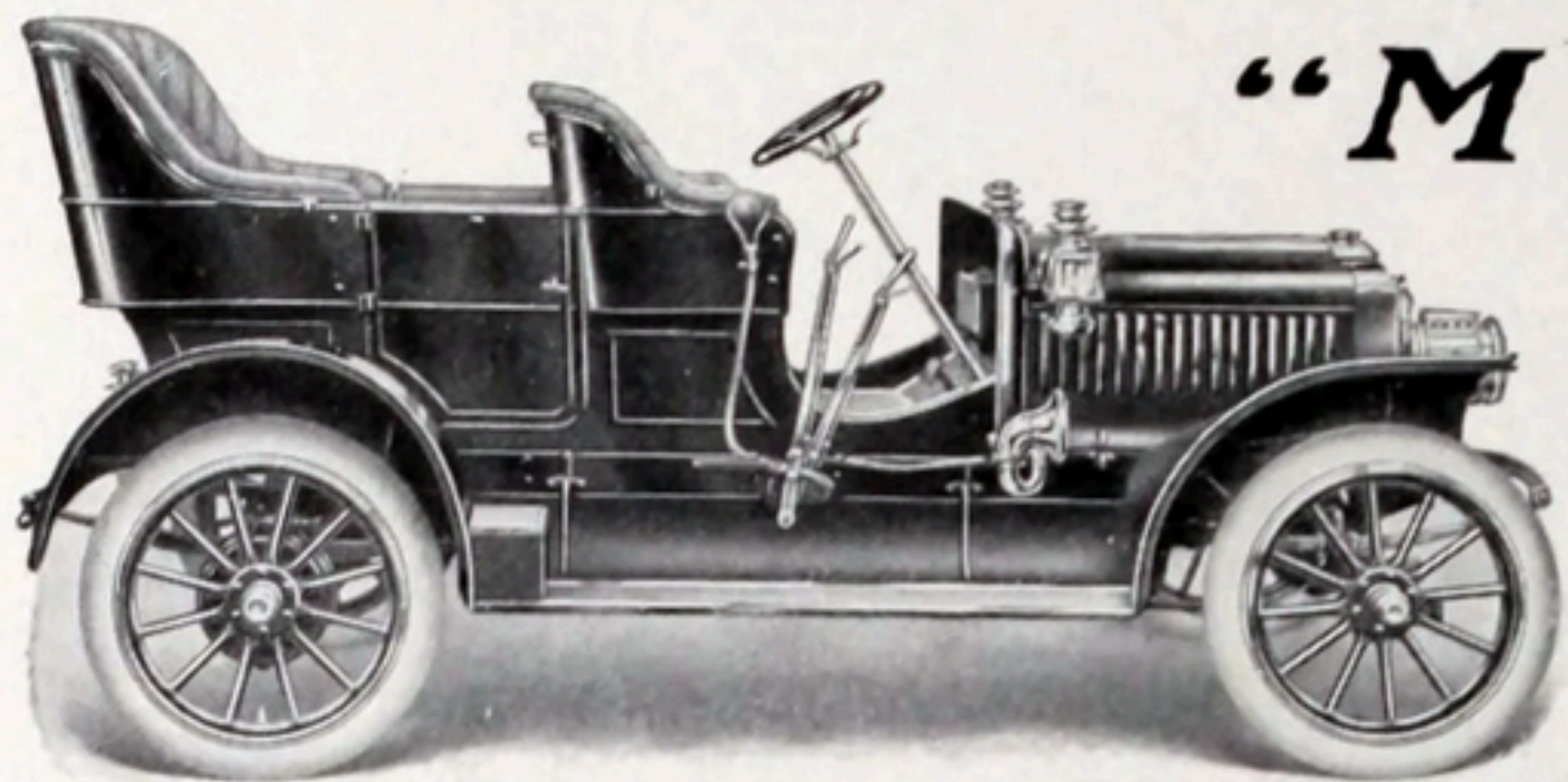
Home News, New Brunswick

January 28, 1913

A. T. Moore chosen as official  
photographer for Emancipation  
Proclamation exhibition, Philadelphia,  
September 1913. New Jersey pulled out  
of this exhibit and Moore's participation  
has not been confirmed.

It has been our ambition to make the

# “Maxwell”



Model D. A., 30 H. P., \$1,750

Perfectly Simple  
Simple Perfect

the best moderate priced car—the best in material, workmanship and durability. To this we have been faithful by refusing to compete in price with every experiment.

Our aim has been to build the best, then set the cost—not to

skimp and cut for the *mere sake of price sensationalism*. Fifteen thousand satisfied Maxwell owners furnish the proof of our success—each enthusiastic and ready to “stand sponsor” for the Maxwell claims.

That though moderate in price Maxwell cars are made under the same rigid inspection, of as high-grade material and workmanship, and are as durable as *should* be the best high-priced cars.

Each of the six Maxwell models represent the highest value of its class. You ought to know the principles of Maxwell construction. Let us send you our catalog.

**MAXWELL BRISCOE MOTOR COMPANY**  
TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK

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

Middlesex County Champions, Season of 1923-24  
Compliments of the Polish Giants A. A.

Moore Studio  
45 Chestnut St.  
South River, N.J.





A.T. Moore,  
South River,  
Wooden Soldiers  
Parade, Willett School  
1923



45 Obert Street, South River, Site of A. T. Moore's Photography Studio, 1920s

**Well-Known Resident  
Of South River Boro.**

Although a resident of South River, A. T. Moore, better known to his friends as Tom, is a former New Brunswick boy. And a well



**A. T. MOORE**

known photographer. Having started from New Brunswick in 1897 with a traveling portrait company, he has spent eighteen years of his life in New Brunswick his last studio being at 409 George street, where he was known as the "Ping Pong Man." He is now at 45 Obent street, South River, where he has a host of friends. Tom is a very enthusiastic lodge man, being Worshipful Master of Progressive Lodge, No. 17, F. and A. M., and King of Zarubbable Chapter, No. 5, R. A. M. of Plainfield. And a charter member of Bright Hope, No. 36, K. of P. of New Brunswick.

Albert T. Moore,  
South River,  
from  
New Brunswick Sunday Times,  
March 30, 1924



Wilmington Morning News Photo

**AT THE CROSSROADS**—These three buildings at 716, 720, and 722 North French Street are among five slated for demolition in connection with the proposed farmers'

mart, police headquarters and Wilmington Parking Authority lot expansion. Bids on the WPA construction were opened yesterday.

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>