Early Black Photographers

Digital Supplement to “Exceptional Cameraworkers: Early Black Photographers in New Jersey”
New Jersey Studies, Summer 2023
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

Dec. 17, 1884
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

| NAME OF SOLDIER: | Bankson, Levi W |
| SERVICE: | Late rank, P Co. E 25 Reg't U.S. Colored Inf. |
| TERM OF SERVICE: | Enlisted, Discharged |
| DATE OF FILING: | 1879 May 8, 1907 Mar 24 |
| CLASS: | Invalid, Widow, Minor |
| APPLICATION NO.: | 284, 806, 222 |
| LAW. | J 203, 846 |
| CERTIFICATE NO.: | a |
| ADDITIONAL SERVICES: | |
| REMARKS: | Died Mar. 16, 1909. at |
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 6 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 (Alger 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
Arey 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
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.
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 photographic 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 Benjamín M. Trzaska in South River, NJ. This photo is by the firm of a WWI rally in front of Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

South River Historical & Preservation Society
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
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

Brian Armstrong
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