



Historic Camera Club Newsletter

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Charles R. Savage

Nineteenth-century photographer and esteemed Mormon Elder Charles Roscoe Savage was born in Southampton, England to John and Ann Savage on August 16, 1832. His childhood was characterized by extreme poverty. His genial father was a gardener unable to adequately provide for his family. His attempts to produce a blue dahlia for which a generous cash prize was offered fell short. Therefore, his son was forced to work as a laborer at an early age. Young Savage's life was changed forever when, as a teenager, he heard the Mormon Elder Thomas B. H. Stenhouse speak about The Church Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Deeply moved by Elder Stenhouse's instruction, Mr. Savage was officially indoctrinated into the Mormon faith and was baptized on May 21, 1848.

After being ordained as a minister, he was sent to Switzerland in 1852 and spent the next three years performing missionary work. It is believed his interest in photography began at this time. When leaving England for the United States in 1855, he noted the costs of photographic equipment in his journal. In December 1856, Mr. Savage left Liverpool aboard the ship *John J. Boyd* and arrived in New York on February 15, 1857. His first job in America was a two-year stint at the printing office of Samuel Booth. During this time, he met and married London transplant Annie Adkins.



Deciding to pursue photography as a career, Mr. Savage again sought the counsel of Elder Stenhouse, an amateur photographer believed to have brought the first stereoscopic camera to America. After seeking additional instruction from a Broadway photographer, Mr. Savage became proficient enough with this type of camera to make his own photographs. His missionary work sent him to the Nebraska territory in 1859, and he first established a photographic business in the town of Florence. He reunited with his family in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and set up a successful

photographic studio there. During the four months he was there, Mr. Savage made \$224.75 from his portrait photography and supplemented his income by teaching photography and daguerreotyping.

In 1860, Mr. Savage and his family traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, and he snapped several landscape photographs along the way. After his arrival, he opened another photographic studio, and entered into a gallery partnership with Marsena Cannon. Their gallery offered stereoscopes, leather and cloth photographs, ambrotypes, and melainotypes. After this partnership was dissolved, Mr. Savage partnered with artist George Martin Ottinger, whose specialties were painting miniatures and photograph retouching. The Savage and Ottinger studio offered portraits, melainotypes, ambrotypes, stereographs, and cartes de visite.

During his successful career, Mr. Savage served as official photographer for the Union Pacific and the Oregon Short Line Railway, and his elite clientele included Mormon President Brigham Young. After retiring in 1906, he lived quietly in Salt Lake City, but still occasionally made photographs for his family and friends. Seventy-six-year-old Charles Roscoe Savage died on February 4, 1909.

Ref.:

1920 Latter-Day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia, Vol. III (Salt Lake City, UT: Andrew Jenson History Company), pp. 708-711.

1909 Photo-Era Magazine, Vol. XXII (Boston: Wilfred A. French), p. 213.

2005 Pioneer Photographers from the Mississippi to the Continental Divide: A Biographical Dictionary, 1839-1865 (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press), p. 213.

1919 Utah since Statehood: Historical and Biographical, Vol. III (Salt Lake City, UT: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company), p. 173.



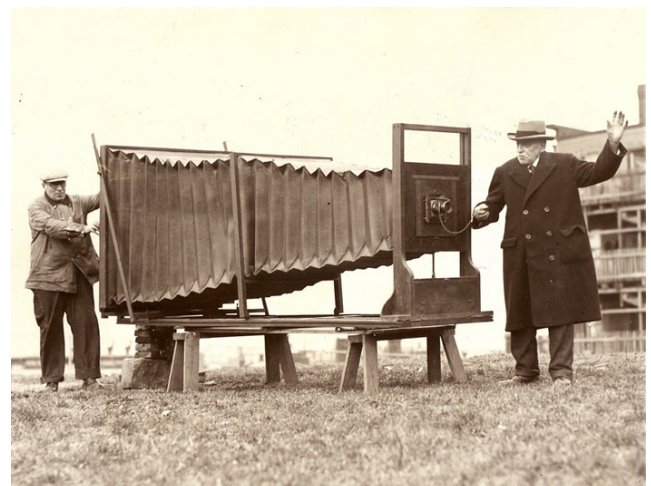
D. W. Butterfield

Professional photographer David W. Butterfield of Roxbury, Massachusetts was born in 1844. He was known as the photographer of presidents, having taken pictures of Lincoln, McKinley, Grant and Coolidge, to name a few. He also photographed celebrities. He was very active in community affairs in his home town of Roxbury and also neighboring Cambridge.



In 1929 at the age of 85 D.W. Butterfield was still active and practicing photography. He is pictured below with his mammoth camera that had an extension of eleven feet and four inches, and the plate size was a square forty by forty inches. The plates were made specially for Butterfield's mammoth camera. He used this camera over the years to illustrate notable events.

Historic photographer David W. Butterfield died in 1933.



D.W Butterfield at age 85

John D. Cress



John D. Cress

"The Forest Photographer" John D. Cress was born on August 12, 1864 near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. His father was a surgeon in the Union army. In his early years John roamed the battlefields and collected bullets and broken muskets to sell as scrap. His father opened a pharmacy. Economic competition from the patent-medicine counter in general stores turned the doctor to supply ink to schools for extra income, which was made from elderberries that John would help pick.

In 1877, at age thirteen John Cress's first real job was to sweep lint from beneath the spinning machines in a cotton factory in Woodbury, Maryland, working ten hour days - six days a week. His father purchased a

small printing press and put his son to work printing labels for the drug store. John expanded the trade into handbills, stationary and calling cards, which he sold for ten cents a dozen. This experience led him to find work later as a printer and he found himself working for the weekly chief in upper Sandusky, Ohio. One day a visiting news correspondent showed him photographs made of James G. Blaine at the railroad station. Cress identified himself in the crowd and was so impressed that he purchased the 4 x 5 camera from the visitor with the condition the he be taught how to use it. At that time dry plates had just been invented and he quickly learned the basics of photography. With this new found skill, Cress formed a partnership with a preacher who owned a horse and wagon and the two drove all over the country making photos of farmhouses and families. The photos were developed by a town studio until John taught his sister how to develop and print them.

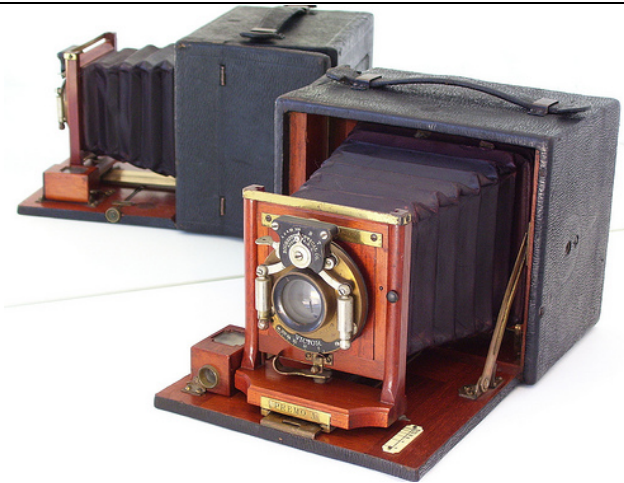


Cress moved to Seattle in the spring of 1912, where he worked as a local photographer who specialized in photographing the lumber industry for advertising and magazines articles. By this time Johns skill had increased significantly and his love of the forest drove him to capture full length imagery of Seattle's largest trees. His average picture of these giant tress, reaching sometime over two hundred and fifty feet high, were captured

on albumen paper that averaged several feet in length. The pictures were hung in lumber supply houses as promotion of the logging industry. The beauty of the forest and nature attracted other photographers like Darius Kinsey. Cress's work can be found in the library of congress, university of Washington, and several museums as one of the photographic pioneers of the Northwest.

John D. Cress died in December 1938, in Seattle, Washington.

Ref:
1957 Seattle Pioneer Press Newspaper, article by Lucille McDonald
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC
20540 USA



Premo A courtesy of OZBOX

Website Update

Activities have been a slow this month due vacations and associated activities with school breaks. Membership is continuing at a steady pace and our Flickr photo sharing extension is enjoying some fine examples of cameras. Here are some examples of shared images:



Brownie Auto 27 couresty of InspiredPhotos



Petri Flex 7 courtesy of John Nuttall

If you have images, articles or scans of documents to share please contact admin@historiccamera.com

For all the latest information please go to our [librarium launch page](http://historiccamera.com/photo_history.html)

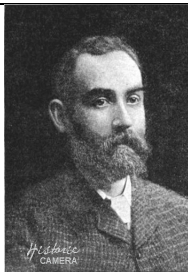
http://historiccamera.com/photo_history.html
Here is a listing of the additional content generated this past month, excluding the ones published in this newsletter:

New Camera Listings:



Gabriel Lippmann

New Biographies:



F. Dundas Todd



J.H. Lamson - Photographer

Send Comments & Questions to
admin@historiccamera.com.



Rev. Hannibal Goodwin

Hannibal Goodwin



Tina Modotti
