



Historic Camera Club Newsletter

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L. Gandolfi & Sons

This month we explore the history of one of, if not the most famous English camera maker, Louis Gandolfi. In 1876 at the age of twelve Louis Gandoli started work as an apprentice cabinet maker. His apprenticeship lasted four years. He then embarked on a career as a camera maker at Lejeune Perkins and Company, of Hatton Garden, London, where he excelled for five years, to the point where his fellow workers complained that he worked too fast and too accurately, thereby earning too much money from the piecework system. He was forced to move on and in 1885 Louis Gandolfi established his own camera maker business at 15A Kensington Place, Westminster. It was a family business, since he was only assisted by his wife Caroline, who learned the skills of French polishing and brasswork lacquering.



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In 1890 his first son Thomas Joseph was born, followed by Frederick Louis in 1904, and Arthur Ernest in 1907. The Gandoli's also had three girls but not much information was available on their births, however it was recorded that the Gandoli's had six children and all the boys and two of the girls worked the family business.

Shortly after the the turn of the century, Louis gained Colonial Office contracts to supply cameras for the harsh climates of India and the Federated Malay States. He redesigned his cameras and incorporated new patents for a highest quality camera called the Imperial.

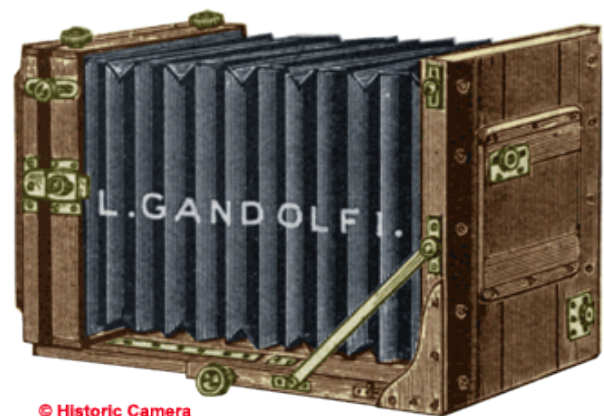
In 1913 the business was moved to Hall Road, Peckham Rye, South London.

The Gandolfis business survived the 1920s recessions and by 1928 the business was moved again to an old Victorian Hatpin factory at 2 Borland Road Peckham. At this time Thomas, having completed service in the Great War, devoted himself to cabinetmaking, Frederick took over business operations and Arthur after leaving the family business during the 1920s to learn clerical work, returned to fill the job of assembly and finishing.

With the help of his sons running the business and especially the matching craftsmanship achieved by his son Thomas, Louis began to accept commissions to make custom built Gandolfi cameras. Among the first customers was the famous photographer Herbert Ponting, who accompanied Captain Scott on his fatal Antarctic expedition, and for the Earl of Carnarvon for the Tutankhamun expedition. Louis constructed some of the earliest 'Big Bertha' telephoto cameras, that captured cricket matches, horse races and earliest British atomic explosion. Three years later, The Gandolfi's supplied the first aerial cameras to the Royal Naval Air Service.

In 1932 with the comfort of knowing that his three sons were running the business, Louis Gandoli died at the age of 68. With his passing the business name was changed to Gandolfi & Sons and the business continued to prosper.

During the second world war Gandolfi & Sons supplied portrait cameras and tripods to the Admiralty, Air Ministry and War Department. However, they missed out on a substantial opportunity for a government contract to supply 1,000 cameras, because they realized that they could not fulfill such a large contract, and it went to their competitor Watson & Sons. After the war they saw a boom for prison mug shots and supplied over 39 prisons and police authorities with specialized equipment.



In 1965, Thomas Gandolfi died leaving the business to his two brothers Arthur and Fredrick.

In the early 1970s the the 5 x 4 inch format 'Precision' camera was supplied in great qualities to educational and scientific institutions. The Gandolfi camera became so popular with graduating students that the demand grew to the point of the company recording waiting lists that would extend for over a year. This wait list continued until in 1976, Thomas Gandolfi's son Tom junior was persuaded to join the firm by taking an early retirement from engineering and he helped with alleviating the backlog.

In 1982, Arthur and Fred realized that they could not continue to run the business by themselves, however they wanted to continue the business to make the 100 year mark. They were able to negotiate a comprise sale with Brian Gould and his partner Sir Kenneth Corfield, where the last Gandolfi apprentice Fredrick would sign a satisfaction certificate. With this sale, the company moved to new premises in Andover, Hampshire, and The Gandolfi camera maker reached its 100 year mark. Fredrick died in his own home in 1990, and the last of the Gandolfi brothers Arthur died on 22 January 1993 at the age of 90.

Gandolfi camera is still operating to this day, carrying on the historic tradition of Louis Gandolfi. According to Edward Hill of Gandolfi Cameras.com the company is still alive restoring and selling parts for Gandolfi cameras.

Ref:

Photo courtesy of GandolfiCameras.com (use strictly prohibited without approval)
1889 The British Journal Almanac
1993 Jan. 28, The Independent - Obituary: Arthur Gandolfi
2009 [Gandolfi - Family Business](#): a film by Ken and David Griffiths

Happy O'Malley Album



Charles H. O'Malley lived from 1894 to 1960. His nickname or call name was "Happy" presumably because he was Irish. He was in the Army Aircorp, as a first

Lieutenant. He made a photo album, which documents his early air corp life at Kelly Air base in San Antonio Texas and then afterward when he relocated to Minnesota. The album is estimated to cover the period from 1918 to 1923

This historic album contains early imagery of Kelly Air Base in San Antonio Texas both from the air and on the ground. It shows how early life of a pilot was dangerous and limited. There are several historic aerial views of the state of Texas, including the state capital and university of Texas in Austin. It also has several views of combat maneuvers and flight acrobats taken in the air. In his later years Happy was a business man in Hinckley, Minnesota. where he partnered with an Anderson in an ice cream parlor called "The Palace of Sweets", and also was a jjobber and retailer of fancy domestic and imported foods and he marketed his own brand of " Happy's wild rice".



Like most albums it has images of friends at work on the air base and at leisure. There is a series of images of famous American aviator Charles Lindberg when he was most likely in his early 20s, before he made his historic first solo nonstop flight across the

Atlantic Ocean on May 20-21, 1927. Lindberg and O'Malley are arm in arm as depicted in the photo. There is also a post card showing the death defying stunt by Al Wilson. Wilson is photographed in his famous stunt of changing planes in air by walking on the wing of a biplane and grabbing onto the the other wing without the help of any safety devices. Wilson died in 1932 at Cleveland, Ohio in an air crash while performing his flying stunts. There is also interesting photos of an early car manufacturing plant.



There is little information about this book and images. Some of the locations, including the Minnesota air base featured, types of planes and some of the people in the photographs are not identified and are unknown. If you spot something familiar please post a message and let us know what it is. Thanks!

The complete album is available for viewing at our Historic Camera's Flickr group in the set entitled " [Happy O'Malley](#) "

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/44331423@N05/sets/72157632250725656/>

Note: Historical Societies, Museums and Professional organization can inquire about improved scans and free usage of the images by contacting HC with email admin@HistoricCamera.com

Victor M. Griswold



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Having concluded our arrangements with Mr. William B. Holmes for the

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OUR PLATES,

They can be had in future from any of the following parties in the City of New York:

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All of whom are acting as our Agents,

V. M. GRISWOLD & SON.

A true Renaissance man - inventor, photographer, landscape and portrait photographer - Victor Moreau Griswold was born on April 4, 1819 in Worthington, Ohio. His father, editor and publisher Ezra Griswold, moved the family throughout Ohio during the 1820s and 1830s, eventually settling in Delaware, where young Victor became a law student for a short time. Defying his father, he switched his studies to art, under the instruction of William Walcutt and William Bambrough.

After marrying Caroline McElvain on September 18, 1839, he and his bride settled in Tiffin, where Mr.

Griswold opened a photography studio with his brother Manfred and supplemented his income by painting portraits and landscapes. The daguerreotype was in its infancy, and intrigued by the technique, Mr. Griswold began conducting various experiments on the process. According to his brother Manfred, this led to him being perhaps the first person in the United States to attempt calotype and wet collodion processes. In 1853, he opened his own photography studio in Lancaster, Ohio, which he operated in 1861 along with continuing his well-received landscape painting. Around this time, he also began successfully manufacturing photographic supplies and plates.

Although Kenyon College Professor of Chemistry Hamilton Smith was widely credited with inventing the "tintype" in 1856, Mr. Griswold was experimenting with a similar process at the same time. Both he and Professor Smith patented their inventions, and an intense competition quickly developed between Mr. Griswold and Peter Neff, the student assistant to whom Professor Smith sold the rights. Mr. Griswold took every opportunity to publicly ridicule the name tintype, decrying it as "senseless and meaningless," adding that "not a particle of tin, in any shape is used in making or preparing the plates, or in making the pictures... unless it be, the tin which goes into the happy operator's pocket after..." He dubbed his identical invention "ferrotypes," and by whatever name, at one time he and Mr. Neff were its lone North American manufacturers. Their heated rivalry benefited consumers in price reductions and Mr. Griswold's improved plate production methods by employing thinner metal sheets. Mr. Neff had to remove the usage fees for the use of his collodion process to remain competitive.

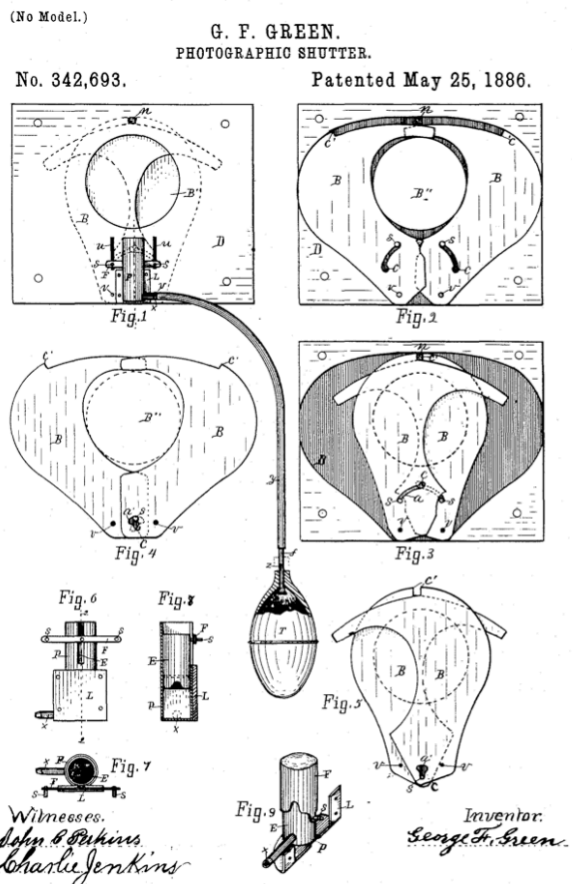
Moving to Peekskill, New York in 1861, Mr. Griswold continued juggling the many facets of his photographic, painting, and manufacturing careers. He also continued inventing, receiving a patent for opalotypes in 1866, which simplified the process at reduced cost to the consumer, and two equipment patents in 1869. He also somehow managed to publish a small local magazine, *The Camera*. However, the hectic work pace caught up with Mr. Griswold, and he sold his manufacturing business and processing formulas to John Dean. After a brief illness, 53-year-old Victor M. Griswold died at his home in Peekskill on June 18, 1872.

Ref:
 - 2007 *The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press), p. 591.
 -2002 *American Photographic Patents: The Daguerreotype & Wet Plate Era 1840-1880* (Nevada City, CA: Carl Mautz Publishing), p. 2.
 -1996 *Ancestry Magazine*, Vol. XIV (Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Incorporated), p. 12.

-2000 *Artists in Ohio, 1787-1900: A Biographical Dictionary* (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press), pp. 355-356.
 -2008 *Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography*, Vol. I (New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group LLC), p. 1391.
 -1866 *Humphrey's Journal of Photography and the Allied Arts and Sciences*, Vol. XVII (New York: Joseph H. Ladd), p. i.
 -1986 *Ohio Source Records from the Ohio Genealogical Quarterly* (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co.), p. 48.
 -1866 *The Photographic News: A Weekly Record of the Progress of Photography*, Vol. X (London: Thomas Piper), p. 622.
 -1872 *The Photographic Times*, Vol. II (New York: Scovill Manufacturing Company), pp. 107, 118-119.
 -1873 *The Silver Sunbeam: A Practical and Theoretical Text-Book on Sun Drawing and Photographic Printing* (New York: E & H. T. Anthony & Co.), pp. 572-573.

George F. Green

In a previous issue we featured the inventor of the iris diaphragm, a dentist named John Henry Brown. This month we provide insight into another historic invention, ironically by another Dentist, and provide George F. Green's biography as the inventor of the pneumatic shutter.



Inventor George F. Green was born in 1830. He made significant contributions to society throughout his life.

In approximately 1868 he invented the first dental

engine or as it was called "Green's pneumatic Drill". It operated by a rotating fan wheel at the top the standard, supplied with air from a foot bellows at the base. The drill was very noisy and was soon superseded with the Morrison engine.

Around 1874 - 1875, George Green built the first full sized electric rail car ever operated from a stationary source of electric energy which was capable of carrying passengers. Mr. Green filed a patent for his electric railway in 1879 defining one side of the track to be a positive conductor of the source of energy and the other the negative, such that a motor carried on the car can be supplied with electricity. The patent was initially rejected by the patent office. However, Mr. Green took his case to the supreme court and the court overruled the Patent office. A second patent was filed in May of 1886 which described a method of motor control. It was not until after his death that the patent office issued his patents.

In May of 1886, Mr. Green submitted US patent number 342,693 outlining his "photographic Shutter". This was the first documented pneumatic shutter invented. It operated on a wing shutter design that would actuate upon forcing air through a hand operated air pressure bulb. The patent outlines the goal of perfectly controlling the opening and closing through a piston-cylinder. He submitted an improvement in 1887 with US patent 362,111.

George F. Green died June, 1892 at the age of sixty while residing in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Alfred Eisenstaedt



Alfred Eisenstaedt, one of the fathers of twentieth-century photojournalism, was born to Joseph and Regina Eisenstaedt in Dirschau, West Prussia (now Poland) on December 6, 1898. In 1906, the family

moved to Berlin, Germany, where the senior Eisenstaedt continued his successful career as a merchant. Fourteen-year-old Alfred was being groomed to join his father's business when he received an Eastman Kodak No. 3 folding camera and roll film as a present from his uncle. By the 1920s, he was working as a photographer in Germany, and sold his first photograph at the age of 28. In 1928, he began freelancing for the Berlin office of Pacific and Atlantic Photos, which merged with the Associated Press three years' later. Mr. Eisenstaedt recalled of this period, "Photojournalism had just started... and I knew very little about photography. It was an adventure, and I was always amazed when anything came out."



Despite having to struggle with heavy tripods and the tedious process of glass plate negatives, his workload grew and his subjects became increasingly prominent. His first important international assignment was photographing German author Thomas Mann accepting his 1929 Nobel Prize. He later photographed royalty and some of

Germany's most notable writers and musicians. One of his most famous early photographs was of a skating waiter at the Grand Hotel ice rink in 1932. Placing a chair on the ice, Mr. Eisenstaedt asked the waiter to skate past it, a moment he captured with his Miroflex camera. His first major political photograph revealed a scowling Minister of Propaganda Josef Goebbels at a 1933 political conference, and received international attention.

In 1935, Mr. Eisenstaedt accepted a life-changing assignment that required him to relocate to New York City. He, along with Margaret Bourke-White, Peter Stackpole, and Thomas McAvoy, became the original photographers for a startup publication dubbed "Project X," but debuted as Life magazine on November 23, 1936. His preferred camera was the 2-1/4" Rolleiflex because it did not have to be raised to the eye, and therefore could take candid shots with relative speed and ease. This camera served him well during World War II when he photographed soldiers saying goodbye to their wives and girlfriends as they left for combat. The images were natural and not posed, which gave them an emotional intensity they would have otherwise lacked. On VJ Day, August 15, 1945, Mr. Eisenstaedt snapped his most iconic image - of a sailor spontaneously kissing a nurse in Times Square.

After the war, Eisenstaedt did a fair amount of globetrotting, which included an extended stay in Hiroshima, where he exhaustively documented the damage inflicted by the atomic bomb. During one of his returns to New York in 1949, he met and married South African-born Kathy Kaye. In the 1950s, Mr. Eisenstaedt took several celebrity photographs for Life, the most memorable being of Marilyn Monroe in 1953, who posed demurely on her Hollywood patio wearing a black turtleneck and white pants (in some shots, she is wearing checkered slacks).

There were several one-man exhibitions of Mr. Eisenstaedt's photographs, including one at the George Eastman House's International Museum of Photography. Among the many awards he received throughout his fabled career was the National Medal of the Arts bestowed upon him by President George H. W. Bush in 1989. Alfred Eisenstaedt died at the age of 96 on August 24, 1995. The modest photographer summed up his approach to his art in three words: "Keep it simple."

Ref:

- 1997 Alfred Eisenstaedt (URL: <http://artscenecal.com/ArticlesFile/Archive/Articles1997/Articles0397/AEisenstaeAE.html>).
- 2012 Alfred Eisenstaedt and Marilyn (URL: <http://immortalmarilyn.com/MarilynPhotographerAEisenstaedt.html>).
- 2007 The Home Front Encyclopedia (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, Inc.), p. 585.
- 2006 Photography: A Cultural History (London: Lawrence King Publishing), p. 297.
- 2005 World Wars and the Modern Age (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.), p. 126.
- 973 Pete Main Photo, The Christian Science Monitor News & Photo Service.

Website Update

Two improvements were made to the member post feature. Now from your member control panel when you click on the "Posts" tab, instructions are provided to aid in this feature in addition to providing a search function to find a page to append your post to. Your previous posts will be listed on this page. In addition, a text button to view others' posts is provided. See screen shot on next page.

For all the latest information updates, please go to our [librarium launch page](http://historiccamera.com/photo_history.html) http://historiccamera.com/photo_history.html Also note that the member posts search feature has also been added to the Librarium launch page.

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Item: [Pickwick Advertising Ad](#)
Linked to: [Pickwick Camera by Monarch](#)
top posted on 2012-12-28 08:27:03, last modified on 2012-12-28 08:27:03
[[modify] [delete]]

Item: [Brenda Starr Camera Box](#)
Linked to: [Brenda Starr Camera](#)
top posted on 2012-12-28 06:29:01, last modified on 2012-12-28 06:29:01
[[modify] [delete]]

Item: [Flash Master Camera](#)
Linked to: [Flash Master Camera](#)
top posted on 2012-12-28 06:05:15, last modified on 2012-12-28 06:05:15
[[modify] [delete]]

Item: [Crescent Camera Instruction Manual Cover Page](#)
Linked to: [Aiken-Gleason Crescent Camera](#)
top posted on 2012-12-26 03:05:51, last modified on 2012-12-26 03:05:51
[[modify] [delete]]

Item: [Candex Camera Ad](#)
Linked to: [Candex Miniature Camera](#)
top posted on 2012-12-22 19:35:05, last modified on 2012-12-23 05:47:14
[[modify] [delete]]

Here is a listing of the additional content generated this past month. This information along with the content found in this newsletter can always be accessed on our site by search, clicking search latest or from a static link on our photo_history.html page.

New Camera Listings:

AMERICAN CAMERA CORP.

CHICAGO, ILL.
MADE IN U. S. A.

[American Camera Corp. \(Chicago\) Camera Listing](#)



[Hess-Ives Corporation Hiro Color Camera](#)

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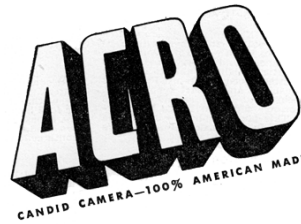
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[John Benjamin Dancer](#)

New Biographies:



[Charles H. Codman](#)



[W. H. Burbank](#)



[Alfred Raines](#)



[Arthur Batut](#)

Share Your Photos and Information

We continually upgrade our camera datasheets with images from members. We urge more folks to help out and add info/photos to our existing web pages and submit articles for our newsletter and site.



[Valentine Blanchard](#)



[William Kurtz](#)

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