Joseph C. Lincoln, “The Old Daguerreotypes,” (poem) 1902
(keywords: Joseph Crosby Lincoln, Edward W. Kemble, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

THE DAGUERREOTYPE: AN ARCHIVE OF SOURCE TEXTS, GRAPHICS, AND EPHEMERA
The research archive of Gary W. Ewer regarding the history of the daguerreotype
http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org
EWER ARCHIVE B9020001

Selected text published in:

THE OLD DAGUERREOTYPES

Up in the attic I found them, locked in the cedar chest,
Where the flowered gowns lie folded, which once were brave as the best
And like the queer old jackets and the wainscoat gay with stripes,
They tell of worn-out fashion—these old daguerreotypes.

Quaint little folding cases fastened with tiny hook,
Seemingly made to tempt one to lift up the latch and look;
Linings of purple velvet, odd little frames of gold,
Circling the faded faces brought from the days of old.
Grandpa and grandma, taken ever so long ago,
Grandma’s bonnet a marvel, grandpa’s collar a show,
Mother, a tiny toddler, with rings on her baby hands
Painted—lest none should notice—in glittering, gilded bands.

Aunts and uncles and cousins, a starchy and stiff array,
Lovers and brides, then blooming,—now so wrinkled and gray:
Out through the misty glasses they gaze at me, sitting here
Opening the quaint old cases with a smile that is half a tear.

I will smile no more, little pictures, for heartless it was, in truth,
To drag to the cruel daylight these ghosts of a vanished youth;
Go back to your cedar chamber, your gowns and your lavender,
And dream, ’mid their bygone graces, of the wonderful days that were.

[End of selected text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:

The illustrations in this volume are by Edward W. Kemble. Additional information regarding Joseph C. Lincoln is available on the Chatham Historical Society web site. See: 2004 Joseph Crosby Lincoln Conference papers.¹


EWER ARCHIVE B9020001
URL: http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/texts/B9020001_LINCOLN_OLD_DAGS_1902.pdf
Document author: Gary W. Ewer
Creation date: 2008-10-06 / Last revision (proofread): 2010-07-19
Citation information: Joseph Crosby Lincoln, Cape Cod Ballads, and Other Verse (Trenton, N.J.: A. Brandt, 1902): 31–32.
Prepared from: an original volume. Also available from Google Books.
(http://books.google.com/books?id=7MAwAAAAAYAAJ)
Original spelling/punctuation/grammar generally maintained without correction. Any in-text corrections are bracketed.
The source text is Public Domain and may be freely quoted. As noted below, this document is copyright.

If citing directly from this document, please reference the Ewer Archive number and provide the following citation credit:


THE NECESSARY DISCLAIMERS:
The document creator has made every effort to insure the accuracy of the transcription. However, the information provided in this document is provided without warranty, either express or implied. The document creator will not be liable for any damages caused or alleged to be caused directly, indirectly, incidentally, or consequentially by the information provided by this text.

The document creator assumes no responsibility for accuracy of fact; the text is prepared “as found.” Factual inaccuracies of the original text are generally not noted by the document creator. If this text is used in academic papers, accuracy should be confirmed by consulting original sources.

The document creator also assumes no responsibility regarding the correctness, suitability, or safety of any chemical or photographic processes that may be described by this text. Many of the chemicals used in early photographic processes are extremely toxic and should not be handled without a thorough knowledge of safe use.

The opinions expressed in this text are solely those of the original author and are not necessarily those of the Archive editor. Some texts may contain derogatory words. Any such word is certainly one that would not be used today. The words remain in the transcript, however, to maintain truthfulness to the original text.