(keywords: Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre, 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 B9590001

---

Selected text published in:

**DAGUERREOTYPE** (da GER o type)

George Washington never had his picture taken. He had it painted many times, but he lived before the days of photographs.

The daguerreotype was an early kind of photograph. Instead of a film or a glass plate, a sheet of copper was used. It was coated with a mixture of chemicals just as films and plates are now.

The name “daguerreotype” comes from the name of the Frenchman who invented it. He was Louis Daguerre, who was born the year Washington became president.

Daguerreotypes were not very good pictures. People soon found way of improving on them. We owe the beautiful photographs we have now partly to Daguerre. (See INVENTIONS; PHOTOGRAPHY.)
EDITOR'S NOTES:
This encyclopedia was among the books the present editor possessed as a child. Fortunately, the text's assertion that "daguerreotypes were not very good pictures," did not make a lasting impression upon his young mind.

EWER ARCHIVE B9590001
Document author: Gary W. Ewer
Creation date: 2008-12-08 / Last revision: 2009-05-07
Prepared from: an original volume.
Original spelling/punctuation/grammar generally maintained without correction. Any in-text corrections are bracketed.
The source text is NOT Public Domain. 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 transcription, however, to maintain truthfulness to the original text.