"Daguerreotype," 9 March 1840
(keywords: David Seixas, 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 N8400003

Published in:

DAGUERREOTYPE.—An exhibition of these sun-painted pictures will commence on Tuesday next, at the Hall of the Medical College, corner of 10th and E streets. The images seen in the Camera Obscura are made permanent on plates of silver by the agency of light. All stationary objects preserve their forms in the most minute detail, with perfect exactitude. The effects of linear perspective, and the gradations of tone depending upon aerial perspective, are presented with wonderful delicacy on these pictorial duplications of Nature.

A lecture on the art of Daguerreotype will be delivered on days to be hereafter announced, and the process of producing such pictures popularly explained, and performed by means of a complete apparatus. Tickets for the exhibition of the pictures, to admit one person, twenty-five cents; for the lecture, demonstrations, and exhibition included, to admit a lady and gentleman, $1.

Tickets may be had at Mr. Fischer’s, Stationers’ Hall, at the bar of Brown’s Hotel, and at the lecture room.

mar 9-dlw

[End of text.]

EDITOR’S NOTES:
The unnamed exhibitor / lecturer is—with good certainty—a Mr. Seixas, who is identified in a notice (dated 14 March 1840) in "Daguerreotype," Daily National Intelligencer 28:8451 (17 March 1840): n.p. (third page of issue). Seixas also exhibited and lectured in Baltimore in April—May 1840.

David G. Seixas (1788–1864) was the son of Shearith Israel’s famous minister, Gershom Seixas. The historian John Craig informs the present author that Seixas was "an inventor and teacher of sign language, many aspects of his non-photographic life are reported at the website of the American Jewish Historical Society. (http://www.ajhs.org)."

Accompanying a seven paragraph biography of Seixas is the summary:

David G. Seixas, one of the New York hazzan’s several sons, manufactured sealing wax printers’ ink, and enamel-coated visiting cards. He opened a brewery, pioneered in making crockery, and experimented with daguerreotype photography. There is no question that he was a skillful technician; it is equally true that he was egregiously unsuccessful in everything he undertook.

Seixas is also discussed in Clifford Krainik, "National Vision, Local Enterprise: John Plumbe, Jr., and The Advent of Photography In Washington, D.C." Washington History:
It has been suggested that Seixas may have learned the process from Daguerre. The present editor finds nothing to support the suggestion but leans toward the possibility that that Seixas learned the daguerreotype process from François Gouraud.
