

**“Major Moulthrop” (obituary) / Survey of still-living early practitioners,” 14
March 1890**

(keywords: Major Moulthrop, Enoch Long, Albert Sands Southworth, John H. Hallenbeck, Meade Brothers, Henry D. W. Marks, Alexander Hesler, Charles DeForest Fredricks, Jeremiah Gurney, Abraham Bogardus, Mathew Brady, Benjamin L. H. Dabbs, John B. Gardner, Frederick A. Wenderoth, Samuel Broadbent, John Carbutt, William Shew, Myron Shew, James Lett, Levi Chapman, John Barnet, Benjamin French, Samuel T. Blessing, Richard A. Lewis, history of the daguerreotype, history of photography.)

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MAJOR MOULTHROP.

MAJOR MOULTHROP, one of the oldest photographers in this country, died Friday, February 28th, at the advanced age of eighty-five years. He was a man esteemed by all who knew him, being of a genial and generous disposition. He was the oldest photographer in New Haven, where he had lived for many years. During his long life he had been quite active in church work. He was for many years a deacon in the First Baptist church; also Sunday school superintendent for twenty-five years and had served as deacon for several years in the Calvary Baptist church.

His funeral was from his late residence at 41 Park Street, Monday afternoon, Rev. E. M. Poteat and Rev. Dr. S. D. Phelps officiating. The interment was in the Grove Street Cemetery.

Major Moulthrop was from the first a photographer. He went into a gallery when it was opened and labored there until his death. This reminds us of old-time photographers who are still with us. We suppose that E. Long, of Quincy, Ill., “Father” Southworth, of Boston, and J. H. Hallenbeck are the only living contemporaries of Mr. Moulthrop. Mr. Hallenbeck is now engaged with the Scovill & Adams Co. He is probably the longest in the photographic business of any man alive. He commenced with the Mead Brothers [Mead—edit.] in Albany as a boy to sweep out the gallery when they first opened in that city. He has never been in any other business from that day to this. Mr. Long is a prosperous solar printer, who attends all the photographic conventions and is as public spirited as ever. Of “Father” Southworth we have not heard of late.

Mr. Appleby was also one of the pioneers in photography. He is still alive in Chicago, but in another business now. H. D. Marks, who went with him as a boy, is now doing a thriving business in Rochester as his successor. From Marks’ establishment came Geo. R. Angell, now of Detroit, one of the foremost dealers in the West. Frank Hendricks, of Syracuse, who still retains an interest in the photographic stock business, although Senator in New York, President of a Bank and Trust Company, etc., etc., also began his photographic career with Mr. Marks. Gayton A. Douglass is another graduate from Appleby’s establishment. He is located in Chicago. A. Hessler [Hesler—edit.], another old

timer, started as one of the first daguerreotypers located in Chicago, and still has a fine gallery there.

Mr. C. D. Fredricks is still actively engaged in photography and has one of the finest galleries in New York City. J. Guerne [Gurney—edit.] also sticks to his old love, photography. A. Bogardus, another old timer of forty years' experience, has left the camera for the lecture field. Barcalow, an old time daguerreotypist, is still in the business of photography, and has been one of the most fortunate in the trade. The last we heard of Brady was that he was still engaged in photography in Washington.

Mr. Dabbs, of Pittsburgh, can almost be called a veteran, although a young man. We remember well when he was a boy in his father's store, George Dabbs & Sons, of Philadelphia. Photography was inherited in him from his father. His work on exhibition is the admiration of all. Haworth, of Philadelphia, has the same interest in photography he manifested over thirty years ago. Only last week Mr. J. B. Gardner passed away.

We remember Mr. Gardner well thirty odd years ago when he was in Sixth Avenue running a gallery—too far up-town to do a large business, it was then thought; but which would now be considered too far down-town. He died in the harness.

Wendroth [Wenderoth—edit.], Taylor, Broadbent, all of the first generation, are still connected with photography. John Carbutt, of Philadelphia, may almost be enumerated among the first, and still holds his connection with photography, manufacturing plates. Rumor says he intends going in still more extensively in the photographic business. Wm. Shew, an old Daguerreotypist, is still engaged in the business in San Francisco.

Myron, who was one of the pioneer stock dealers of the country, at Philadelphia, is also located at San Francisco, running a gallery. Myron Shew, forty years ago, was located in Philadelphia, in the stock business, and was one of the few leading stock dealers in the country. There were very few in those days. He made money quite rapidly, sold out to Joshua Hill, taking one-third of the cash receipts for payment of the plant. In a very short time Mr. Hill had it all paid off and owned the establishment. Myron Shew's principal man was A. P. Beecher. Beecher went off to South America with Kelsey, an old Daguerreotypist, when Myron retired. When he came back he was engaged by Scovill Manufacturing Company. This was about 1858. From there he drifted back to Philadelphia, buying out Hill. He made a fortune and sold out to John Haworth, who was formerly in Philadelphia, having sold his plant there to John Morrison. Although Beecher made a good deal of money he could not withstand the temptation of photography and is now proprietor of a gallery in Wilmington, Del.

James Lett, another pioneer in our business, formerly with Levi Chapman and Lett & Samuels, of Buffalo, is still actively engaged in photography in Harrisburg.

We are reminded of many more: W. D. Gatchell, of Louisville, who was a graduate from Appleby's establishment in Chicago; John Barnett [Barnet—edit.], manufacturer of velvet cases and later of paper holders; Benjamin French, of Boston, one of the veteran dealers in photographic supplies, especially lenses; S. T. Blessing, of New Orleans, another old dealer; and R. A. Lewis, who for forty years was a photographer and manufacturer at Chatham Square, New York City.

[End of text.]

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Regarding Moulthrop, John Craig informs: (1805-1890) Born in New Haven, Conn., he spent his entire photographic career there. Before becoming a photographer, he was a landscape and portrait painter. He reportedly learned the daguerreotype process "about 1840". Additional information is found in Craig's informative web site, *Craig's Daguerreian Registry*.¹

See also a ca. 1853 display advertisement for Moulthrop: *EWER INDEX P8530004: Display advertisement for M. Moulthrop, ca. 1853*.²

Among the names mentioned are: Major Moulthrop, Enoch Long, Albert Sands Southworth, John H. Hallenbeck, Meade Brothers, Henry D. W. Marks, Alexander Hesler, Charles DeForest Fredricks, Jeremiah Gurney, Abraham Bogardus, Mathew Brady, Benjamin L. H. Dabbs, John B. Gardner, Frederick A. Wenderoth, Samuel Broadbent, John Carbutt, William Shew, Myron Shew, James Lett, Levi Chapman, John Barnet, Benjamin French, Samuel T. Blessing, Richard A. Lewis.

1. <http://www.daguerreotype.com/>

2. http://www.daguerreotypearchive.org/advert/P18530004_MOULTHROP_ADV_1853.pdf

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