

# Careers in Camerawork: Six Photographers of Camden, New Jersey, 1860–1910

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From the mid-nineteenth century until 1900, the history of photography in Camden, across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, parallels that of Jersey City and Hoboken in sight of New York City across the Hudson. From a small town of 3,371 residents in 1840, Camden grew to 75,935 by 1900, benefiting from its proximity to Philadelphia and transportation links in most directions by rail, road, and water.<sup>1</sup> The number of factories expanded, attracting immigrants and the surrounding rural population seeking employment. Soon, Camden became known for such industries as shipbuilding and, later in the century, Campbell Soup, incorporated in 1891. During the same period, the number of photographers also increased, some working in Camden and others, like their counterparts in Hudson County, becoming commuters to work across the river. Several Camden photographers had their own galleries in the bigger city during part of their careers, a not surprising development because of the increased commercial potential there, albeit with stiffer competition. A few maintained concurrent galleries on both sides of the river. While Camden photographers experienced considerable variation in their careers, for many of them, Philadelphia played a role.

Many who attempted to eke out a living with photography in the 1800s went on to other professions after a few years. Those artists included in this article had their own studios and remained photographers for a substantial period, but they are only a representative sample, and others did likewise in Camden. The six discussed in detail below provide an indication of the experiential range among Camden photographers who began their careers before 1900.

During the period 1850 to 1900, they were among about 300 professional photographers operating in the city of Camden, with about half the total owning their business for at least a short time.<sup>2</sup> Those located in census records and directories with home addresses may have only worked for photo gallery owners or other businesses in Camden but, more likely, commuted to work in Philadelphia.

As in many other towns, daguerreotypists who visited Camden in the 1850s often remained briefly and then moved on. Gabriel Moore, born in 1808, was the only daguerreotypist listed in the 1850 Camden directory. Others who followed him in that decade included John Hood and John C. Odling, the latter offering ambrotypes that began superseding daguerreotypes in the latter 1850s.

For all of New Jersey in the nineteenth century, there was approximately one photographer per 7,000 inhabitants, so it is not surprising to find only two photographers in the 1865 Camden city directory, when the population was about 17,000.<sup>3</sup> Andrews Sims, discussed below, was one of the two. The other was a deaf and dumb photographer and painter named Andrew B. Carlin (also found as Carter and Carten), who had a gallery in Camden from 1863 to 1868. In the 1870 Camden Census, the enumerator recorded him as 53, born in Pennsylvania, and working as an “artist painter” living with his wife Anna, 47, also deaf and dumb, and three children. Among other Camden photographers active in the 1860s, perhaps the most widely traveled was Lorenzo F. Fisler Jr., whose career began before Sims.

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### LORENZO F. FISLER JR.<sup>4</sup>

Born December 20, 1840, Fisler was the son of Dr. Lorenzo Fisler Sr., who served seven terms as mayor of Camden and wrote a history of the city.<sup>5</sup> By 1860, young Lorenzo was a photographer, probably working for his brother-in-law Walter Dinmore, who had married Lorenzo's older sister Abbie in 1859.<sup>6</sup> In partnership with Charles Warnick, Walter Dinmore had opened a photography business at 730 Chestnut in Philadelphia in 1858, but he relocated in 1863 to Shanghai, where he had a studio with his brothers Harry and Christopher.<sup>7</sup>



Anonymous, Lorenzo F. Fisler, copy of a carte-de-visite, circa 1870, from an album once owned by Milton Miller (1830–1899), a photographer in China. Courtesy of Terry Bennett.

Early in the 1860s, according to a newspaper account published in 1891, Lorenzo met Japanese envoys in Philadelphia and accompanied them on their return. “Vicissitudes at sea” resulted in him arriving at a Chinese port and he spent most of the next 18 years in China, eventually marrying a young Chinese woman.<sup>8</sup>

Fisler's actual experience, however, probably differed from this article. The Japanese envoys visited Philadelphia in 1860. No reference to Fisler traveling abroad in 1860 has been found and Fisler only obtained a passport on July 8, 1861, a year after the Japanese had left, although the United States did not require passports for travel abroad at that time.<sup>9</sup> He probably remained home for two more years before departing. On June 5, 1863, he was a passenger aboard the medium clipper ship *TALISMAN*. Sailing through the South Atlantic off the coast of South America on its way to rounding Cape Horn, the *TALISMAN* soon encountered the highly successful Confederate raider *ALABAMA*. After forcing everyone off the sailing ship and robbing the vessel of its cargo and luggage, the belligerent crew burned the *TALISMAN*. Fisler and other passengers reached Rio de Janeiro, from where he returned home on August 11.<sup>10</sup>

Fisler then attempted a second trip to Shanghai, this time leaving from San Francisco on July 13, 1864. He arrived safely on September 14 and joined the Dinmores.<sup>11</sup> The Dinmores returned the United States after a few years and Fisler returned home for an extended visit from 1867 to early 1870. While traveling back to Shanghai, he stopped in Japan. Upon his return to China, he succeeded photographer Charles Weed on Canton Road, and offered such services as portraits, landscapes, and staged photographs.<sup>12</sup> His work included hand-colored cartes-de-visite of actors and courtesans, who probably used them for advertising and as souvenirs.<sup>13</sup> According to the 1891 article, he wintered in Shanghai and summered farther north in Tientsin (Tianjin), traveling extensively in China during his long sojourn there. Perhaps his most widely reproduced portrait, taken in Tianjin in 1875, was of Viceroy Li Hongzhang.<sup>14</sup> In one notable incident, he surreptitiously

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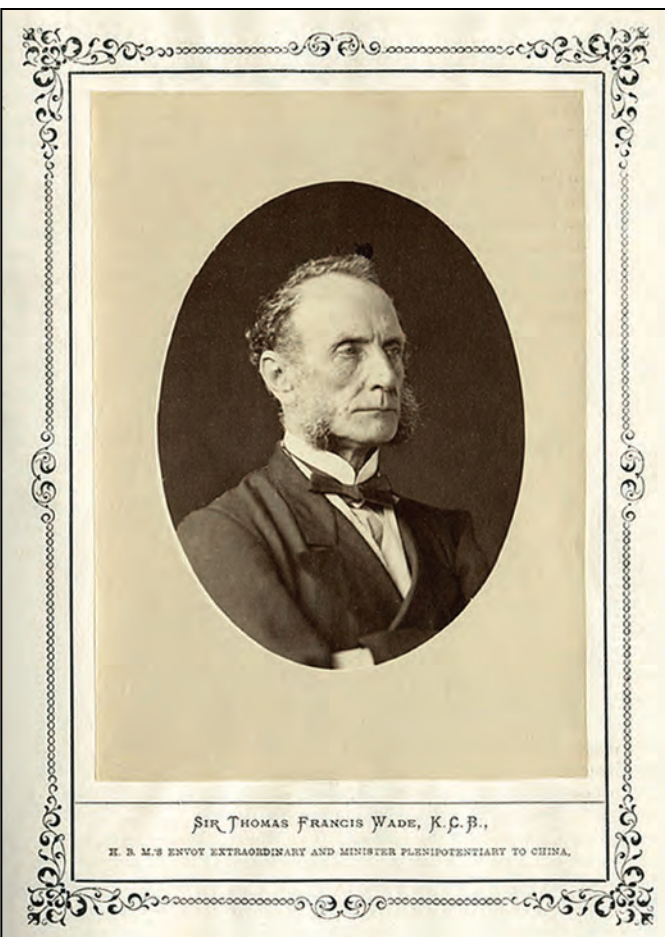


Lorenzo F. Fisler, Jr., Li Hung-Chang (Li Hongzhang), Viceroy of China, Far East (periodical), September 1876. Courtesy of Terry Bennett.

entered the Forbidden City with a photographer friend and took what he claimed were the first two photos of the “Palace of the Earth’s Repose, Harem of the Emperor of China,” which he said contained 150 concubines ruled by the Empress and attended by more than 500 slaves.<sup>15</sup>

In the early 1870s, Fisler became seriously ill and an English-speaking Methodist Chinese teenager named Alena nursed him back to health. He then married her in 1872 when she was about 15 years old.<sup>16</sup> Fisler’s family expressed displeasure that he married a Chinese woman, but in 1884 he returned with her to Camden.<sup>17</sup> He soon established a photo business described as “Landscape & Mechanical Photographers” in partnership with Theodore F. Gaubert. The partnership lasted until 1887.<sup>18</sup> Sometime in the mid-1880s, he reportedly made two tintypes of Walt Whitman with his young friend, Bill Duckett.<sup>19</sup>

Fisler continued to be listed as a photographer in Camden into the early 1900s, but examples of photographs from this phase of his career have not been found



Lorenzo F. Fisler, Jr., Sir Thomas Francis Wade, British Minister to China, Far East (periodical), August 1876. Courtesy of Terry Bennett.

by this author. In 1891, he took over the gallery of the recently deceased E. J. Hunt at 321 Federal Street and announced that he would destroy Hunt’s negatives in two months.<sup>20</sup> Short-lived, this gallery failed to be listed in the 1892 Camden directory. The 1898 directory lists Fisler as a photographer living in Camden and working in Philadelphia and it is quite possible that he had obtained employment in the city during other years. In 1910, he offered numerous negatives taken in China and Japan for sale; whether any purchaser came forward or any of these negatives exist today has not been determined.<sup>21</sup> Fisler continued being listed in Camden directories as a photographer through 1912, but only with residential, not business, addresses. He died on November 18, 1918, and was buried at South Laurel Hill Cemetery in Philadelphia where his parents lie in repose.<sup>22</sup> Laurel Hill told Fisler’s wife that because she was Chinese, she could not be buried there when she died, so in 1923 she had Lorenzo moved to Evergreen Cemetery in Camden, where she joined him in 1929.<sup>23</sup>

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### ANDREW SIMS

Born in 1830 in Scotland, Andrew Sims purchased a one-way ticket to the United States in 1858 and settled initially at 811 Federal Street, Camden, with his wife Mary and children. Tragedy struck in 1860 when their youngest child, Andrew Jr., died in 1860 at the age of four. By 1900, only six of their eleven children had survived, a high proportion but not unusual at that time.

Andrew Sims seems to have led a blameless life, as the few mentions of him in newspapers do not pertain to anything negative. He began his career in Camden, if not previously in Scotland, as a gilder, and listed the profession "picture framer" when he registered for the military draft in 1863.<sup>24</sup> By 1865, he had established a photography gallery at 232 Federal Street, where he also sold looking glasses (mirrors) and picture frames, no doubt gilded by the proprietor.<sup>25</sup> He became active

in the Third Street Methodist Episcopal Church and eventually became a trustee and a religious classroom teacher.<sup>26</sup> By 1870, he joined the YMCA Board of Managers. Sims' apparently sober social life included membership in the Sparkling Water Division, No. 163, of the Sons of Temperance.

Sims, who moved his business to 215 Federal Street in 1868, created a substantial number of carte-de-visite (cdv) portraits in the 1860s and 1870s, each with a notice on the back, "Special attention to copying ambrotypes and other pictures into large or small photographs." One cdv portrait taken in the 1860s was of Chaplain John H. Frazee of the 3rd New Jersey Cavalry, a copy of which is at the New Jersey State Archives. His photographs of children included post-mortems, a common practice in the days of high infant mortality. In 1874, he relocated to 307 Market Street, where he

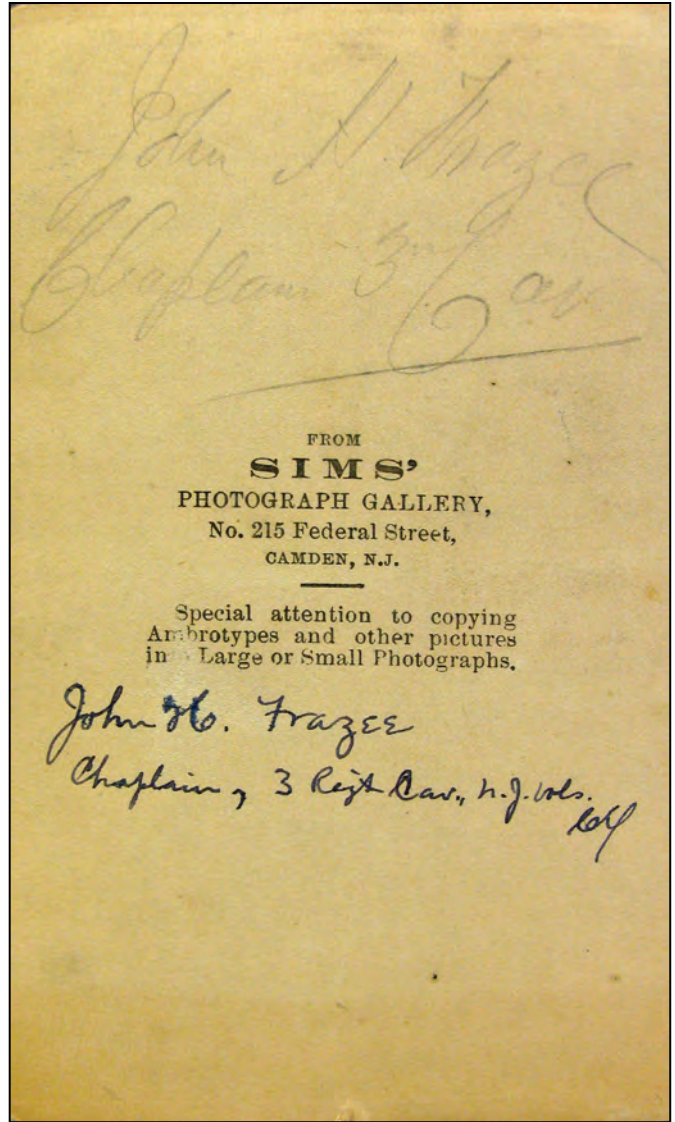


Andrew Sims, girl with picture book on fringed posing chair, carte-de-visite, late 1860s. Author's digital collection.



Andrew Sims, standing boy holding a hat with elbow on table, carte-de-visite, late 1860s. Author's digital collection.

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Andrew Sims, Chaplain John H. Frazee, 3rd New Jersey Cavalry, carte-de-visite, recto and verso, late 1860s. New Jersey State Archives.

remained until 1885. His ad placed in 1875 offered four tintypes (“ferreotypes”) for twenty-five cents and in 1878, he offered large framed photographs for \$1.50, the equivalent of about \$30 today.<sup>27</sup> In 1879, he opened a branch gallery at 202 S. 2nd Street in Philadelphia that lasted about a year. That building, a few blocks from where the ferry from Camden stopped at Vine Street,<sup>28</sup> housed a series of photographers from 1865 to 1885.

The 1880 Census of Products of Industry for Camden provides insights into Sims’ work at that time. He had invested \$2,500 in his business and had two male employees whom he paid \$2.50 per day for skilled labor and \$.82 per day for unskilled. For the previous year ending June 1, 1880, he had paid \$1,040 in wages. During this period, his cost of materials was \$320 and

the value of his products, \$2,180. His workday was 10 hours, and he was open 12 months a year.

Clearly, Sims was not becoming wealthy and there are some indications that his photography business declined in the 1870s. Examples of his work after the early 1870s are much less commonly found today than his earlier portraits and in 1879, Sims made space in his Camden showroom for a jeweler, Charles E. Smith, suggesting that he needed to increase his income.<sup>29</sup> Sims’ finances may have improved after his son Leonard, born in 1863, began working for his father as a photographer in 1882 at a new gallery, Sims and Son, at 737 Race Street, Philadelphia. With the addition of son John, who died at age 29 in 1890, it became Sims and Sons, and continued in business until 1896 with at least two relocations.<sup>30</sup>

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Andrew Sims, "Will" (young man with bow tie), ferrotyping card, recto and verso, 1870s. Author's collection.

Meanwhile, Sims kept the Camden location open until 1885 and continued living nearby. He was listed as a photographer with home address only in city directories until 1904 and thereafter was identified as a

watchman.<sup>31</sup> The 1910 Census found Andrew and his wife Mary of sixty years at 811 Raymond Avenue living with Leonard and Leonard's second wife Virginia; Leonard had become a bank messenger. Andrew Sims was listed as an alien, so it is likely that he never underwent naturalization to become an American citizen. Mary died December 10, 1915, and Andrew followed her on November 18, 1917, at the age of 90. They were buried in Harleigh Cemetery.<sup>32</sup>

### FREDERICK H. AND WILLIAM R. FEARN<sup>33</sup>

Compared to Sims, the Fearn family history was punctuated by more dramatic events. Frederick H. Fearn and William R. Fearn were sons of John Fearn and Amelia Ann Hearn, who married on February 2, 1846, at St. Leonard's Church in the Shoreditch district in the East End of London, England.<sup>34</sup> The Fearns emigrated to New York in 1850 with their infant son John, and initially lived in Brooklyn, where the 1850 federal decennial census enumerated father John as a dyer.<sup>35</sup> He then found work as a hat presser for at least fifteen years. After Frederick was born in Queens about 1853, the Fearns settled in Staten Island, where William was born in 1858.<sup>36</sup>

Inflating his age, Frederick joined the U.S. Navy when he was about 15. On January 29, 1868, he shipped out of New York on the U.S.S. FRANKLIN as a Landsman, the lowest rank, and as such would have performed unskilled labor. In September 1871, he contracted gonorrhoea while the FRANKLIN was in Nice, France, and by November, he occupied a bed in the U.S. Naval Hospital in Chelsea, Massachusetts. The doctor transferring him to the hospital wrote that his case "has lately become unusually troublesome" and that Fearn also suffered from phimosis, not altogether uncommon among uncircumcised men.<sup>37</sup>

By the 1870 Census, while Frederick served in the Navy, his father John had become a photographer in Middletown, a municipality in Staten Island incorporated in 1860 from parts of Southfield and Castleton.<sup>38</sup> No doubt, his father instilled an interest in photography in William, who was 12 in 1870. But John did not remain a photographer. By 1875, John and Amelia relocated to Camden, New Jersey, where they lived at 433 Market Street for about seven years. John had become a "medical electrician," a term used by those who sought to use "galvanism" to rejuvenate or cure patients with an electrical current from a galvanic battery.<sup>39</sup> Amelia also practiced galvanism at their residence and advertised her services.<sup>40</sup>

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Fern's [Fearn's], Camden, George M. Rainear, cabinet card, circa 1890. Author's collection.

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A death disrupted the Fearn's electrical medicine practice in 1881. In April, Robert Moore, 22, died after treatment by "Dr. Fearn" for pneumonia. Mr. Fearn filed the death certificate, stating that Moore had expired from bronchial consumption and signed it, "John Fearn, M.E." (Medical Electrician). The coroner inquired at the County Clerk's office and learned that Fearn had not registered his medical diploma as required by law. Fearn immediately left Camden after posting a sign on his premises that he had "removed to Broad street, fourth door above York street, Philadelphia."<sup>41</sup> John Fearn is not mentioned again as a medical practitioner in the Camden newspapers but the Fearn's apparently returned to the town. Amelia began advertising again in the *Courier-Post* (Camden) in 1883, with an address of 627 Clinton Street.<sup>42</sup>

John and Amelia again appeared on the pages of the *Morning Post* in 1884, when they sued the West Jersey Ferry Company over a sprained wrist Amelia suffered. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* provided the added information that she had slipped on ice and snow that crew members had failed to remove from the ferry deck while in the slip at the Market Street ferry house in Philadelphia.<sup>43</sup> The suit proved unsuccessful, but Amelia persisted. In 1891, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania heard her appeal of the case she had lost in Common Pleas court. Her attorneys argued that although she had previously sued only for her injury, her husband also fell, landing on a cleat while carrying a heavy galvanic battery, and that he succumbed from his injuries in 1888. The Court ruled that the ferry company could not be held responsible because it could not reasonably be expected to keep the snow off the deck during a storm.<sup>44</sup>

While John and Amelia were involved in quasi-medical work, Frederick and William became photographers in Camden. Frederick was a photographer by 1878 when the *Morning Post* reported that he was arrested by officer Randall at Federal Street, next to the Post Office, for "an alleged indignity perpetrated upon Delia Hann, a girl nine years of age, living with her mother at 303 Federal street. The details are too revolting to make public, the little girl having been induced, after sitting for her picture, to go into a dark rear room, where she was subject to insult and outrage without knowing the nature of the offense owing to the darkness. Mayor Ayers will investigate." The following day, the *Morning Post* published an update that Mrs. Hann, the mother of the little girl, as well as Fearn, stated that "the whole affair as given by Officer Randall,

is wrong, and that her little girl made no such statement as represented."<sup>45</sup> So the case was dropped.

The younger brother, William Fearn, began his working career as an upholsterer<sup>46</sup> but by 1879 the brothers had formed a photography partnership, when the *Morning Post* reported that Frederick and William Fearn had a photographic wagon on the corner of 5th & Market. They had a dispute about business matters and Frederick, in company with a man named Lewis Kupp, smashed the wagon to pieces. Frederick and Kupp were arrested, charged with malicious mischief, and held on \$100 bail each.<sup>47</sup> William left town, possibly a result of this fraternal strife. By 1880, he was working as a photographer for, and living with, the highly respectable cameraman, Theodore M. Schleier in Nashville, Tennessee.<sup>48</sup> He returned to Camden by 1882.<sup>49</sup> Apparently, the brothers reached a rapprochement, for in 1883, they began to be listed as Fearn Brothers at 326 Federal Street. However, it appears that often they did not operate there simultaneously, and "Brothers" was soon dropped from the name. William ran it for a year, then turned it over to Frederick, who operated it until 1890. Frederick then moved to Trenton where he opened a new gallery and William returned to run the operation in Camden until September 1893, when J. E. Smith succeeded him, probably the John E. Smith, photographer, who had a gallery in Bordentown from 1869 to 1897.<sup>50</sup>

The Fearn's 326 Federal Street studio was on the second floor and by 1890, employed four assistants. To attract patrons, the gallery ran ads in the *Courier-Post*. In 1885, it offered Bon Tons (tintypes) for 50 cents per dozen and cabinet cards for \$1.50 per dozen.<sup>51</sup> While the brothers took turns operating the gallery in Camden, they were active elsewhere in the area as photographers. In 1882 and 1883, Frederick worked as photographer in Philadelphia while living in Camden but did not have his own studio. In 1887, William had a gallery in Haddonfield, Camden County. From January to March of that year, the *Courier-Post* ran his ad, "Go to W. R. Fearn, for Fine Cabinet Photographs at Haddonfield, Main Street, near Braddock's Drug Store. N.B. This is not F. H. Fearn of Camden. I have no connection with any other gallery."<sup>52</sup> William then operated in Philadelphia at 120 S. 2nd Street in 1888 and 1889 before returning to Camden upon Frederick's departure.

After turning over the Camden gallery to J. E. Smith in 1893, William continued to be listed as a photographer in the city directories until 1898, when the directory described him as a salesman. In 1899, he



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Fearn's (probably Frederick Fearn), Camden, woman with umbrella, cabinet card, 1880s. Author's collection.

returned to his youthful occupation of upholsterer and continued in that trade until around 1910, when the 1910 federal decennial census listed him as a carpenter. He subsequently became a building contractor in Camden until 1923, when he and his wife Anna moved to Glendale, California, where they joined their married daughter Lucy and her husband William Ziegler, a printer who worked as a compositor for newspapers.<sup>53</sup> William and Anna had married in 1877 and had four children, two of whom survived to 1900, including Lucy.<sup>54</sup> The couple seem to have had a stable family life, except for the early deaths of two children.

By comparison, Frederick's home life was turbulent. After his discharge from the Navy, he came to Camden and married Annie Lawrence. By 1880, they had three children: Walter, 6; Louis, 4; and George, 11 months.<sup>55</sup> At the age of 26, Annie died of consumption on December 6, 1883, less than two months after giving

birth to a daughter, Pansey, delivered by her grandmother Amelia who served as midwife.<sup>56</sup> Frederick soon found another spouse. On July 2, 1884, he married sixteen-year-old Georgianna Reed of Camden.<sup>57</sup> A month later, their daughter Bertha was born.<sup>58</sup>

Frederick Fearn and Georgianna made headlines in October 1886. Newspapers reported demonstrations and court actions against them for sending Frederick's sons Walter, Louis, and George to reform school in Jamesburg, New Jersey, as incorrigibles. Although Fearn denied it, when he married his second wife, he allegedly agreed to get rid of the children from the first marriage and the couple neglected the children, forcing them to eat out of garbage cans. A mob of boys estimated at 2000–3000 burned an effigy of Fearn in front of his home. The mob carried banners and lighted Chinese lanterns, demanding that Fearn leave town. On another night, a brass band passed his house, followed by a parade of demonstrators, but the city police force prevented them from stopping at the house. A court-appointed attorney representing the children found two dozen witnesses who said the boys were docile.

Fearn's mother Amelia took a leading role in petitioning the court to get the boys returned. The youngest child was sent home because he was seven and the minimum age at the Jamesburg reform school was eight. The two older boys came back on October 27 by order of Judge Parker, who said that if the stepmother continued to abuse them, the neighbors should have her arrested, but he condemned the rioting. Fearn testified that if the children were returned, he would have to separate from his wife. The judge said he would try to find another home for the boys, and it is likely that their grandmother Amelia took custody, at least temporarily.<sup>59</sup> With her stepsons out of the way, Georgianna had four more children of her own by 1895.<sup>60</sup>

Frederick Fearn opened a new gallery at 23 S. Broad Street in Trenton by the spring of 1890. He called his business, Excelsior Photo Co., instead of using his surname.<sup>61</sup> On April 12, 1890, he made front page news again with his arrest for assault and battery on his wife and held for \$300 bail.<sup>62</sup>

Frederick's mother Amelia also appeared in Trenton in 1890.<sup>63</sup> In March and April 1891, she advertised as Dr. A. Fearn, Medical Electrician, at 240 E. State Street, promising to treat "all chronic and female disease. No shocks given. . . . The poor treated free each Tuesday."<sup>64</sup> She may also have helped in providing care for her grandchildren.

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Excelsior Photo Co. (William Fearn), Trenton, boy in Fauntleroy costume, circa 1894, cabinet card. Author's collection.

Fearn seems to have been sufficiently well behaved in the 1890s to keep his name out of the newspapers. Beginning in 1895, Excelsior advertised regularly in the *Trenton Evening Times*. That year, he offered 16x20 portraits enlarged from tintypes and daguerreotypes, for \$3.00.<sup>65</sup> In 1897, he moved the gallery to 306 E. State, succeeding John H. Britton, where he competed with, among others, Edward S. Dunshee at 209 E. State Street.<sup>66</sup> In 1899, he offered cabinet cards for 75 cents per dozen (a very low price), 16x20 crayon portraits

with six cabinet cards for \$2.50 with a free frame, and 10 little Penny Photos for 10 cents.<sup>67</sup>

The Frederick Fearn family had some near tragedies but also an addition in the early 1900s. In December 1900, Frederick and Georgianna's 13-year-old son Clifford fell through the ice and went under. Fortunately, he was rescued and returned home to his mother, who had heard he had drowned.<sup>68</sup> In January 1901, Georgianna had another baby girl named Etta<sup>69</sup> and that year she took all six children to Atlantic City for the summer.<sup>70</sup> In 1903, two of the girls were hospitalized with typhoid fever but they recovered.<sup>71</sup>

On March 14, 1904, Frederick Fearn died in Trenton after a few years of failing health. Members of the Sons of Union Veterans served as pallbearers and he was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.<sup>72</sup> Georgianna immediately applied for a Civil War widow's pension on March 24.<sup>73</sup> She married James W. Hickey in 1905 and, after some time in Philadelphia, where she had a son, Arthur Frank, on August 4, 1910, the Hickeys moved to Atlantic City.<sup>74</sup> Georgianna outlived Frederick by more than 50 years. She died on March 22, 1956, at the age of 88.<sup>75</sup>

### EDWARD F. SHERMAN AND MARY C. SHERMAN

The story of Edward Franklin Sherman and his wife Mary ends sadly. Their tragedy involved events of national significance that should be remembered with abhorrence more than a century after Edward's untimely death.

Edward F. Sherman was born in Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, on June 22, 1857, to Josiah and Malvina Sherman, both born in Maine. Josiah was a schoolteacher in Pottsville, but by 1870, he had become a professor at the Pennsylvania Female College (PFC) in Trappe, Montgomery County. PFC, legislatively chartered in 1853, educated about 1000 young women before it closed in 1880 and was located just down the street from Ursinus College, then limited

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to men. Edward, as “Frank Sherman,” attended Ursinus in 1871–1872.<sup>76</sup>

After his service on the PFC faculty, Josiah Sherman found work as a teacher in Elwood, Atlantic County, New Jersey, near the Jersey Shore. The 1880 federal decennial Census, enumerated Josiah there with his wife and son Josiah (Jr.), a 20-year-old store clerk. Edward’s whereabouts in 1880 has not been determined but on April 28, 1883, he married Mary Carol Platte in Camden. Born in Pennsylvania in June 1866, Mary’s parents were Anne E. and William Platte, a paper mill worker. In 1880, they lived in Bass River in Burlington County, New Jersey. At the time of their marriage, Edward was residing in Elwood and Mary in Harrisville, which is now a paper mill ghost town in the Pine Barrens not far from Bass River.

Records for Edward and Mary Sherman after their marriage are unfortunately obscure until 1897, when the Camden directory listed Edward’s Crystal Type Photograph Co., which lasted a year. On November 17, 1898, the *Courier-Post* (Camden) announced, “Camden’s Newest Photographer. Sherman, the artist-photographer, has opened a ground floor studio, corner Broadway and Washington. His reliable agents will canvass the city and give especial low prices to introduce his beautiful photographs.”<sup>77</sup> Mary, who remained

childless, undoubtedly was involved in the business, as later evidence shows. By December 1901, they apparently needed help and advertised in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, “Photo Finisher. The highest salary and traveling car fare will be paid [a] young lady who can trim, mount and spot platinum prints.”<sup>78</sup> In the early 1900s, most photographers provided their customers with gelatin silver prints, not platinum, which while very high quality with a fine gradation of tones and greater permanency than gelatin, was more expensive to produce.<sup>79</sup> The Shermans’ use of platinum suggests that their clientele included the affluent.

Like other local businessmen who found it both beneficial and pleasurable to join a fraternal order, Edward Sherman became a member of the King David Lodge of the Odd Fellows. On July 3, 1902, an article in the *Courier Post* noted, “There are brethren who are worthy of elevation to the highest honors which the lodge can confer, notably Brother E. F. Sherman, the photographer, who has rendered unusual services and demonstrated great executive ability.” It appears that Sherman was a well-respected, law abiding, photographer who was doing well in Camden.<sup>80</sup>

In August 1902, local newspapers featured Edward Sherman with his portrait and text of his lengthy oration at the reunion of the Scottish-Irish branch



Edward F. or Mary C. Sherman. Armory, in *Camden, New Jersey: The City’s Rise and Growth* (1904). From copy at Camden County Historical Society.

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of the Sherman family in Cape Cod Point, near Bar Harbor, Maine. Sherman apparently took a deep interest in his genealogy. He stated that his family descended from a William Sherman, who emigrated from England to Salem, Massachusetts, in 1629, where his widow and daughter married into the family of Myles Standish, the military officer who helped administer the Plymouth Colony. But he also traced the Shermans farther back to barbarians from Central Asia who in 450 A.D. landed in Britain and he digressed at length to recount the history of the Pilgrims and other tangential topics. The *Camden-Post Telegram* generously allocated almost an entire page of the newspaper to Sherman's speech.<sup>81</sup>

Sherman did so well in the photo business that in June 1904, he announced the opening of a new South Studio on June 25th on Broadway near Walnut and that Mary would oversee the current one at Broadway and Washington (427 Broadway), which henceforth would be known as Sherman's North Studio. He stated that he would operate the South Studio (934 Broadway) but by appointment would "make sittings at the North Studio for platinum photographs." He continued, "The long and successful practice that Mrs. Sherman has

had under the [electric] light makes it necessary that she should have the exclusive use of a light, as nearly as possible, to accommodate her growing patronage. . . ." Sherman claimed to have introduced the electric lamp to photography studios in Camden. He assured readers that they were ready and willing to photograph customers at night, although he preferred them to visit during the day. He also declared that the Shermans now would be open by appointment on Sundays so they would no longer lose business to their competitors. At the South Studio, he planned to specialize in low-priced photographs, large portraits copied from small ones, sittings at night, and large group portraits.<sup>82</sup>

In the same year they opened the second gallery, the Shermans took time to go on separate trips. In August 1904, Edward went to Maine and Boston, where he attended the convention of New England photographers. When he returned on August 29, Mary and her assistant, Miss Josephine P. Gomez, left for a ten-day vacation to New York, New Haven, and other places in Connecticut.<sup>83</sup> These travels suggest that the Shermans were enjoying their prosperity.

Although the Shermans specialized in portraits, they also performed outdoor work and published lithographed postcards featuring their views of Camden. In 1904, the Camden Board of Trade published a promotional book, *Camden, New Jersey*, profusely illustrated with half-tone illustrations by the Sherman firm, including depictions of, among others, the Armory, City Hall, Cooper Hospital, and the Masonic building, as well as streetscapes. The book also featured an advertisement with an appealing photo credited to Mary C. Sherman of a little girl and boy, the latter holding a chicken. The advertisement boldly proclaims Sherman's North Studio with the address and "Mary C. Sherman, Artist," and below that, "Mr. Sherman makes sittings at the North Studio by appointment only. Platinum Prints in Sepia and Black." The South Studio is listed in a smaller font below. The prominence given to Mary Sherman in this advertisement over her husband is striking and implies the significance of her contribution to the success of the couple's business.<sup>84</sup>

The Shermans continued the North Studio from 1905 to 1907 and then consolidated their efforts at the South Studio at 934 Broadway, where they also lived. Edward likely retired in 1912, when the Camden directory listed him only with a home address and Mary was listed in the business directory. In 1913, neither was listed, as they had decided to winter in Florida and come back to New Jersey in the summers. For two win-



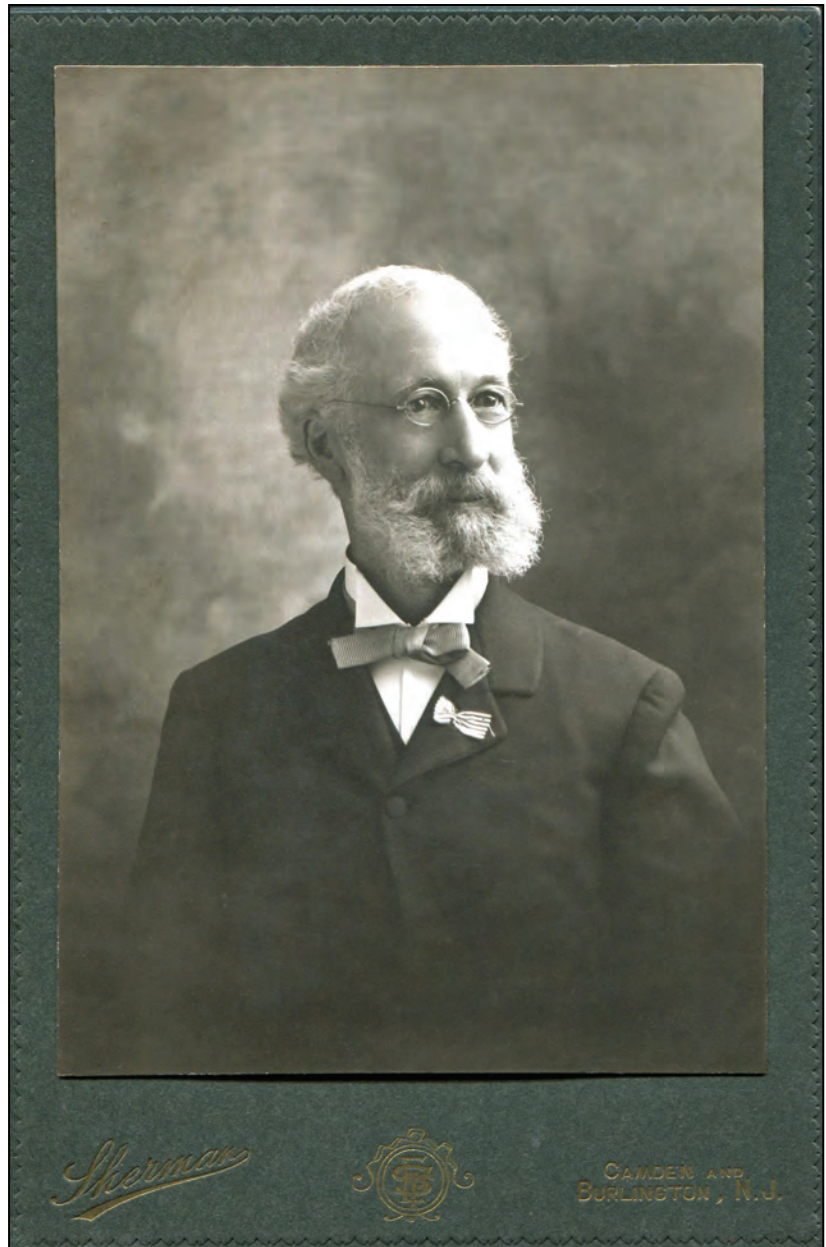
Edward F. and Mary C. Sherman, advertisement for Sherman studios in Camden with photography by Mary C. Sherman, *Camden, New Jersey: The City's Rise and Growth* (1904). From copy at Camden County Historical Society.

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ters beginning in 1912, they wintered in St. Petersburg, where they conducted a photo studio, and summered in Wildwood, New Jersey, the site of their seasonal gallery.<sup>85</sup> The Shermans soon purchased and moved to a bungalow on a property in a rural area outside St. Petersburg where they had eleven African American farm workers clearing the land and doing other jobs that Sherman hoped would help with subdivision and sale.

The couple's plans for a pleasant retirement terminated violently when Edward Sherman was brutally murdered at his winter home on November 11, 1914. During the night, a man fired a shotgun at his head while he lay sleeping in his bed near an open window. Mary was robbed, dragged out of the house, assaulted, and severely beaten. Reviving, she saw that her husband was dead and lost consciousness again for several hours. Awakening at 3 a.m., she managed to get help from the nearest neighbor about a half mile distance. She said that two African American men had committed the crime but could not identify them. Gangs of white vigilantes terrorized the Black community searching for suspects and hundreds of innocent African American residents fled by boat and foot. One who did not run away was John Evans, who had recently been let go by Sherman. Despite flimsy evidence, the vigilantes tortured Evans while he consistently maintained his innocence. After he was taken to jail, a mob of 1,500 white men and women forcibly removed him from incarceration and lynched him. Ebenezer Tobin, another Sherman employee, was arrested and tried on September 17, 1915. Mary Sherman returned for the trial from Camden, where she was still recuperating from a fractured skull, and testified that she recognized Tobin's voice, although she could not identify either of the men by sight. Tobin was convicted after the jury deliberated for fifteen minutes; he was executed on October 22.<sup>86</sup>

Mary left Florida and did not reopen a photography gallery in Camden, although she may have retained a financial interest in the Wildwood location. The 1915 New Jersey State Census for Camden records Mary as a 48-year-old photographer living with a couple about



Edward F. or Mary C. Sherman, Camden and Burlington, N.J. White-haired bearded man, cabinet card, early 1900s. Author's collection.

her age. In the 1920 federal decennial Census, the enumerator listed her as a widow without a profession residing with a family in Haddonfield near Camden.<sup>87</sup>

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

Nineteenth- and early twentieth-century photographers in Camden faced the same challenges as their colleagues elsewhere, including competition, health issues, criminality, and deaths of spouses and children. Although their photographic products were broadly

similar, each photographer had unique backgrounds, experiences, and personalities that shaped their lives and helped determine their degree of financial success. Some like Lorenzo F. Fisler were adventurous; others stayed close to home with gallery moves and branch studios commonplace in an effort to expand business. Photographers like Fisler and Edward F. Sherman, whose fathers were a doctor and a college teacher respectively, had good educations and began with advantages over those with less schooling. Regardless of how they started out in life, however, those like Andrew Sims demonstrated that dedication, diligence, and earning a good reputation could lead to financial stability, while the lives of the Fearn brothers show that even within one family, there can be significant variance. Mary C. Sherman's career serves to remind us that the number of women in photography increased substantially in the 1890s and early 1900s. While women photographers remained in the minority, their work appeared regularly in photographic journals and exhibits.<sup>88</sup>

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gary D. Saretzky, archivist, educator, and photographer, worked as an archivist for more than fifty years at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Educational Testing Service, and the Monmouth County Archives. Saretzky taught the history of photography at Mercer County Community College, 1977–2012, and served as coordinator of the Public History Internship Program for the Rutgers University History Department, 1994–2016. He has published more than 100 articles and reviews on the history of photography, photographic conservation, and other topics, including “Nineteenth-Century New Jersey Photographers,” in the journal, *New Jersey History*, Fall/Winter 2004, a revised version of which is available at <http://saretzky.com>.

#### ENDNOTES

- 1 Rail service from Camden to New York began early in 1835 and the first railroad bridge across the Delaware to Philadelphia was completed in 1896. Ferries operated across the Delaware River between Philadelphia and Camden and river steamers made regular trips up and down the river.
- 2 Author's database on Nineteenth Century New Jersey Photographers, abstracted at <http://saretzky.com>.
- 3 The population figure of 17,000 is about the median between the 1860 and 1870 censuses, respectively 14,358 and 20,045. By 1900, there were at least ten studios, plus a firm that did printing. Quantitative data

- on photographers from author's database, op. cit. The estimate of 300 does not include about 50 photographers found outside Camden in Camden County.
- 4 This essay on Fisler was significantly enhanced with help from Bette Epstein, New Jersey State Archives, and Terry Bennett, author of the authoritative, well-illustrated volume, *History of Photography in China: Western Photographers, 1861–1879* (London: Quaritch), 2010. Karen Penn, a descendant of Fisler's great uncle Joseph Fisler, and Suzanne Schwartzwalder also assisted my research.
  - 5 Birth of Lorenzo Jr. from death certificate, New Jersey State Archives. Re Lorenzo Fisler Sr. (1797–1871), see George R. Prowell, *The History of Camden County, New Jersey* (Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Co., 1886), 270, 332, 430–31; Prowell mentions Lorenzo Sr.'s history of Camden published as a pamphlet in 1858 (copy at Camden County Historical Society). See also *Transactions of the Medical Society of New Jersey, 1871* (Newark: Jennings & Hardman), 173–74, 246–47; and “The Mortuary Roll: Deceased Physicians of Camden County,” *Morning Post* (Camden), February 15, 1887. Lorenzo Jr. was the fourth child of Lorenzo Sr. and Anna Maria (Risley) Fisler (1818–1891). His younger brother Weston “Wes” Fisler (1843–1922) became a well-known professional baseball player in Philadelphia. Lorenzo Jr. also played baseball but not professionally.
  - 6 The Fisler family was recorded twice in the 1860 federal decennial census of Philadelphia. On July 14, the census schedule records Lorenzo (indexed in Ancestry.com as Lovenga Filer, born in England) as a photographer (photographer who made photographs on paper, as contrasted with daguerreotypists, ambrotypists, and ferreotypists), and his brother Richard as a clerk. In the other census record (indexed as Fester), recorded on July 11, the professions of the brothers are reversed. It is very likely that Lorenzo was the photographer in 1860 as there is no other indication that Richard ever worked in photography. In any case, Lorenzo was a photographer by June 1863, when he gave that profession in his registration for the military draft. U.S. Civil War Draft Registrations Records, 1863–1865. Ancestry.com.
  - 7 Walter arrived in Shanghai on September 8, 1863. Initially, the brothers worked in the studio of J. Newman, who departed in 1864. Bennett, 110, 416.
  - 8 “The Chinese Rebellion: An Interesting Chat with Lorenzo Fisler,” *Morning Post* (Camden), December 8, 1891, 1. The Japanese envoys left on June 30, 1860.
  - 9 U.S. Passport Applications, 1795–1925. Fisler obtained another passport on March 19, 1863.
  - 10 After his return, reported in *West Jersey Press*, August 19, 1863, Fisler wrote “My First Voyage,” *West Jersey Press*, August 26, 1863, and continued September 2. In 1875, Fisler received \$1,722.80 compensation for his lost photographic equipment, paid by the British government.

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- "Alabama Claims," *Boston Post*, October 22, 1875, 2. Reported as about \$2,500 in "Lorry' Fisler and the Alabama Claims," *West Jersey Press*, November 17, 1875. For a judgment summary, see *Congressional Serial Set*, (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office), 1895, 4289–90.
- 11 Rev. J. M. W. Farnham, D.D., of Shanghai recalled, "Dinmore Bros. and L. F. Fisler, now of Philadelphia, and C. L. Weed, were among the first photographers that I can remember in Shanghai." "Dry Plates in a Damp Climate," *International Annual of Anthony's Photographic Bulletin*, 1891, Volume 3, 375–77, but Terry Bennett, op. cit., discusses several Chinese and foreign predecessors dating back to the early 1850s.
  - 12 Bennett, 116. Walter Dinmore relocated from Shanghai to Baltimore and was a photographer there from 1866 to 1875, when he began working for about a year in Philadelphia as chief photographer at W. D. Clayton's Gallery of Photography with a residence in Camden. While there, he made a portrait of Walt Whitman. In 1885–1886, he had his own gallery in Philadelphia. Walter died May 13, 1895, of "apoplexy." Evergreen Cemetery Plot Burials, Reel 2, 38, Camden County Historical Society. Harrison "Harry" Dinmore had a gallery in Manayunk near Philadelphia, from 1889 to 1892. He later moved to New Jersey, where he had galleries in Palmyra (1910) and Absecon (1915) before his death on March 10, 1918. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 12, 1918, 17.
  - 13 Patented by A. A. E. Disderi in 1854 in France, the carte-de-visite was a small photograph mounted on a card approximately 2 3/8 x 4 inches, usually with the photographer's imprint on the back.
  - 14 Roberta Wue, "The Mandarin at Home and Abroad: Picturing Li-Hongzhang," *Ars Orientalis* 43 (2013), 140–56, esp. 145; Bennett, 113–23.
  - 15 This story, based on an interview by Alba Satterthwaite, was published in several newspapers, including "Adventure in China," *Los Angeles Times*, November 9, 1896, 6, and "In the Prohibited City," *Boston Daily Globe*, January 3, 1897. The structure is known today as the Palace of Earthly Tranquility.
  - 16 Leslie E. Fislar [sic], *Fisler Genealogy*, 1934 (copy at Camden County Historical Society) stated, "According to information given me, the wife of Lorenzo was a Chinese woman, Alena. He went to China as a Photographer and while there was taken seriously ill; [he] was nursed back to health by this woman whom he married after his recovery. I understand that after his marriage they lived for several years in China pending the reconciliation of his family to his marriage, and he brought her back to this country where they lived until their respective deaths." Quoted by Bennett, 122–23. Census records regarding Alena are inconsistent. The 1900 U.S. Census for Camden recorded that Alena was born in May 1857 and had been married for 28 years, i.e., 1872. The 1905 New Jersey State Census recorded that she was born in June 1859. The 1900 Census stated that the Fislers had no children but the 1910 Census, which implausibly implied that she was born in 1862, recorded that Alena had given birth once but the child was not living. Alena was listed as Mabel, foreign-born, in the 1895 New Jersey State Census, and as Adaline in the 1905 New Jersey State Census.
  - 17 Fisler's return to Camden with a Chinese wife was widely reported in the press. "A Celestial Wife Brought from China by a New Jersey Man," *St. Paul Daily Globe*, June 11, 1884, 6, stated that Mrs. Fisler was educated by an English missionary and was a Methodist Christian. Very petite, "good humored and full of smiles, but withall very reticent. . . ." Her feet were never bound and she spoke English fluently without an accent. The *Watertown (New York), Daily Times*, June 11, 1884, 4, opined that she was the "first real Chinese lady ever seen in this country" but confused Lorenzo with his brother Weston, the baseball player. The *Trenton Evening Times*, June 6, 1884, 4, reported that Fisler had brought home "a novelty in the shape of a Chinese wife."
  - 18 The earliest mention of the partnership was an advertisement in the *Morning Post* (Camden), Sept. 16, 1884, 4: "Fisler & Ganbort [sic], Landscape and Mechanical Photographers, Nos. 712 and 720 Federal street, Camden, N.J. Photographs taken of buildings, boats, groups, machinery and graves, and also mounting and framing of pictures, and all descriptions of out door [sic] photography. Printing for the trade and amateurs. A trial solicited. Prices reasonable." In the 1885 to 1887 directories, they were listed at 511 and 720 Federal, the home addresses of Fisler and Gaubert, respectively. Before and after this partnership, Gaubert was listed as a clerk in Camden directories.
  - 19 "Walt Whitman and Bill Duckett by Lorenzo F. Fisler and Gaubert? ca. October 1886," *The Walt Whitman Archive*, <https://whitmanarchive.org/multimedia/zzz.00095.html>. The tintypes with the attribution to Fisler are in the collection of Ohio Wesleyan University. Fisler lived around the block from Whitman, lending plausibility to the attribution, but no other tintypes by Fisler have come to my attention.
  - 20 *Morning Post* (Camden), January 6, 1891, 4. Born in New Hampshire in 1841, Ellery J. Hunt had two successive galleries in Camden from 1877 until his death in 1890. He died of cancer of the tongue, reportedly from "incessant pipe smoking." *Photographic Times*, 1891, 45.
  - 21 The advertisement read, "To Photographers, for sale, a lot of photographic negatives of scenes in China and Japan; never published in this country. Apply to L. F. Fisler, 305 Linden St., Camden, N.J." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 12, 1910, 13.
  - 22 Certificate and Record of Death, New Jersey State Archives. The cause of death was myocarditis with a

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- cystotomy (operation on the bladder) a contributing factor. In his will, dated October 9, 1911, Lorenzo left his entire estate to his wife Alena. Last Will and Testament, D4803, New Jersey State Archives.
- 23 The Fislars are buried in Section C, Lot 120. Lorenzo's tombstone was moved with him from South Laurel Hill Cemetery. Walter and Abbie Dinmore are also in Evergreen Cemetery, Section O, Lot 295. Evergreen Cemetery records, Camden County Historical Society. The rejection of Alena Fislar by South Laurel Hill Cemetery is in its records; its anti-Chinese exclusion policy is no longer in effect.
- 24 Civil War Draft Registrations (Ancestry.com): Andrew Sims, 36, picture framer, born Scotland, living in Middle Ward, Camden, June 1863. The 1865 Camden business directory listed him twice, as photographer and picture framer. It is probable that Sims did not serve in the Civil War. An Andrew J. Sims from Pennsylvania was in Company B, 125th Pennsylvania Regiment, but not the same man as the Sims discussed here.
- 25 References in the text concerning addresses of Sims' galleries are based on city directories. Mirrors and picture frames: *New Republic* (Camden), March 7, 1868, 3, advertisement, "Photograph Gallery, No. 215 Federal Street, Camden, N.J. A. Sims, Photographer and Picture Frame Manufacturer. Looking Glasses, &c. All work properly finished. Satisfaction given."
- 26 *Camden Democrat*, August 13, 1870, 3, listed as member, Board of Managers, YMCA. *West Jersey Press* (Camden), March 26, 1873, 7, mentioned as class leader, Third St. Methodist Episcopal Church. *Morning Post* (Camden), March 25, 1879, 1, Sims elected a trustee of the Third Street Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 27 *Camden Democrat*, October 16, 1875, 4, advertisement, "Four Ferreotypes for 25 Cents. Photographs taken in the best style of the Art, at reasonable rates." *Morning Post* (Camden), January 28, 1878, 2, advertisement, "Large photos and frames, \$1.50."
- 28 Charles Shimer Boyer, *Old Ferries, Camden, New Jersey* (n.p.: privately printed, 1921), 12.
- 29 *Morning Post* (Camden), March 5, 1879, 1, stating that Charles E. Smith will open a jewelry store at 307 Market, taking up some of the show room of Sims the photographer.
- 30 Death of John E. B. Sims, June 15, 1890, NJ Deaths & Burials Index (via Ancestry.com). According to his death certificate, John was living at 2007 S. 7th Street, Philadelphia, at the time of his death. For addresses and years of Sims' galleries in Philadelphia, see author's Philadelphia Photographers List at <http://saretzky.com/history-of-photography-indexes-to-photographers.html>.
- 31 In 1890, an Andrew Sims was assaulted at his home in Philadelphia, but it has not been determined if this was the photographer. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 17, 1890, 6. If Sims the photographer lived in Philadelphia at that time, he soon returned to Camden.
- 32 Death notice, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 20, 1917, Andrew Sims, 90, died November 18, husband of late Mary S. Sims. Deaths, Mary Sims, December 10, 1915, 811 Vine St., and Andrew Sims, November 20 [sic], 1917, recorded in First Methodist Episcopal church records. Ancestry.com.
- 33 The surname is sometimes found as Fern but the more common spelling Fearn is used here.
- 34 England, Select Marriages, 1538–1973. Ancestry.com.
- 35 The younger John eventually lived in Camden County as did his parents and brothers. In the 1880 Census, he was a barber in Merchantville and in the 1900 Census, he was a watch repairer in Haddonfield. John was married and had several children with his wife Annie.
- 36 The 1855 New York Census gives Queens as Frederick's birthplace but as Richmond County in the 1860 Port Richmond Census. Between Frederick and William, sisters Alice A. was born in 1854 and Ida F. in 1856. Another son, Albert, was born in 1863. The 1865 Census in Castleton, Richmond County, lists the father John's occupation as straw-hat presser. Ancestry.com.
- 37 Fearn's Hospital Ticket, U.S.S. FRANKLIN, Boston, November 6, 1871, gives his residence at time of enlistment as Flushing, Queens, and age in 1871 as 21 years old. Census records concerning Frederick's age are inconsistent: 3 in 1855, 8 in 1860, and 47, born January 1853, in the 1900 Census. His second marriage record, July 21, 1884, listed his age as 30 and his death record implied that he was born in 1855. Fearn likely lowered his age when he married his much younger second wife. Ancestry.com.
- 38 1870 U.S. Census, Middletown, Richmond County, New York. The father John is listed as 40 years old and his wife Amelia (oddly listed as Mary), 41, with children Alice, Ida, William, and Albert. Ancestry.com.
- 39 Lauren Young, "The Real Electric Frankenstein Experiments of the 1800s," <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/the-real-electric-frankenstein-experiments-of-the-1800s>. Address: Camden city directories, 1875, et seq. By the 1880 Census, John and Amelia had been joined by Amelia's father, John Hearn, 82, but none of their children were living with them.
- 40 Beginning in 1879, advertisements with testimonials began appearing that extolled the treatment offered by Mrs. A. A. Fearn, Herbalist and Medical Electrician. At least one advertisement mentions that Mr. Fearn also administered a treatment. Among the testimonials, Mrs. Mary Stone stated that she was cured of "womb disease and ulcers." Charles W. Stetser went to Mrs. Fearn for rheumatism and was informed that he also had lung and kidney disease, but she cured him in ten treatments. Mrs. Terrence Johnson wrote that she was cured of dropsy in an advertisement claiming, "All diseases of women cured." Samuel H. Severns claimed that Mrs. Fearn cured his



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- daughter, age 19, of fits that lasted three days at a time, after 18 treatments. Mrs. R. Evans stated that Mrs. A. A. Fearn removed her cataracts, and her sight was restored in five weeks. That advertisement also mentioned that Mrs. Fearn was selling her Herb Medicine for Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint for 75 cents a bottle. *Morning Post* (Camden), May 24, 1879, 3; August 27, 1879, 3; February 5, 1880, 3; March 29, 1880, 3; November 20, 1880, 4.
- 41 *Morning Post* (Camden), April 23, 1881, 1.
- 42 December 5, 1883, 4. Amelia was awarded a patent on July 20, 1886, for her "Life-Preserving Corset," #345,960. The corset featured stays made of cork. Filed March 6, 1886. *Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office*, Volume 36, 1887, 311.
- 43 *Morning Post* (Camden), October 15, 1884, 1; *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 15, 1884, 3.
- 44 In 1888, the *Morning Post* (Camden) reported that Amelia had been appointed executor of John's estate by the Surrogate in Camden, July 27, 1888, 1. Fearn v. West Jersey Ferry Co., *Pittsburgh Legal Journal*, Number 22, 1891, 196–97; *Pennsylvania State Reports Containing Cases Adjudged in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania by Boyd Brumrine, State Reporter, Containing Cases Decided at January Term and October Term 1891* (New York and Albany: Bank & Brothers, 1892), 122–29.
- 45 January 28, 1878, 3; January 29, 1878, 3.
- 46 *Camden City Directory*, 1878, living at 434 Hamilton Street. In 1879, William lived at 4413 Bridge Avenue.
- 47 September 20, 1879.
- 48 1880 Census, Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. Schleier was a Prussian-born American photographer, inventor, and diplomat who served as U.S. Consul to Amsterdam, 1890–1893. He pioneered electrical lighting systems for photography studios.
- 49 *Camden City Directory*, 1882, living at 827 Carpenter Street.
- 50 Smith kept the Camden location for about a year and in turn was succeeded by Samuel C. Chester, who remained there until 1924. Smith also worked in Hightstown in 1875.
- 51 See, for example, advertisements, June 4 and August 19, 1885.
- 52 See, for example, March 8, 1887, 4. Some of the advertisements erroneously listed him as W. B. Fearn instead of W. R. Fearn.
- 53 City directories for Camden and Glendale. William and Lucy Ziegler briefly lived in Long Beach in 1923 before joining William and Anna Fearn in Glendale at 405 E. Elk Avenue. William and Lucy continued living there with Anna into the 1930s and Anna was still there in 1940.
- 54 Before Lucy, born in 1882, they had Howard, who was listed as a 21-year-old upholsterer in the 1900 U.S. Census, Camden, Camden County, which listed the William Fearn family at 129 Centre Street. In addition to William and Anna, who was born in February 1859, and the two children, Anna's mother Rebecca Fox, 61, and Anna's brother, Albert F. Fox, 21, lived with the family.
- 55 1880 U.S. Census, Camden, Camden County. Ancestry.com.
- 56 New Jersey Death Record, New Jersey State Archives. Annie was buried in Camden Cemetery. Her father's name was John Lawrence on the death record; her mother's name was not noted. Birth of Pansey: New Jersey Birth Record, New Jersey State Archives, October 17, 1883, at 594 Carman Street, Camden. Pansey probably did not survive, as no further mention of her has been found.
- 57 New Jersey Marriage Record, New Jersey State Archives. It was Georgianna's first marriage and Frederick's second. Her parents were J. Reed and Sallie A. Williams.
- 58 Marriage: *Camden County Courier*, July 26, 1884, 3. Bertha was born August 1884, according to 1900 U.S. Census, Trenton. Georgianna's age is listed as 30, so she would have been 14 in 1884 but 16 according to her death certificate (see note 75).
- 59 *Camden Daily Courier*, October 13–16, 19–20, 26–27, 1886, all page 1; *Monmouth Inquirer*, October 21, 1886, 3; in the Atlantic en route to Shanghai: *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 18, 1886, 7.
- 60 One child was Clifford Fred Fearn, born May 1890 in Philadelphia, according to the 1900 U.S. Census, Trenton, although his draft registration card in 1917 gave his birth as May 6, 1889. Ancestry.com. The others were Clarence Fearn, December 17, 1887, born at 586 Benson St., Camden, second child of this marriage, both living; Dora E., October 23, 1892, 315 Perry St., Trenton, fourth child of this marriage, all living; and female [Lorraine], November 30, 1895, 276 Bellevue Ave., Trenton, 5th child, all living. Birth records, New Jersey State Archives.
- 61 The street name changed from Greene to S. Broad in November 1889. At the same location from 1889 to 1892 was the branch gallery of the prominent photographer James R. Applegate, based in Philadelphia. It has not been determined if there was a business connection between Fearn and Applegate. Applegate was arrested on January 28, 1892, in Philadelphia for running a disorderly house. For Applegate, see the author's "Nineteenth Century New Jersey Photographers," *New Jersey History*, 122:3–4 (Fall/Winter 2004), 36–143, revised text without illustrations at [http://www.gary.saretzky.com/photohistory/resources/photo\\_in\\_nj\\_july\\_2010.pdf](http://www.gary.saretzky.com/photohistory/resources/photo_in_nj_july_2010.pdf).
- 62 *Trenton Times*, April 12, 1890, 1.
- 63 Amelia Fearn was listed in the 1890 *Trenton City Directory* as A. A. Fearn, medical technician, with home at 234 Perry Street and in 1891 with both business and home at 240 E. State Street. Frederick first appears in the *Trenton City Directory* in 1891 at 23 S. Broad with home at 315 Perry Street.
- 64 See, for example, *Trenton Evening Times*, March 8, 1891,

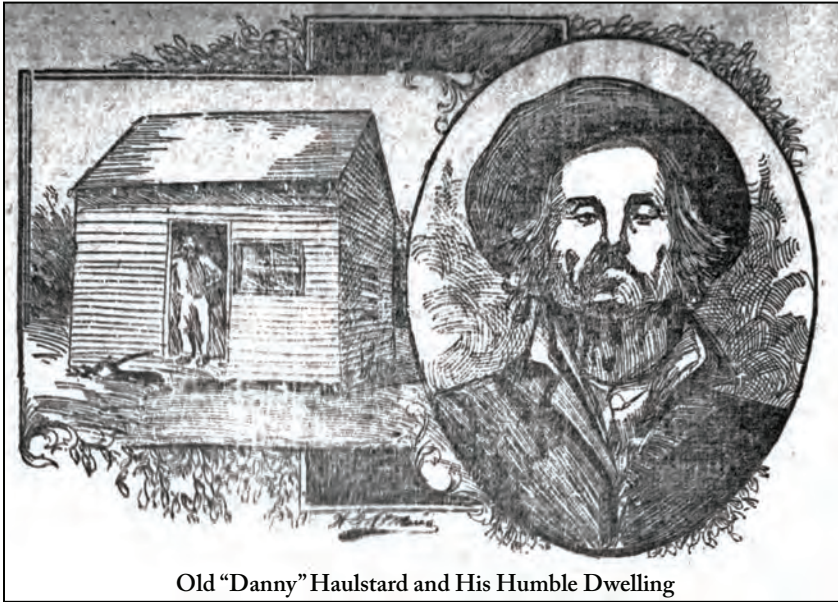
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4. Amelia is listed in the 1891 *Trenton City Directory* as an electrician with the same home address.
- 65 For example, *Trenton Evening Times*, November 22, 1895, 4.
- 66 See the author's "Last Man Standing: E. S. Dunshee, Veteran Trenton Photographer," *Garden State Legacy*, Issue 30, December 30, 2015. <http://www.GardenStateLegacy.com>.
- 67 *Trenton Evening Times*, Jan. 31, 1899, 5. One dollar in 1899 was worth about \$31.35 in 2020 dollars.
- 68 *Trenton Evening Times*, December 19, 1900, 1.
- 69 *Trenton Evening Times*, January 15, 1901, 1. The paper reported the name erroneously as Eetta.
- 70 *Trenton Evening Times*, July 22, 1901, 5.
- 71 One of the girls was Dora, who had appeared as "Baby" Fearn in several theatrical performances. The other was Lorraine. *Trenton Evening Times*, April 29, 1903, 1.
- 72 *Trenton Evening Times*, March 19, 1904, 2; New Jersey Death Record.
- 73 Civil War Pension Index, 1861–1934. Ancestry.com. Frederick had applied previously for an pension as an invalid on July 11, 1901. His naval rank was Landsman in the application.
- 74 New Jersey Marriage Index, 1901–2016 and birth of Arthur in New Jersey, U.S. United Methodist Church Records, 1800–1970. Ancestry.com. 1910 U.S. Census, Philadelphia, Geoergianna, 43, with James W. Hickey, 36, bricklayer, no children present. 1915 N.J. Census, Atlantic City, Georgianna, age not given, with James, 43, her daughters Lorraine, 18 and Etta, 14, and son, Arthur, 4. The daughters' surname was recorded as Hickey so they may have been adopted. In the 1920 U.S. Census, Atlantic City, Georgianna, 53, born Maryland, was recorded with husband James W. Hickey, 45, born England, home builder, emigrated 1896, with son Arthur, 9, and daughter Lorraine, 23. In the 1930 U.S. Census, Atlantic City, Georgianna, 62, was listed with James, 55, building contractor, and their son Arthur, 19, a musician in an orchestra.
- 75 New Jersey Deaths and Burials Index, 1798–1971. ancestry.com.
- 76 Carolyn Weigel, Archivist, Ursinus College, email to author, January 13, 2021. Frank's older brother Eugene also attended in 1871–1872.
- 77 The *Courier-Post* (Camden), November 17, 1898, 1.
- 78 December 8, 1901, 24.
- 79 Constance McCabe, ed., *Platinum and Palladium Photographs: Technical History, Connoisseurship and Preservation* (Washington, DC: American Institute for Conservation, 2017).
- 80 The *Courier Post*, July 3, 1902, 2. As a good citizen, in August 1905, Edward Sherman identified a man standing outside a jewelry store near his studio, shortly before it was robbed. Two men distracted the storekeeper and a third ran out with a tray with thirty diamond rings worth \$1,000. The three were arrested shortly thereafter but only the one who took the jewels was charged and the other two released. The Thomas Smedley & Son jewelry store was at 920 Broadway, near the Sherman's South Studio at 934 Broadway. Police later arrested a woman who was mailed a ring by the thief. "\$1000 Worth of Diamonds . . . 3 Colored Men Under Arrest," *Morning Post* (Camden), August 2, 1905, 1; "Thief Made Haul of Diamonds in Camden," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 3, 1905, 3; "Held for Diamond Theft," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 4, 1905, 3; *Morning Post*, September 18, 1905, 1.
- 81 *Camden-Post Telegram*, August 20, 1902, 3. See also *Courier-Post*, August 20, 1902, 1; *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 21, 1902, 4. The *Camden-Post Telegram* is indexed as *Courier-Post* in Newspapers.com.
- 82 *Courier-Post*, June 24, 1904, 11. This synopsis omits Sherman's efforts to assure the public of the couple's dedication and well-deserved reputation for superior work. Sherman's claim in this announcement regarding priority in the use of electric illumination before Philadelphia photographers is rather doubtful considering the significant number of studios there. In the United States, photographer William Kurtz of New York perhaps was the first to specialize in electric lighting in the fall of 1882, although it was not widely adopted until the early 1900s. William Welling, *Photography in America: The Formative Years, 1839–1900: A Documentary History* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1978), 279. See also note 48. In the early 1900s, the Shermans also had a studio in Burlington, as evidenced by a cabinet card with both Camden and Burlington in the imprint, but were not listed in Burlington directories, so their presence there must have been brief.
- 83 *Courier-Post*, August 29, 1904, 9.
- 84 *Camden, New Jersey: The City's Rise and Growth. Commercial and Manufacturing Advantages. Its Future Possibilities* (Philadelphia: Sheldon Co., 1904). Copy at the Camden County Historical Society.
- 85 *Tampa Tribune*, October 17, 1914, 9. In 1922, William Landless managed the Sherman studio at Boardwalk and Cedar Ave. in Wildwood. In 1926, it was managed by Mrs. Margaret L. Rhorer. Wildwood city directories.
- 86 Jon L. Wilson, "Days of Fear: A Lynching in St. Petersburg," *Tampa Bay History* 5:2 (Fall/Winter 1983), 4–26, available at [http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3518&context=flstud\\_pub](http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3518&context=flstud_pub). There was extensive coverage in local newspapers, including *St. Petersburg Evening Independent*, *St. Petersburg Daily Times*, and *Tampa Tribune*; only some articles are cited by Wilson. See also "Edward F. Sherman Slain," *Bulletin of Photography* 15 (1914), 656.
- 87 Mary's subsequent life remains undocumented. Possibly she was Mary C. Sherman, 73, born in Philadelphia, widow, listed without occupation in the 1940 Census in Gloucester City, Camden County.
- 88 Among other women photographers of this era who

## Careers in Camerawork

worked in Camden, Henrietta L. Wardle, who partnered with Henry D. Garns, merits particular attention. See list of more than 100 nineteenth-century New Jersey women photographers at <http://saretzky.com/history-of-photography-indexes-to-photographers.html>. For overviews, see Naomi Rosenblum, *A History of Women Photographers* (Paris, London, & New York: Abbeville

Press, 1994); Katherine Manthorne, *Women in the Dark: Female Photographers in the U.S., 1850–1900* (Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing, 2020); and Boris Friedewald, *Women Photographers from Julia Margaret Cameron to Cindy Sherman* (Munich, London, and New York: Prestel Publishing, 2018).



Old “Danny” Haulstard and His Humble Dwelling

### A Typical Backwoodsman

#### Old “Danny” and His Home

#### He is Peaceable, Ignorant and Fond of Telling Stories—A “News” Representative Pays Him a Call.

A representative of the *News* had occasion to visit the Russian Hebrew settlement about one and a half miles north of Norma and while there ran across a full type of genuine backwoodsman. His hovel, hut or whatever it may be called, is a one-story frame building, 10 by 12 in size. It has weather-boards, but no plaster, and a stove pipe sticks out of a window.

It is in a small clearing which is surrounded by water. The *News* man gave a gentle rap and a very welcome “Come in” was the reply. He went in and his first sight was a bunk or bed on one side, made of coats, guano sacks, etc., while on the other side was a stove and cooking utensils. A soap box was handed him and he took a seat.

It was learned that the proprietor was Daniel Haulstard, familiarly known as “Danny.” He is very talkative and can relate several good “bear stories,” of how he has killed bears years ago in the swamps near the door, but they are all gone now. He says there are still some rattlesnakes “around yere,” but he is not much afraid of them.

The greatest story Danny told the reporter was one concerning the time when “a big fire was raging over the world.” He says the whole world seemed to be on fire. “I had been to Wineland and wen I cum home the woods all around my place wus all in a far, and my house and two dogs wus all burned up, and I had a lot of money burnt up too, nearly a dollar.

The neighbors say that Danny is very peaceable and willing to help, especially at hog-killing time, and the only pay he asks is a small piece of last year’s salt pork.

You can find Danny during camp meeting at some brook along the road, always willing to water horses that come along, and some Sundays he gathers in several pennies. No doubt some of the readers of the *News* remember seeing him last summer, during Malaga camp meeting, somewhere along the road with a bucket in hand. He picks huckleberries, gathers wild grapes and carts wood to Vineland, and may be seen almost any Saturday in Vineland, around the auction sales.

Danny is said to have come from a very well-to-do family, but he and his brother David (now deceased) preferred living in this way.

David died several years ago while at work in Vineland. He had a fit, and persons who were there say that they began to rub his limbs to bring him out of it but before they could get the dirt off he died.

Danny claims to have a good “cete” for making bread. It is: A sack of flour, a bucket of water and a little salt; set it away until it rises and then bake it on top of the stove (cooks, please try it for yourselves). He is uneducated and, like Topsy, does not know how old he is. Some of the neighbors claim that he is 60, while others say 75.

He is never willing to swap horses unless he an give a little boot; then he knows his new horse is better than his old one.

*Bridgeton Evening News* (Bridgeton, New Jersey), Jan 12, 1898. 3.

## SoJourn



**George F. Hammond Plumbing Office.** Camden born in August 1865, Frank E. Mead, at the surprisingly young age of 22, employed his skills as an architect to design this stunning office building for plumber George F. Hammond in 1888. The 1880 federal decennial census enumerates Frank, age 14, as an apprentice architect. His father, William, worked as a house carpenter and this likely provided the impetus for Frank to enter an allied field. A paragraph appearing on the front page of the *Camden Daily Courier*, April 25, 1888, edition, states: "George F. Hammond, the plumber, has purchased the Garwood property at the southeast corner of Third street and Taylor avenue. He will build a plumbing shop on the lot adjoining the house, and will occupy the latter as his residence." Hammond commissioned Mead to design the office and it was truly an impressive work of beauty, complete with a gryphon on the façade corner, an incised floral spray containing the date, "1888" within a wreath above the windows, and a side dormer with a spire roof. The brickwork appears to be checkerboard Flemish bond, even on the sidewall along Taylor Avenue. Mead designed the primary entry around faux flared columns with capitals featuring exquisite carvings. Leaded glass windows can be seen throughout the building. The building culminates with a gambrel roof over half of the structure and features a very narrow leaded window above the floral spray and wreath. Following this successful design, Frank entered the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art in 1889 to study architecture. He then entered partnership arrangements with two firms before leaving the area in 1901, when he relocated to San Diego. Mead died in 1940. The Hammond office building survived until at least 1967, but an urban renewal project between then and 1970 replaced the buildings on South Third Street with a parking lot.