

## Dating 19th Century Portrait Photos: One-Day Workshop

Instructor: Gary D. Saretzky, Archivist, Educator, and Photographer

Old portrait photographs are often found without a date but dates can be estimated fairly precisely based on the type of photograph; sitter's identity and clothing; physical characteristics of the photo, including mounting styles and mount thickness; photographer; and other factors. The workshop covers major types of 19<sup>th</sup> century photographic processes used for portraiture and when they were popular, including daguerreotype, ambrotype, ferrotype (popularly known as tintype), albumen print, collodion print, and silver gelatin print, followed by techniques for dating photographs. Participants will learn how to use a micrometer to measure mounting board thickness. The workshop features four slide presentations, with about four hundred examples of the most commonly found types of portrait photographs: daguerreotypes & ambrotypes, cartes-de-visite, cabinet cards, and ferrotypes in chronological order to help participants learn how the look of such images and their mounts evolved between the 1840s and the early 1900s. The presenter will also display original sample photographs and selected publications, and provide handouts helpful for dating photographs and identifying names of card photographs for metadata.

### Saretzky Bio

Archivist, educator, and photographer, Gary Saretzky retired after more than 50 years working as an archivist, most recently as the Monmouth County Archivist (1994–2019). He taught the history of photography as an adjunct professor for 34 years at Mercer County Community College (1977–2012) and is the author of more than 100 articles and reviews on the history of photography and photographic conservation. Saretzky's list of more than 3,000 19th century New Jersey photographers is available at [saretzky.com](http://saretzky.com), which also includes his lecture schedule, online photo book store, samples of his photographs, and other resources.

### Other Saretzky Presentations

Saretzky speaks regularly on 19th Century New Jersey photographers. He lectures on photographers for each of New Jersey's 21 counties and Newark, Trenton, Paterson, and Princeton; 19th Century New Jersey Women Photographers; New Jersey's Civil War Era Photographers, and 19th Century New Jersey African American Photographers, among other topics. In these talks, he explores the role of the local photographer in the era before amateur photography became widespread and the types of photographs they produced. He then presents biographical profiles of, and images by, selected photographers, including both portraits and outdoor views. Saretzky's other lectures and recent journal articles are listed on his website, [saretzky.com](http://saretzky.com)