

The Howell Sisters: Photographers of New Brunswick, Circa 1900

Presentation by Gary D. Saretzky

Abstract

The prosperous Howell family, which lived on George Street in New Brunswick, New Jersey, around 1900, included three adult sisters who were avid amateur photographers using glass plate negatives. They especially photographed in and around the house; family members and other people; urban and rural landscapes; buildings, especially house and churches; beach scenes and river views; and horse-drawn vehicles like carriages and sleighs. This talk includes an overview of how photographs were made in the 19th and early 20th century, followed by samples of work by the Howells from the collection of the New Brunswick Public Library. Attendees will learn about the daily life of Victorian women through the photographs they made and see New Brunswick as it appeared at the dawn of the twentieth century.

Bio

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, where he was County Archivist, 1994–2019. Saretzky taught the history of photography at Mercer County Community College, 1977–2012, and lectures regularly on New Jersey photographers and other photo-related topics. 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 *New Jersey History* (Fall/Winter 2004.) His website is <http://saretzky.com>.