

19th Century New Jersey Women Photographers: Exceptional Artists in a Mostly Male Profession

In the 19th century, of more than 3,000 professional photographers in New Jersey, only about 3% were women. Like their male colleagues, they provided their communities with daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, cabinet cards, and other types of photographs. In this slide program, the successful careers of selected women pioneer photographers active in New Jersey will be highlighted, including Charlotte Prosch in Newark, Jessie Carhart in Phillipsburg, Hannah Flanagin in Woodstown, and the renowned Amelia Van Buren & Eva Watson (later Watson-Schütze) in Atlantic City, whose work was shown at the Universal Exposition of 1900 in Paris and who became a member of the Photo Secession, the pictorial photographers group led by Alfred Stieglitz.

Biographical Summary

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 “Charlotte Prosch: New Jersey’s First Female Daguerreotypist,” *Garden State Legacy*, Issue 31, available online, and “Nineteenth-Century New Jersey Photographers,” *New Jersey History*, Fall/Winter 2004, a revised version of which is available at <http://saretzky.com>.