

## 19th Century New Jersey Photographers: Edward H. Stokes, Daguerreotypist and Philanthropist

### Abstract

What is now the Trent House, the oldest structure in Trenton, New Jersey, served as the mansion at the Woodlawn estate in the 19th century when it was occupied by Edward H. Stokes from 1860 to his death 1900. In the 1850s, Stokes was a Trenton daguerreotypist and competed for portrait business with Morris Moses and Jonathan Cheesman. After his marriage to the wealthy heiress Permelia Wood, Stokes became active in Trenton civic affairs, investments, and philanthropy, while his nephew, Stockton Stokes, remained a photographer for many years in Trenton and Philadelphia. This illustrated lecture explores the early history of photography in Trenton and the life of Edward H. Stokes, who became one of the wealthiest men in Trenton.

### 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. 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>.