Sources for Information on Nineteenth-Century Massachusetts Photography (8.1.18)

(Updated August 1, 2018, all links active at that time.)

This document is a sidebar to the online edition of A Directory of Massachusetts Photographers: 1839-1900, available at http://openarchives.umb.edu. Please send additions with significant Massachusetts content to: ron.polito@umb.edu. Contributors will be acknowledged in subsequent updates. A bracketed note follows each entry provided by others, e.g., [L-1]. See the key at the end of this listing

Online Resources


The Daguerreian Society, http://www.daguerre.org A partial index to the Daguerreian Annual will be found at http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/bha/


Hunnewell Estate Wellesley, Massachusetts Stereoviews, 1860s-1900 (2013), Luedke, James A., Jr., http://phsne.org/members/Luedke/Home. (Link is currently broken, but should be repaired soon.)

Luminous Lint, for Connoisseurs of Fine Photography, Griffiths, Alan, http://www.luminous-lint.com/app/home/


Photography Database, Andrew Eskin & Greg Drake, http://photographydatabase.org/

Pioneer American Photographers (blog), Chris Steele, https://pioneeramericanphotographers.wordpress.com. e-mail: Chris@pioneeramericanphotographers.com. [S-1]
Nota Bene: Nineteenth-century photographic journals contain a wealth of information about Massachusetts photography, with many issues now online. Among these journals, Humphrey’s Journal of Photography and the The Philadelphia Photographer issues had long runs. Search:

- The Internet Archive at https://archive.org/details/texts
- The Hathitrust Digital Library at https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/ls?a=page;page=advanced

Books & Articles

General Resources


Resources Specific to a Massachusetts


- Boston Then and Now, Partick L. Kennedy (San Diego: Thunder Bay Press, 2008).


The Development of Photography in Boston, 1840-1875, Pamela Hoyle (Boston: The Boston Athenaeum, 1979).


F. Holland Day: Suffering the Ideal, James Crump (Santa Fe, New Mexico: Twin Palms, 1999).


The Images of American Series, various authors (Charleston, SC, Arcadia Press Publishing). An extensive series of illustrated books containing numerous 19th- and early 20th-century photographs. Several specific to Massachusetts’ cities and towns. Unfortunately, the photographers are rarely identified.


“Josiah Johnson Hawes, Dies in His Ninety-Fourth Year,” reprinted from the *Boston Transcript*, August 9, 1901.


*New Perspectives on F. Holland Day*, Patricia Fanning, editor (Stonehill College, Easton, MA & The Norwood Historical Society, Norwood, MA, 1997)


A Photographic Portrait of Boston: 1840-1865, Anna Lee Kamplain (Boston: Boston University Art Gallery, 2006).


The Strange Case of William Mumler, Spirit Photographer, Lewis Kaplan (Minneapolis: University of Minneapolis Press, 2008).


Whipple and Black: Commercial Photographers in Boston, Sally Pierce (Boston: The Boston Athenaeum, 1987).


Young America: The Daguerreotypes of Southworth and Hawes, Grant Romer & Brian Wallis, editors (New York: International Center of Photography, 2005).

Collections with Strong Nineteenth-Century Massachusetts Photograph Holdings


Boston Athenaeum, Boston, MA.  http://www.bostonathenaeum.org
   A large collection of daguerreotypes and paper images. Includes a Study Collection of Nineteenth-Century Boston Photographers, holding some 1,600 CDVs and Cabinet Cards by Boston photographers and a smaller Study Collection of Nineteenth-Century Massachusetts Photographers.

Boston Public Library, Boston, MA.  http://www.bpl.org/research/print

Bostonian Society, Boston, MA.  http://www.bostonhistory.org
   A large collection of 19th-century Boston street scenes.


Digital Public Library of America, https://dp.la/

George Eastman Museum. https://www.eastman.org/search-collections

Harvard University, http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/finearts/collections/photograph.cfm

   A large collection of daguerreotypes and paper images.


Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA.  http://www.masshist.org

Nota Bene: A number of Massachusetts town libraries and historic societies have significant nineteenth-century photographic holdings

Nineteenth-Century Photography Dealers
(19th-century photographs frequently appear on the websites below.)


Chet Urban (no website), e-mail: chesteru@verizon.net


Key to Contributors

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