

Brief Bios on Photographers in This Auction

Wallace Nutting (1861-1941): Wallace Nutting was America's foremost photographer during the early 20th c. and claims to have sold millions of his hand-colored photographs prior to the advent of color printing. Working from Southbury CT (1905-1912) and Framingham MA (1912-1941), Nutting was also a Minister, Author, and Furniture Maker. In our opinion, Nutting sold more hand-colored photos than all other photographers combined.

Charles Henry Sawyer (1868-1954...the Father): Actually there were two "Sawyers". *Charles Henry Sawyer* started the Sawyer Picture Company in Maine prior to moving his business to Concord NH to be closer to the White Mountains tourism market. His son, Harold Boardman Sawyer, joined the family business after the passing of his father. Charles Sawyer had clearly collaborated with Wallace Nutting early in his career and, in our opinion, Sawyer was #2 in photographic output, following only Wallace Nutting in total sales. Nearly all of the Sawyer pictures were Exterior scenes, and only one Colonial Interior scene has ever been found.

Harold Boardman Sawyer (d. 1980...the Son): Harold, the son of Charles Sawyer, joined the family business and continued it after his father's death in 1954.

Frederick Herbert Thompson (1844-1909...the Father): Actually there were two "Fred Thompsons". ***Frederick H. Thompson*** founded "*The Thompson Art Company*" (sometimes called *TACO*). The Thompsons worked out of Portland Maine and their photographic output was mostly from New England. Overall, it appears that the Thompsons were #3 in total photographic output, following *Wallace Nutting and Charles Sawyer*. There is also evidence that Frederick H. Thompson and Wallace Nutting had collaborated and were friendly competitors.

Frederick Munson Thompson (1876-1923...the Son): In 1909 *Frederick H. Thompson* died and his son "*Frederick M. Thompson*" ran the family business until he died in 1923.

David Davidson (1881-1967): Davidson worked out of Providence RI in his small, family-run business. While attending Brown University, Davidson had also attended the church where Wallace Nutting was the Minister. David Davidson and Wallace Nutting had clearly collaborated and were friendly competitors in later years. Overall, it appears that the Davidson was #4 in total photographic output, following *Wallace Nutting, Fred Thompson & Charles Sawyer*.

JC Bicknell: John Carleton Bicknell worked in Portland ME during the early 20th c. There was an affiliation with the Bicknell Manufacturing Co. and Bicknell Photo Service. He also had a brother, Edward Alton Bicknell, who played a role in the family business.

Harold John "Hal" Burrowes (1880-1926): Operated the HJ Burrowes Postcard Co. in Portland ME, on the same street where JC Bicknell had a studio in Portland ME. Hal died in 1926 and his family took over the business. At some point they purchased the remains of Fred

Thompson's "*Thompson Art Co.*", which is how Burrowes acquired many Thompson images. Sadly the surviving glass negatives were determined valueless and no institution was willing to accept the heavy and outdated plates. They were subsequently sold to a florist who washed off the emulsion and used as part of a green house.

Asahel Curtis (1874-1941): Asahel was the brother of the much more famous Edward Curtis, the influential western photographer, and was noted for his many hand-colored photos taken throughout the Pacific Northwest.

JM Garrison (1881-1964): John M Garrison was best known for his southwestern US hand-colored photographs, mainly desert and California scenes.

Bessie Pease Gutmann (1876-1960): While Bessie Pease Gutmann was best known for her prints of adorable children, through Gutmann & Gutmann Publishing she also created a series of *Colonial Prints*, most likely trying to compete with Nutting and the other photographers prominent during the *Colonial Revival Movement*.

William James Harris (1868-1940): Although known as the first photographer to ever photograph a ferris wheel (at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago), he was better known as a photographer who took summertime photos around Lake Hopatcong in northern New Jersey, as well as in St. Augustine, Florida during the winter months.

LeBusch: Few details are available on LeBusch but he seems to figure into the Portland ME school of hand-colored photographers during the early 20th century.

Payne: George S. Payne worked out of The Payne Studio in Watkins Glenn NY and was best known for his hand-colored photographs throughout New York State.

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NOTE: This biographical information was gathered from Mike's "Early Twentieth Century Hand-Painted Photography book.