



Historic Camera Club Newsletter

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Reynolds & Branson Ltd.

The beginnings of the company dates back before 1816, at which time Mr. William West F.R.S. took over the Pharmaceutical firm from Mr. Matterson, who himself had been employed by Allen and Hanburys. It was located at 13 Briggate, Leeds.

In 1839 Thomas Harvey joined the business of William West who gave up the pharmacy after 25 years to pursue analytical chemistry. Mr. West was one of the founders of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society. The firm was now called Thomas Harvey.

Mr. Harvey was born at Barnsley, in Yorkshire in 1812. From 1822 to 1825 Harvey studied at Ackworth and afterwards became a chemist apprentice for David Doncaster of Sheffield. Upon Doncasters death he trained at Thomas Southalls in Birmingham for eight years. Thomas Harvey is well remembered for his philanthropic mission to bring attention to the slavery being practiced in the West Indies under the guise of the "Apprentice system". At age 21 Thomas Harvey and a friend Joseph Sturge of Birmingham, traveled to the West India islands and returned with evidence of the inhumane conditions and treatment of blacks. In 1837 Sturge and Harvey published "The West Indies in 1837" which triggered Lord Broughham to enforce the negro emancipation and abolish the "Apprentice System" on August 1, 1838. In 1837 Harvey settled in Leeds as a chemist.



THOMAS HARVEY.

REYNOLDS & BRANSON, Ltd.

Manufacturers and Exporters of

CHEMICAL & PHYSICAL APPARATUS.



**PURE CHEMICALS
AND REAGENTS.**

**LABORATORY
FITTINGS AND
FURNITURE.**

OPTICAL LANTERNS AND SLIDES.

PHOTOGRAPHIC APPARATUS.

Catalogues of the above post free.

14 COMMERCIAL STREET, LEEDS.

Richard Reynolds was born in 1829 and was the eldest son of an apothecary who died when the boy was only four years old. At the age of fourteen he left school and was apprenticed to James Deane a chemist in Chapman. In 1844, Richard Reynolds traveled from his hometown of Banbury to become an apprentice to Thomas Harvey. In 1850 to 1851 he attended the school of Pharmacy in London where he took first prizes in chemistry, materia and botany in a contest held by the pharmaceutical society. He then went to Mr. Henry Deane at Chapman for two years, then returned to the Leeds business.

In 1854 Richard Reynolds joined Thomas Harvey as a partner, at which time the company was called Harvey & Reynolds. In 1861 the firm was joined by a Mr. Fowler for a short period of time.

As early as 1867 the firm was called Harvey, Reynolds & Co. and engaged in the manufacture and selling of photographic supplies and apparatus. An 1874 article in the British Journal cites a description of an improved head rest called the "Harrogate Rest" manufactured by the Harvey, Reynolds & Co.

On December 25, 1884 Thomas Harvey died at the age of 72 and Mr. Reynolds took on Mr. Fredrick Branson as a partner in the established company. An 1884 advertisement listed the partnership between Reynolds & Branson (late Harvey, Reynolds & co.). The advertisement is for "Pure Essence of Beef", English beef in the form of a delicate jelly and "Extract of Beef" for making delicious beef tea.

In 1890 Richard Reynolds son, Richard Freshfield (Fred) Reynolds joined the company as a partner.

The firm of Reynolds & Branson was registered in July 1898 as a limited corporation with a capital of £34,000 in

shares of £10 each by Messrs. R. Reynolds, F. W. Branson and R. F. Reynolds being the first. No remuneration was given to Mr. R. Reynolds, but £700 each per anum to the others. The business was established as chemists, opticians & etc., located at 14 Commercial Street and 13 Briggate, Leeds.

On April 5th, 1901 Richard Reynolds died at his home at cliff Lodge, Hyde Park, Leeds at the age of 70.

On June 1st, 1907 Richard Freshfield Reynolds, who went by the name Fred, died at the age of forty-six at his residence, Hill Carr, Crossbeck Road, Ilkley, Leeds. He fell in the street and sustained a compound fracture of the right ankle, which, though not at first considered serious, led to complications and the the immediate cause of death being heart failure.

The company continued well into the 1970's.

Website Update

The development of a community "4 Sale" area is now in beta testing and can be seen and used on our site. It can be accessed through a link on the top of our website pages, located with our other menu items and also directly through your member home page. When you access the database from your home page, you will be directed to the items that you have for sale and a big blue button to "add new classified ad" items. Right now it is set up like Craig's list, allowing to post an advertisement for items that you are willing to sell or trade. The list containing your items will have text buttons only visible to you, allowing you to modify or delete your entries. Once posted buyers are encouraged to contact you in order to strike a deal and agree on shipping methods and cost. Once members have sold their item, then it is the member's responsibility to delete the posting. Listings are free and

currently can be left indefinitely. Since we are a small club with only 300 members this should be manageable. We will re-evaluate controls if it gets to be a problem. Here is a snap shot of a members "4 Sale" area.

The screenshot shows the 'Historic Camera Members' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: HC, Msg Board, Librarian, Club, 4 Sale, Shop, Links, Gallery, Flickr, Members. Below this is the 'Historic CAMERA' logo and a 'Used Camera Buyer' advertisement. The main content area is titled 'Historic Camera Members' and shows a '4 Sale' section. It lists three items for sale:

- Nikon FG Camera**: Category: Cameras - 1920 to 2000, Location: Los Angeles, Posted: 2013-05-11 06:16:10, Price: 75.00.
- 3 Manuals - Kodak Workshop Series**: Category: Books - Manuals, Location: torrance, Ca. usa, Posted: 2013-05-05 08:54:25, Price: 11.00.
- Barnets Book of Photography**: Category: Books - History, Location: Torrance, Ca. USA, Posted: 2013-05-05 09:53:59, Price: 7.00.

systems, and also performed any required photography experiments.



William K. L. Dickson

William Kennedy Laurie Dickson was born in Brittany, France to English and Scottish parents on August 3, 1860. Little is known about his childhood beyond his interest in science. In 1879, the 19-year-old contacted American inventor Thomas Edison in search of a job. Unfortunately, Mr. Edison was not hiring any additional personnel at that time, but nevertheless Mr. Dickson immigrated to the United States accompanied by his mother and sisters. Four years later, he again contacted Mr. Edison, and his persistence paid off with a job at the Goerk Street laboratory of Edison Electric Works in New York City. He was quickly promoted to Superintendent, in charge of developing electric power and light

In 1888, Mr. Dickson was moved to the Edison laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey, where he began working on motion photography that was inspired by Eadweard James Muybridge's sequential motion photographs of people and animals. In 1888, sequence pictures were transferred on a spiral to a cylinder machine reminiscent of the photograph. This process, however, proved unfeasible, and so Mr. Dickson focused upon developing a new ore-milling machine until an alternative presented itself in the form of George Eastman's celluloid roll film in 1889. This flexible film was thin, durable, and transparent, all of the characteristics Mr. Dickson was seeking. His experiments resumed shortly thereafter resulting in the 1891 completion of a film camera and viewer. The kinetograph camera required perforated 35 mm film, and

the kinetoscope or peepshow viewer could run 50 feet of film in a nonstop loop. By 1893, Mr. Edison was mass-producing these viewers, and Mr. Dickson was already working on the kineto-phonograph, which he referred to in an 1895 issue of Cassier's Magazine as the "dual talking machine." Recognizing the historical significance of this innovation, Mr. Dickson declared, "The advantages to students and historians will be immeasurable." Although Thomas Edison claimed credit for the invention of motion picture film and projection, the true mastermind was William Kennedy Dickson. A kinetoscope parlor featuring ten viewers opened in New York on April 14, 1894, and by year's end, such parlors appeared throughout the United States and Europe. International cinema was born.

In April of 1895, Mr. Dickson left the Edison laboratory and collaborated briefly with Woodville Latham on developing a projection variation of the kinetoscope known as the Panoptikon projector. Eight months later, he formed the American Mutoscope Company with Herman Casier, Elias Koopman, and Henry N. Marvin. For this new endeavor, Mr. Dickson constructed a wide-film camera known as the Biograph, with a projector that could show the films on a wide screen. In May 1897, Mr. Dickson went back to England to produce Biograph films that recorded several important historical events including Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebration that year, footage of Pope Leo XIII in 1898, and Boer War battles in 1899 and 1900. Dickson's association with Biograph ended inexplicably in 1911, as did his cinematic innovations. His last years were spent quietly in the English countryside until his death on September 28, 1935 at the age of 75. William Kennedy Dickson lived long enough to see his kinetoscope invention transformed into talking motion pictures, but sadly was denied recognition for pioneering motion photography in his lifetime.

Ref:
1996 Biographical Dictionary of the History of Technology (London: Routledge), pp. 262-263.

1895 Cassier's Magazine, Vol. VII (New York: The Cassier Magazine World Building), pp. 145-156.

2012 William Kennedy Laurie Dickson (URL: <http://www.wildfilmhistory.org/person/2757/photo/496/William+Dickson.html>).

Lundelius Camera Co.

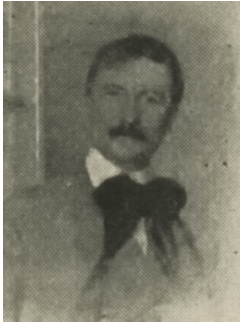
The Lundelius Camera Company of Port Jervis, NY., was incorporated in 1895 to sell cameras and other photographers supplies and specialties with a capital of \$35,000. The directors were Theodore Ludlum, Augustus Lundelius, Albert T. Porter, William E. Scott, Emmett Vansickle, Phillip G Wagner, and William Parshall. The company was based on A. Lundelius's US Patent no. 534,115 describing a novel magazine camera, similar to the hetherington magazine camera but simpler in design. A side note of interest, are reports that of Mr. Lundeius's daughter Stella had the ability to overcome the law of gravity, as to make it easy for any person to remove heavy articles of furniture. She was said to exhibit a high degree of magnetism. The Lundelius Camera Company was in business for a brief time and so the cameras are rare.

Message Board

For you Kodak collectors out there, Willy has posted an opportunity to purchase a collection of 400 historic Kodak Cameras at once. Check it out under the for sale category. He has a link to his website.

Owen, a documentary-maker working for the BBC in London is looking to hear from anyone UK-based with an interest in 1920s photography and cameras or anyone with an interest in the techniques of 'spirit photography'. Spooky, eh.

Rudolf Eickemeyer



The namesake of an industrial entrepreneur, Rudolf Eickemeyer Jr. was born in Yonkers, New York on August 7, 1862. He and his five siblings enjoyed a carefree childhood

raised at their impressive "Seven Oaks" home. After attending Yonkers public schools and Hoboken Academy, he was a machinist apprentice for four years. Young Eickemeyer's interest in drawing made him a natural choice to work in his father's machine factory as a draftsman. In 1884, he purchased a camera to photograph his father's patented machines. Photography quickly became a passion and he began his formal education by taking lessons from a local photographer and studying professional journals. He approached photography from both scientific and artistic perspectives, believing technology could enhance the medium's aesthetic appeal.

Mr. Eickemeyer found a perfect personal and professional partner in Isabelle Hicks, whom he married in 1891. She was often featured in his landscape photographs and award-winning portraits. He, along with colleague Alfred Stieglitz were the first Americans elected into London's Linked Ring Brotherhood. After publishing several technical articles in publications such as *The Photographic Times*, Mr. Eickemeyer officially turned professional in 1896 when he opened his own studio, a year after the death of his father, who never approved of his son pursuing photography as a career. He

further reinforced his professional status and reputation by becoming art manager of the prestigious Campbell Art Studio on Fifth Avenue in New York City.

Mr. Eickemeyer's photographs of attractive young socialites gave the period known as 'the Gilded Age' its aristocratic and decidedly feminine face. According to early twentieth-century critic, the three most influential men in pictorial photography at



the time were Alfred Stieglitz, Sadakichi Hartmann, and Rudolf Eickemeyer Jr. Although he still had to depend upon commercial photography to make a living, his art photography was receiving critical

acclaim and often featured in Alfred Stieglitz's Camera Work. His most famous portraits were those of married starlet Evelyn Nesbit, commissioned by her boyfriend, prominent architect Stanford White. Miss Nesbit would later be at the center of a national scandal when her jealous husband shot and killed Mr. White, which increased the commercial value of Mr. Eickemeyer's photographs significantly.

Sadly, despite this success, he and Mr. Stieglitz had an artistic disagreement over print manipulation that ended their professional relationship and their friendship. Mr. Stieglitz championed Robert Demachy's manipulated print techniques whereas Mr. Eickemeyer preferred the straightforward photographic images of Curtis Bell's American Salon. Sadly for Mr. Eickemeyer, Mr. Stieglitz emerged triumphant in this battle of ideologies. By 1915, his critical support began to waver, and the next year he lost his beloved wife. He happily rebounded three years' later when he married Florence Brevoort, daughter of landscape artist James Renwick Brevoort. The couple lived quietly until 69-year-old Rudolf Eickemeyer Jr. died at Yonkers' St. John's Hospital on April 25, 1932. Shortly before his death, he donated much of his personal collection to the Smithsonian's Section of Photography, along with a donation of his many awards, books letters, articles, cameras, prints, and lantern slides. A critical assessment published in an 1895 issue of *The Photographic Times* described Mr. Eickemeyer's approach to photography: "In all his pictures there is thought, feeling, and an originality which is never out of harmony or eccentric."

Ref:
2007 *Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography*, Vol. I (New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group LLC), p. 478.

1986 *In My Studio: Rudolf Eickemeyer, Jr. and the art of the camera, 1885-1930* (Yonkers, NY: Hudson River Museum), pp. 5, 9-11, 15, 19-23.

1972 Photography of Rudolf Eickemeyer, Jr. (Yonkers, NY: Hudson River Museum).

Frederick A. Webster



MR. F. A. WEBSTER,
THE WEBSTER STUDIO, OAKLAND, CAL.

Frederick Arthur Webster was born in Michigan to Edwin and Ann (White) Webster on May 1, 1860. After receiving a public school education in Lapeer County, he apprenticed at his older brother Harry's photographic gallery while still in high school. While still working for his brother in Lapeer, he married a local girl named Lottie McCullagh in 1884. Six years' later, the couple moved to Greeley, Colorado, where they briefly operated their own business. From there, they moved to Laramie, Wyoming, where Mr. Webster managed a branch of his brother's photographic

business.

Finally, in 1889, Mr. Webster and his wife arrived in Oakland, California, where he remained for the rest of his life. He opened his own studio at 1069 Broadway, where he quickly developed a reputation for his stylish cameras and quality lenses. His portrait specialty of babies and children was the result of taking combination photographs of children which were then mounted onto a card. These became highly sought keepsakes. Mr. Webster also specialized in carbon portraiture, which were noted for their artistry and permanent finish. Mr. Webster prided himself on his portraits' authentic hand-painted backgrounds, and had them prepared by regional artists in New York and Chicago. He also experimented with light and shadow in order to achieve the greatest dramatic effects for his portraits. Although Mr. Webster's successful studio employed several retouchers, including prominent female landscape and still-life painter Sabrina P. Lathorp, he often enjoyed retouching his own photographs whenever he could. He believed doing so enabled him to develop newer and more efficient processes that further distinguished his work.

Mr. Webster is credited with encouraging the professional photographic movement in California, where it was still regarded more as an oddity than an art form. He was instrumental in organizing the Photographers Association of California, which consisted of professionals in the Oakland and San Francisco Bay areas. Its first convention was held at San Francisco's Mechanics' Pavilion in late October 1903, and inspired future statewide organizations including the present-day Professional Photographers of California. Mr. Webster's tireless efforts to promote photography as an artistic medium on the West Coast were frequently hampered by finances, which made it difficult to compete with the larger and well-established East Coast

organizations. However, Northern California would eventually attract such 20th-century photographic pioneers as Edward Weston and Imogen Cunningham, among others. According to U.S. Census records, F. A. Webster died between 1930 and 1940 although the exact date is unknown.

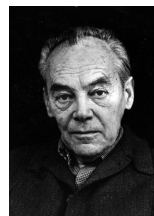
Ref:
1898 Alameda County: the Eden of the Pacific (Oakland: The Oakland Tribune), p. 220.
1892 The Bay of San Francisco, Vol. II (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company), pp. 646-647.
1918 The Photographic Journal of America, Vol. LV (Philadelphia: Edward L. Wilson Company, Inc.), pp. 247-252.
1903 Wilson's Photographic Magazine, Vol. XL (New York: Edward L. Wilson), p. 563.

New Camera Listings:

The
Lundelius

Camera Company [Lundelius Camera Company](#)

New Biographies



[Gyorgy Kepes](#)



[Zaida Ben-Yusuf](#)

Send Comments & Suggestions to
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