

Robert Taft photography correspondence

Section 23, Pages 661 - 690

This correspondence documents the research Robert Taft undertook in writing his works on the history of American photography. It includes letters he wrote and responses. Correspondents include staff in historical and other collecting institutions, family members of early photographers and expedition members, publishers, and other people researching early U. S. photographers. It also documents some preservation work he did on early photographs. See Taft's photography research notes as Kansas Memory unit 228066.

Creator: Taft, Robert, 1894-1955

Date: 1926-1955

Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll. #172, Box 11-12, Photography-Correspondence

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Robert Taft photography correspondence

R.T.

- 2 -

January 10, 1936

camera, chemicals, instruction book, unused copper plates, sample daguerreotypes, etc., including some very remarkable early daguerreotype portraits of the Indians, some interesting street scenes, copies of statutory, etc. While I was negotiating for the purchase of this collection, an agent of Henry Ford came along and snapped it up. I suppose it is now in the photographic studio in Ford's old time village at Dearborn. It was a remarkable complete and interesting equipment.

Have you in your collection a copy of the photograph of S. F. B. Morse with the first daguerreotype camera? This original photograph was issued as an illustration for the Philadelphia Photographer in the seventies or eighties and a few separate copies were sent out by the editor of the magazine to his friends including my father. It is a very interesting photograph and might well be used as an illustration for your history.

Sincerely yours

R. W. Taft
Librarian

*for many
years a
photographer
at Geneva, N.Y.*

RWGV:W

Robert Taft photography correspondence

Boston Daily Journal, October 26, 1860

Altitude of the Recent Balloon Ascension. During the ascension of the balloon in which the enterprising photographic artist, Mr. Black, took his views of Boston, the balloon was noticed and watched by the party of the United States Coast Survey, which is making a topographical survey for the Harbor Commissioners. This party was at the time on the "Outer Brewster," at the entrance of the harbor, and when the balloon appeared at its greatest height an observation was taken upon it. As the balloon was reported to have passed over South Boston, or in that direction, its distance from the Brewster was about eight miles; taking this distance as a base, the height of the balloon could not have been less than 7760 feet, which is the elevation given by the observations.

Robert Taft photography correspondence

January 10, 1936

Mr. Harold Seton,
201 E. 40th St.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Seton:

I am preparing a history of American photography for publication and am seeking illustrative material. The New York Public Library has suggested that possibly you could help me.

I wish to secure portraits of Napoleon Sarony and J. M. Mora and representative examples of their photographic work prior to 1885. Sarony, according to a contemporary critic, "introduced into photography the employment of Hogarth's famous line of beauty and made photography picturesque."

Mora's forte was the employment of accessories and painted backgrounds, "sea and sky, plains and mountain, tropic luxuriance and polar wastes; every style of scenery from Egypt to Siberia" being represented.

Have you among your collection of photographs several of both Mora's and Sarony's which would illustrate these points, as well as the portraits of the men themselves?

If you do not have, could you give me any suggestions as to where such illustrations might be secured?

Any aid that you can give me will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT:NS

Robert Taft photography correspondence

The New York Public Library
Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
FIFTH AVENUE & 42ND STREET

New York, January 13, 1936

Professor Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
The University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Professor Taft:

In reply to your letter of January 7:

According to the directories, Matthew B. Brady lived at 27 N. Moore Street in 1848-49; 20 Chambers Street in 1849-50; 29 Broadway in 1851-52. He is not listed in 1850-51. All these addresses appear to be boarding houses. During the above period his business address was 205 Broadway.

We do not have the Brooklyn Bridge photographs by George Rockwood, nor have we been able to find any reproductions.

I shall be interested to look up your articles in *American Photography*. We are all glad if this Library helped you in their preparation.

Very truly yours,

K D Metcalf

K. D. Metcalf

Chief of the Reference Department

KT

Robert Taft photography correspondence

January 13, 1936

The Librarian,
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Can you give me any information concerning the publication of E. J. Muybridge, "Descriptive Zoopraxography, or the Science of Animal Locomotion?"

Muybridge worked at the University of Pennsylvania for several years beginning in 1884 and I thought possibly the above work was published by your institution. What I desire to know is the date of publication, publisher, number of pages and volumes, and type of illustrations, i.e. lithographs, halftone, heliotype, etc. Does your library possess a set?

I will be very grateful for any information concerning this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:NS

Robert Taft photography correspondence

January 14, 1936

Mr. John A. Tennant,
70 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Tennant:

I was much interested in your kind letter of January 9. I take it that I have permission to copy the King and Black halftone from Photo-Miniature No. 52 in case I do not find an original. Of course, if I do so, I will certainly credit the source.

Thank you, too, for the addresses given in your letter. I will write as you suggest. With regard to the Brady article and its documentation, I am happy to tell you that it has been very carefully done in my manuscript. The manuscript now runs around 125,000 words, twenty chapters, and an appendix of some 500 notes which include well over two thousand citations to the original literature. I have about 150 illustrations for it already, many never previously published, and I hope to get about fifty more.

Can you give me any suggestions as to where I could obtain photographic portraits of J. M. Mora and Sarony? I have treated the work of Sarony, Mora, and Kurtz as one chapter of my book as it seemed to me they were illustrative of the fashionable photographers of the 70's and 80's. I have a very good portrait of Kurtz but none of the other two, although there are half-tones of Sarony available. I have written a number of private collectors, but so far without success.

Did you ever publish in Photo-Miniature obituaries of George Rockwood and of Edward Bierstadt? Our file is not complete but I have gone through everything

Robert Taft photography correspondence

we have and have not found them. If you have published them, will you give me the references? I am also short biographical sketches of C. C. Harrison and of Dewitt Brinkerhoff. I rather think that obituaries were published in Anthony's Bulletin for both, but for some reason or other, my notes are not clear on this point. If you happen to run across them, will you keep me in mind?

You must make no apology for your work with Photo-Miniature. It is the most valuable source of information on photographic matters published after 1900. I have had occasion to refer our photographic laboratory to it many times. The historical side is a field in itself, as you well know.

I would appreciate it if you kept me in mind if you chance across any items or photographs that might be of value in my work. I expect it will be several months before I can get it off to the publishers.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT:NS

Robert Taft photography correspondence

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

January 14, 1936

Mr. Frank V. Chambers, Editor,
The Camera,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Chambers:

Mr. Tennant of Photo-Miniature has suggested that you might be able to tell me something about W. N. Jennings, a commercial photographer of Philadelphia. He supplied Tennant with a print which I would much like to secure for use in my history of American photography. As it was some years ago, Tennant does not know whether Jennings is still alive or not. Can you help me out? If he is not living, do you know his successors?

Any help that you can give me will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

Robert Taft

RT:NS

Dear Dr. Taft:

I called Mr. Jennings' Studio this morning and I find that he has retired from active business (aged 77), and he has all his own negatives at his home.

A letter addressed to Mr. William N. Jennings, Moylan, Rose Valley, Pa. will reach him.

Sincerely yours

Frank V. Chambers

Frank V. Chambers
Publisher

FVC:EM

Robert Taft photography correspondence

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Office of the Superintendent
Yosemite National Park
California

January 15, 1936

Dr. Robert Taft
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

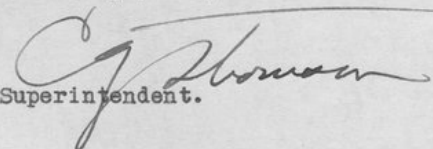
In answer to your request we are sending you three copies of large 18 x 22 photographs taken by C. E. Watkins, a pioneer Yosemite photographer. A few notes have been made on the back of each photograph for use as titles in your forthcoming book. Credit should be given to the Yosemite Museum, Yosemite National Park.

We would like to call your attention to a biography on C. E. Watkins written by Charles B. Turrill and printed in the January 1918 issue of "News Notes on California Libraries" edited by the California State Library. In this biography there are a great many interesting incidents relative to the difficulties presented in turning out these large landscape photographs.

The picture of the Grizzly Giant in our collection is exceedingly important and rare as it is undoubtedly Watkin's first Yosemite picture and also the first picture ever to be made of a Big Tree (*Sequoia gigantea*). To quote from the above biography "In 1858 or 1859, he visited the Mariposa Grove. He was the first man who photographed the 'Grizzly Giant'. A print from that negative showing Galen Clark standing by the side of the 'Grizzly Giant' is our first photographic reproduction of the *sequoia gigantea*. These trees had been drawn previous to that time and had been illustrated in Hutchings California Magazine and on old letter sheets, but Watkins is entitled to the credit of having been the first man to photograph any of them. In 1861 Watkins first visited the Yosemite Valley and made the first 18 x 22 landscape photographs in California, if not in the world".

We shall be glad to furnish any additional information needed.

Cordially yours,


Superintendent.

Robert Taft photography correspondence

January 16, 1936

Director,
U. S. Bureau of the Census
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Will you please furnish me an estimate of the cost for the following search of the census records?

I wish to determine the following facts concerning Matthew B. Brady, the well known photographer, if available, from his census returns of 1850; his age, place of birth, and marital status. The following facts should aid in locating his record: According to the New York city directories, Brady had a residence at 27 N. Moore St, New York City in 1848-49; 29 Broadway in 1851-52. He was abroad from April or May of 1850 to 1851. His place of business from 1849 to 1852 was 205 Broadway.

It may be that his residence abroad in 1850 precluded his inclusion from the 1850 census returns. If this is the case, I would like the 1850 records examined for John A. Brady, a brother of M. B. John A. residence in 1851 is given as 117 Seventh Ave., New York City. If he can be located in the census returns for 1850, I would like to know his age as reported and his place of birth.

This information is desired for a history of American photography which I am preparing for publication.

Thank you for the estimate.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT:NS

Robert Taft photography correspondence

January 18, 1936

Mr. William N. Jennings,
Moylan, Rose Valley,
Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Jennings:

Through Mr. Chambers of The Camera and Mr. Tennant of Photo-Miniature, I have learned that you supplied Photo-Miniature some years ago with print made from Black and King's aerial view of Boston in 1860. Do you still have the print and would it be possible to borrow it? I am getting my history of American photography ready for the publishers and would very much like to secure the Black and King photograph.

Do you have other material concerning prominent American photographers, especially before 1880? I find it particularly difficult to obtain portraits of photographers and examples of their work in this period.

Any information or help that you can give me will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT:NS

Robert Taft photography correspondence

January 18, 1936

Mr. R.W.G. Vail, Librarian,
American Antiquarian Society,
Worcester, Mass.

Dear Mr. Vail:

Thank you for the item from the Boston Journal of Oct. 26, 1860 and for the photostats of the Holmes article which have also arrived.

I have followed your suggestion and written the Ford Museum to see if they have any material I can use as illustrations. I have the photograph of Morse and his daguerreotype camera and am planning to use it in my book. Thank you for mentioning it, however,

Since writing you about the first aerial photographs of Black and King, I have found reprinted a long account of the incident which is credited to the Boston Herald of Oct. 16, 1860. As this account fixes quite definitely the date on which the photographs were made (Oct. 13, 1860). I would appreciate it if you would check the date of publication for me. If you have a file of the Boston Herald will you see if the letter of King appears on Oct. 16, 1860?

Thank you sincerely for your kindness and your aid.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT:NS

Robert Taft photography correspondence

HERBERT C. GROWHURST
MANAGER

PHILADELPHIA OFFICE
ROOM 316
1600 ARCH STREET

~~CONGRESS HALL~~

~~CAPE MAY, NEW JERSEY~~

Philad^a Jan^y 20. 1936.

Hof Robt Taft

Lawrence, Kas.

Dear Sir. I have yours of the 15.

Am able to give you much information about the firm of W & F. Langenheim of which my father William (1807-1874) and his brother Frederick (1809-1879) were the principals, I shall hereafter refer to them as father and uncle. Father although sometimes operating i.e. taking pictures, mostly had charge of the employes and workshop. Atelier as it was called at that time. Have printed matter from early numbers of Franklin Institute Journal Philad^a Photographer London Art Journal and articles from Magazines, also that valuable work The Camera and the Pencil by W.A. Root.

Very glad to assist you. so shall be obliged to write you several letters, of which this is the second am too nervous to write much at any one time.

Robert Taft photography correspondence

Have specimens of work made in the 40's
of the XIX Century. More in my next letter.

Yours truly
F. D. Langenheim.

F. D. LANGENHEIM
1600 ARCH ST.
ROOM 316
PHILADELPHIA

Phila Photog vol 16, 1879 F. Lang.
" " vol 11, 1874 F. Lang.

Sachse - J Frank. Trust. 1893

Note 212

Am Stereoscopic Views - announced in
Public Ledger, Dec (1855).

Hyalotypes - art J. April 1851

Dog of Niagra in 1845 - which excited
so much wonder



Robert Taft photography correspondence

THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
170 CENTRAL PARK WEST
(76-77TH STS.)
NEW YORK CITY

ALEXANDER J. WALL
LIBRARIAN

January 20, 1936

Dr. Robert Taft
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of January 18th, this Society has the Prevost collection of wax paper negatives. They number about fifty, a large majority being views taken in New York City. These latter were reprinted in one or two issues of our Annual Reports some years ago, and I will send you these in order that you may make a selection of a few to be used in your forthcoming history of American Photography.

The original negatives are unusually large, about 11 by 14, and are very delicate so that I am sure a photographer making prints of them would require an additional charge. In fact, there is only one person to whom I would trust the negatives, namely Peter A. Juley of this city. If you will make a list of the views you will desire, I shall advise you as to the price in due time.

Very truly yours,

A. J. Wall
Librarian

Robert Taft photography correspondence

"Carycrest"
Moylan-Rose Valley
Pennsylvania.

January 20 1936

DR. ROBERT TAFT

University of Kansas

Lawrence.

My Dear Doctor:

To your inquiry as to the King and Black balloon photograph of Boston, made in 1860 from a captive balloon: of which you desire to obtain a copy for your book:

I have on file the original wet plate negative which I have very carefully preserved. A glossy print from same costs \$5.

I regret not being able to furnish photographs of early Philadelphia photographers. Perhaps the Secretary of the Philadelphia Photographic Society, 1615 Sansom Street, may be able to help you out.

I hope you will place my friend Frederic E. Ives, with whom for several years I was associated here and abroad, in his right place in your book. He was the father of the halftone process of photo-engraving; (which has revolutionized the graphic arts) the first man to make successful three color prints on paper, and, according to Sir William Abney, "Ives is 'The first man to show in a transparency by photography the colors of nature'". He is also responsible for color movies projected on the screen with the usual projector on his bi-pack film.

I accompanied Mr. Ives to the Yellowstone Park on two different occasions, resulting in a superb collection of color lantern slides, which were used to illustrate my lecture ^{on} of the Yellowstone Park in Natural colors. The first time a lecture had ever been so illustrated.

Robert Taft photography correspondence

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This was in 1891. at the Franklin Institute, which institution awarded Ives its Elliott Cresson Gold Medal.

He is now 82 years old and is actively at work on his latest invention, a simple two color process of color photography (Polychrome) which he is donating to the American Amateur photographers. I believe it is destined to revolutionize and popularize snapshot photography in natural colors, replacing the present monochrome.

Ives has taken out over 70 patents, and has a drawerful of medals. After a friendship lasting over fifty years, I realize that this remarkable, modest, genius has been greatly overlooked by writers on Photography, and credit for many of his vital inventions given to others.

Under another cover I send you a reprint of my article on "Snapshots from Cloudland" from the Franklin Institute Journal. There you will see a good picture of my good friend Samuel A. King. I have the original negatives from which these illustrations were made. Price per glossy print \$2.

In 1882 I made the first photograph of lightning and followed up that hobby for over ten years. A few years ago the Franklin Institute awarded me its John Price Wetherill Medal for my pioneer work in Lightning Photography. I am submitting a few prints. \$1. each.

I would suggest that you apply to the Secretary of the Philadelphia Public Library, for portraits of early Philadelphia Photographers.

If I can be of further service please call on me.

Sincerely,

W. N. Jennings


Robert Taft photography correspondence

HOLMAN'S PRINT SHOP INC.

BOOKS ON PRINTS



DRAWINGS—MAPS

ETCHINGS—LINE ENGRAVINGS—MEZZOTINTS—LITHOGRAPHS
JAPANESE PRINTS—WOODCUTS—ETC. 54 PARK STREET, BOSTON, U.S.A.

January 21, 1936.

Dear Dr. Taft:

I hope you will excuse me for neglecting to get the daguerreotypes off to you. It was left in my hands to do this some time ago.

The Hawes family have been consulted and they are glad to have you use anything you wish of the daguerreotypes we send. Sprague has been fixed up very roughly but safely, I hope, for the journey.

The Mrs. Vincent you did not ask for, but she is so attractive and so widely known that I wanted you to see it. Use it if you wish. The unnamed one is Hawes himself at the time the daguerreotypes were made. The Niagara Falls, the family think, was probably made by Southworth on his trip to California. The firm name was Southworth & Hawes.

Southworth was an expert also. In crediting any of these that you may use please use the firm name (Southworth & Hawes). If you wish to say anything further you may say "Used by permission of Edward S. Hawes".

Sincerely yours,

HOLMAN'S PRINT SHOP, Inc.

E. S. Hawes

*For photographing you may
remove the dag- from frames
if this is necessary.*

The box goes by insured st.

LAH To-day.

LAH

Robert Taft photography correspondence

CITY OF ROCHESTER

NEW YORK

PUBLIC LIBRARY
EDGERTON-PARK
54 Court Street



Dr. Robert Taft
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

January 21, 1936

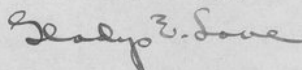
Dear Sir:

We are still working on your inquiry regarding George Eastman and the bank clerk who interested him in photography. When we hear from his former secretary through the Eastman Business Library, we shall write you in detail. So far, we have found no one who knows to whom he referred in the interview. It is the belief of a former employee of the Rochester Savings Bank that he was self-taught.

Clement Powell's name does not appear in the Rochester directory. There was a Frank J. Richardson, student, in the directory for 1872, '74, '75, '77; but none of the other Expedition names appear. These names are unknown to ~~old~~ employees of Mr. Eastman who are still at Kodak and also unknown to Rochester Savings Bank officials where he was employed.

We shall write you later.

Yours very truly,



GEL/K

Head, General Reference Division

Robert Taft photography correspondence

January 21, 1936

Mr. Harry T. Peters
17 Battery Place,
New York City

Dear Mr. Peters:

Thank you for your informative letter of January 20. Since I have your permission I expect to quote a portion of it as I am especially interested in the social and biographical aspects of American photography. The story of Tom Thumb's is especially interesting and epitomizes the influence of photography upon lithography.

Have you ever noticed any of the California lithographs are credited to daguerreotypes taken by Vance? He was by far the most prolific of the California daguerreotypists. I would also like to ask if any of these lithographs are after photographs taken by C. E. Watkins, especially those of Yosemite or the Big Trees.

I am looking forward with pleasure to the originals which you are sending. The plan you suggest is quite satisfactory and very kind of you. Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

Robert Taft photography correspondence

1743 North Beverly Drive,
Beverly Hills, California
Jan. 22nd, 1936

Dr. Robert Taft,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Dr. Taft:

Your letter regarding my Grandfather, S.N.Carvalho was forwarded to me here. I will be glad to try and secure a photograph of him for your book. It so happens that I expect to go back East to my home in the next couple of weeks where I think I can find what you need. My manuscripts and personal possessions, books etc. have not been sent out here yet as we have only been out here since Fall. Amongst my things I had a very nice photo of Grandfather.

I don't know if you are aware that my Father, who was David .N.Carvalho, was the eldest son of S.N.Carvalho and his first profession was that of photography in which he made some interesting experiments and secured patents on same. I will endeavor to secure this information correftly at the same time so that you may have it, in case you need it. He was quite noted in his work as a handwriting expert, one of the first and this profession came from his work in photography, especially the enlarging of questioned handwriting specimens. A book of mine entitled CRIME IN INK, which was published by Scribner in 1929 , which I got together with Boyden Sparkes contained some of his most famous cases which hinged on handwriting. One of the cases had to do with the trial of a Madame Di& de Bar, a charlatan who claimed to be able to do 'spirit photography' - and whose methods were revealed in Court by my Father, who understood photography and some of its possibilities.

I am sorry to have to delay in getting you the required photo but being one of those playwrights who came speculatively to do picture writing, I am not yet settled enough to have my own books etc. at hand.

I had a ~~XXXX~~ card from Julie and Henry Hull at Xmas and wish they were out here now.

Good luck to you on your book and will get at the matter as soon as possible. I do not expect to be in the East more than a couple of weeks as California is to be my home for the future. Did Julie Hull loan you my Grandfather's book "Adventures in the Far West" which I loaned them, written after his trip with her Grandfather General Fremont on his Expedition across the Rockies, as I believe there was a certain sort of Photography used on that trip as my Grandfather was the Artists of the expedition. If she can locate it and forward it to you it might be useful also. Its old and hard to replace. You could return it to me later.

Sincerely,
Blaine Carvalho (Ineiller)

Robert Taft photography correspondence

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

January 22, 1936

The Editor,
Newark Evening News,
Newark, N. J.

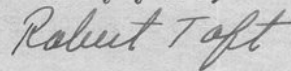
Dear Sir:

Mr. Phillips M. Goodwin has suggested that I write you for information concerning Rev. Hannibal Goodwin. I am preparing a history of American photography for publication and am especially desirous of obtaining his portrait. Can you supply me with a photograph or tell me where it might be obtained? It would be copied and returned promptly.

If you have published any material in the News concerning Mr. Goodwin, would it be possible to secure copies of it?

Any information that you can give me will be highly appreciated.

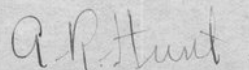
Sincerely yours,



Robert Taft

RT:NS

We do not know where you would be able to get a photo of Rev. Goodwin unless it be possible the House of Prayer (Episcopal) Church, Newark, N. J., where he was once rector, have one in their possession. We have published material on the said Rev. Goodwin but so far back the issues are unavailable.



Robert Taft photography correspondence

1605 Oxford Street
Philadelphia, Pa.
January 20, 1936.

Dr Robert Taft
The University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas.

My dear Dr. Taft: Under date of August 28, 1935
I have your advice of a prospective publication
on the "History of American Photography" by your
pen, expressing the hope that "publication would
not long be delayed." Will you kindly inform
me whether such publication has been made?
I have had two librarians watching for its pub-
lication and, personally, have kept tabs on an-
nouncements in the Book Section of The N.Y. Times

Robert Taft photography correspondence

(Sunday Edition) but we have not seen report of the anticipated book.

Perhaps it will interest you to learn that I have had valuable historical letters from Henry Wyckham Lanier (son of the first Sidney Lanier who stood on the Civil War battlefields with the hero photographer Matthew B. Brady) and Fredericks Hill Preserve — the latter, owner of 25,000 — Brady glass negatives, but not one porcelain miniature. I conceive to claim the treasure I possess is the only porcelain miniature extant by this famous photographic artist.

Awaiting the Courtesy
of your attention,
Very sincerely yours,
(Miss) — Anne C. F. Edwards

Robert Taft photography correspondence

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR
B

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
WASHINGTON

January 25, 1936.

Mr. Robert Taft,
Department of Chemistry,
The University of Kansas,
Lawrence,
Kansas.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of January 16th:

With the exception of the names of the heads of families and other data returned at the First Census, 1790, for certain states, the names recorded at the various censuses have neither been published nor alphabetically arranged, but appear on the schedules in the order in which the enumerators visited the different dwellings; moreover, the Census of 1880 is the first one at which the street name and house number were called for on the schedules, which necessitates, in cities, the examination of the schedules for the entire ward in which the address is included.

There is given below a statement of the estimated cost of an examination of the schedules for the wards in New York city specified, as returned at the Census of 1850, for data concerning Matthew B. and John A. Brady:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area in New York city</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Matthew B. Brady	Ward 3 (embracing 229 Broadway)	\$5.00
"	Ward 5 (embracing 27 N. Moore street)	11.50
"	Ward 1 (embracing 29 Broadway)	10.00
John A. Brady	Ward 16 (embracing 117 7th Avenue)	26.50

If you desire any or all of these searches made, you should forward the requisite amount by Postal Money Order, drawn on Washington, D. C., made payable to the Director of the Census, and the matter will receive attention.



Robert Taft photography correspondence

2nd page.
Mr. Robert Taft.

In addition to the addresses given in your letter, we find the following in the directories specified:

N.Y.city directory	1850-51	Brady, Matthew B. Daguerreotypist 205 Broadway bds. American Hotel (229 Broadway)
ditto	1859	Brady, Matthew B. photographer 205 and 319 Broadway h. Washington
"	1860-61	Brady, Matthew B. photographer 643 Broadway h. Staten Island
Washington, D.C. directory	1860	Brady's Photograph Gallery 352 Pennsylvania Avenue
ditto	1865	Brady & Co. (M.B. Brady and J.F. Gibson) photographs 352 Pennsylvania Avenue

There is inclosed a circular which explains the present policy of the Bureau in matters pertaining to searches of the census schedules.

Very truly yours,

Director.

a.s.

Inclosure.
ERM:mcd

Robert Taft photography correspondence

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

WORCESTER, MASS.

Robert W. G. Vail, Librarian

January 25, 1936

Mr. Robert Taft
Department of Chemistry
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Taft:

We have yours of the 18th and on turning to the file of the Boston Herald find nothing whatever regarding the aerial photographs in the issue of October 16, 1860. However, there was an item in the issue of October 15, a copy of which we enclose for your comparison with the transcript you already have.

I hope you succeed in finding some interesting illustrated material in the Ford Museum. I think you will, if they will let you use it.

Sincerely yours

R. W. G. Vail
Librarian

RWGV:DPW

Robert Taft photography correspondence

THE BOSTON HERALD, October 15, 1860.

THE BALLOON ASCENSION SATURDAY. [13th]

While Mr. Black was in the balloon, Saturday, at the end of a cord twelve hundred feet in length, he obtained several views of the city which stamp the enterprise a success. In the pictures produced notable buildings and the cow-path, crooked streets of our city are portrayed with great distinctness. The harbor if taken in one of these views, and the white sails of a schooner are clearly defined while the line of division between land and water seems to be perfectly delineated.

The view of the city presents it of course in a Lilliputian semblance, and in looking at them one can see something heretofore never seen except by the aeronaut himself. The importance of this successful issue of so curious an experiment cannot be fully estimated at present, but it is certainly full of promise.

Mr. King and Mr. Black had a fine excursion in the air after the pictures were taken. They were up three hours, and went slowly in a southerly direction, landing in Marshfield a little after 4 o'clock. They intended to make experiments from a high altitude, without being tied to the earth, but whether they did, or with what success, we have not yet learned.

Robert Taft photography correspondence

January 25, 1936

Mr. Alexander J. Wall, Librarian,
The New York Historical Society,
170 Central Park West,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wall:

Thank you for the courtesy of sending me the reproductions of the Prevost negatives. If possible, I would like to secure prints made from the negative of Gurney's Daguerrian Gallery (opp. p. 38 in the 1918 Report); of the view of Battery Place (front, same Report); and of the Bradhurst Cottage (opp. p. 70 same Report).

In your letter of the 20th, you state that the majority of the Prevost negatives were made in New York City. Where were the remainder made and are any of these of general interest? Do you have any biographical information concerning Prevost? I have seen his name mentioned several times in the photographic journals of the fifties but that is the extent of my knowledge.

I also notice included in the "List of Illustrations" of each report sent, the statement that the negatives "form part of a collection ---presented to the Society, by Mr. S. V. Hoffman". Does this mean that there are paper negatives other than those made by Prevost in the collection?

I greatly appreciate your helpfulness in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT:NS

Robert Taft photography correspondence

January 25, 1936

Mr. F. D. Langenheim,
Room 316,
1600 Arch Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Langenheim:

I much appreciate your kindness in writing me and for the information contained in your letter of January 20. It will save your time and energies, I believe, if I tell you what I have about the Langenheim brothers. I have the biographical sketches which appeared in the Philadelphia Photographer for 1874 for W. Langenheim and in 1879 for Fred Langenheim. I also have Julius Sachse's account published in the Journal of the Franklin Institute for 1893. Can you tell me from your more exact knowledge if any corrections are to be made in these accounts? And are there any important additions?

I am particularly interested in obtaining portraits of both Langenheims and representative examples of their work. Their daguerreotype views of Niagara Falls were among the first, as you know, and drew world-wide acclaim. Do you have one of these or other daguerreotype views made by them? They were also the first to make prints from glass negatives in this country, which they called "hyalotypes." Do you know if examples of these still exist?

Their early stereoscopic views (1850-55) are important also as they introduced this type of photograph into this country as well as Talbot's process.

If you have any such material, could this be borrowed for copying? We would be very careful with it and return it to you promptly. If it would aid you in selecting and getting it ready to send, I believe my cousin, who lives in Philadelphia, would be glad to call on you and help you. She is Miss Mildred Goshaw, a teacher in the Philadelphia Public Schools.

Thank you again for your aid. I am sure that it will be of real importance in my book.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT:NS