

EARLY PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF PHOENIXVILLE PA

The following list of professional photographers who were in business in Phoenixville starting more than 100 years ago primarily came from a collection of their photographs but was checked against other sources of information to make sure that it was comprehensive. The years of business in Phoenixville and the locations were based on the following: (1) the ages of the photographs and the photographer's identifications on them, (2) Boyd's Chester County Directories and other directories, (3) Federal Censuses and (4) maps, photographs and postcards of Phoenixville.

Photographer	Years of Business	Location
1. Benjamin Pawling Davis	1849-1859	
2. 1 st Lewis Horning	1859-1863	201 Bridge Street
3. Isaac Clegg	1863	
4. William W. West	1863-1864	
5. Mahalalel Beaumont Yarnall	1863-1887	Probably 201 Bridge Street
6. Ralph Forester Channell	1864-1895	173 Bridge Street
7. Rhinehard Keeler Horning	1880	201 Bridge Street
8. John Milton Horning	1881-1885	201 Bridge Street
9. 2 nd Lewis Horning	1881-1894	201 Bridge Street, 245 Bridge Street
10. John William Sigman	1881-1951	201 Bridge Street
11. Ulysses Grant Channell	1885-1895	173 Bridge Street
"Channell & Son"	1885-1888	173 Bridge Street
12. William Lee Shoemaker	1887-1901	245 Bridge Street
13. George W. Channell	1892-1897	173 Bridge Street
14. Waitneight	1893	173 Bridge Street
15. George W. Day	1898	173 Bridge Street
16. Jeremiah F. Wilson	1900	245 Bridge Street
17. John Wesley Pickard	1901-1904	245 Bridge Street
18. Frank Radel	1903-1951	245 Bridge Street, 12 Gay Street
19. Pictorial Art Studio	1910-1917	206 Bridge Street
20. The Parisian Art Studio	1912	21 South Main Street
21. Katherine G. Mullin	1915-1937	206 Bridge Street, 217 Franklin Ave

Other Names Associated with Early Photography in Phoenixville:

1. Robert Walmsley Lenhard, Artist
2. Dr. Edward Livingston Coffman, Dentist

Note: The buildings along the odd-numbered side of Bridge Street were renumbered in the 1890s. 201 Bridge Street was originally 203 Bridge Street. This building was on the northwest corner of Bridge and Main Streets. The photography business was on the third floor. A building is no longer there. 173 Bridge Street was 175 Bridge Street. A building is no longer there. 245 Bridge Street was 255 Bridge Street. This building was called the "Whitaker Building." Maps starting with 1905 show that the photography business was on the second floor. Earlier maps do not provide a location. (While the original building numbers for these businesses can be found in some early directories, in order to maintain consistency and to prevent the conclusion from being made that a photographer moved to a new location, only the new numbers were used in this report. The new numbers also agree with the current numbering system.)

**Summary of Business Addresses up to 1904 for the
Early Professional Photographers of Phoenixville, PA**

Year →	1860	1870	1873	1875	1882	1884	1886	1888	1890	1893	1896	1898	1900	1902	1904
1 st Lewis Horning	201 Bridge														
M. B. Yarnall		Yes ¹	201 Bridge ²	201 Bridge ²	Yes	Yes	Yes								
John M. Horning					201 Bridge ³	201 Bridge									
J. W. Sigman					201 Bridge ³	201 Bridge	203 Bridge	201 Bridge	201 Bridge	201 Bridge	201 Bridge	201 Bridge	201 Bridge	201 Bridge	201 Bridge
Ralph F. Channell		Bridge ⁴	Bridge	Bridge	Bridge	Bridge	173 Bridge	173 Bridge	173 Bridge	173 Bridge					
Ulysses Channell							173 Bridge	173 Bridge	173 Bridge	173 Bridge					
George Channell										173 Bridge	173 Bridge				
George W. Day												173 Bridge			
2 nd Lewis Horning					201 Bridge ⁵	201 Bridge ⁵			245 Bridge	245 Bridge					
W. L. Shoemaker								245 Bridge	245 Bridge	245 Bridge	Yes	Yes	Yes		
J. F. Wilson													245 Bridge		
Pickard Studio														245 Bridge	245 Bridge
Frank Radel															245 Bridge

¹Yes = This means that the person was found to have been a photographer in Phoenixville but a business address could not be determined.

²This address is an assumption since the location is only shown to have been the "Corner of Bridge and Main Streets."

³Rhinehard K. Horning was probably working at this location in 1880. John M. Horning and John W. Sigman then started working here in 1881.

⁴The address on CDV photographs before 1870 is "Main Street, above Bridge." The address is then "Bridge Street near Main" and later "173 Bridge Street."

⁵This address is an assumption.

**Personal Information on the
Early Professional Photographers of Phoenixville, PA**

Photographer	Years of Birth and Death	Age at Death	Where Buried
1. Benjamin Pawling Davis	1811-1885	73	Morris Cemetery
2. 1 st Lewis Horning	1834-1909	74	Norristown, PA
3. Isaac Clegg	1826-1908	82	Morris Cemetery
4. William W. West	1836-1898	62	Spring City, PA
5. M. B. Yarnall	1816-1888	72	Morris Cemetery
6. Ralph Forester Channell	1837-1905	68	Morris Cemetery
7. Rhinehard Keeler Horning	1861-1931	70	Not Found
8. John Milton Horning	1832-1894	62	Center Square, PA
9. 2 nd Lewis Horning	1861-1951	89	Morris Cemetery
10. John William Sigman	1861-1954	93	Morris Cemetery
11. Ulysses Grant Channell	1864-1960	96	Not Found
12. William Lee Shoemaker	1843-1909	65	Philadelphia, PA
13. George W. Channell	1872-1922	50	Morris Cemetery
14. Waitneight			
15. George W. Day	1853-1925	72	Philadelphia, PA
16. Jeremiah F. Wilson	1846-1901	55	Not Found
17. John Wesley Pickard	1862-	>77	Not Found
18. Frank Radel	1876-1967	91	Philadelphia, PA
19. Pictorial Art Studio			
20. The Parisian Art Studio			
21. Katherine G. Mullin	1874-1937	63	St. Mary Cemetery

Note: Morris Cemetery and St. Mary of the Assumption Churchyard Cemetery are in Phoenixville, PA.

Early Professional Photographers of Phoenixville, PA

Benjamin Pauling Davis - Benjamin was born in Pennsylvania on December 16, 1811 and died in Phoenixville on October 30, 1885. He is usually described as "Benjamin P. Davis." Prior to coming to Phoenixville, the book "Memorials of John Elder White" published in 1860 shows that Benjamin was a teacher in East Whiteland Township in Chester County. Another reference states that he was a part owner of the short-lived Phoenix Gazette newspaper when first published in Phoenixville in 1846. This was the first newspaper in Phoenixville. By 1850, Benjamin was in the photography business since he is listed as a daguerreotypist in the 1850 Federal Census for Phoenixville. His business appears to have been near the Washington House at 233 Bridge Street, now called P. J. Ryan's Pub, although an exact location could not be established. By 1860, his primary business was no longer photography since he is not listed as a photographer in the 1860 Federal Census and he was not taxed as a photographer in the years 1862 through 1866 which are the years when taxes were collected to fund the Civil War. Federal Censuses after 1850 report his occupations in Phoenixville to have been "Seals, Weights and Measures" in 1860; "Candy Shop" and "Hucksters Patent Medicine" in 1870 and "Dealer in Drugs" in 1880. Since a 1876 newspaper tidbit reported that someone broke into his business and stole cigars and tobacco, he was also a tobacconist. In regards to his occupation in 1860, his obituary states that he was the "Sealer of Weights and Measures, Mercantile Appraiser and Auditor" for two terms in Chester County. A Sealer enforced laws and regulations pertaining to the accuracy of weighing and measuring devices. A Mercantile Appraiser and Auditor regulated tax and license fees paid by merchants in accordance with their amount of business. No examples of Benjamin's photography were found. In the early years of photography when many photographs were placed in book-like cases because they could easily be scratched, often called "cased images," most photographers did not label their photographs or cases. The cases today are often given the generic name "Daguerreotype cases."

Lewis Horning - There were two photographers named Lewis Horning who had photography businesses in Phoenixville although not at the same time. The first, or older, Lewis Horning was born in Upper Providence Township in Montgomery County on March 24, 1834 and died in Philadelphia on February 19, 1909. He was a photographer in Phoenixville by 1860 where he called his business the "L. Horning Ambrotype Saloon." He is also described as an ambrotypist by the 1860 Federal Census. Lewis labeled some of his cased images with "L. Horning - Artist - Phoenixville PA." Based on tax records and Philadelphia directories, Lewis moved his business from Phoenixville to Philadelphia in 1863 where he expanded it to several locations. The second, or younger, Lewis Horning was his nephew.

Isaac Clegg - Isaac was born in England on January 19, 1826 and died in Phoenixville on March 3, 1908. He had various occupations in Phoenixville including cotton spinner, photographer, groceries, tobacconist, confectionaries, ice cream, and finally, a capitalist. Since the only year that he was taxed as a photographer in Phoenixville was 1863, this is the only year for certain that he was a professional photographer. Later censuses have him residing outside of Phoenixville in nearby Harveyville, now called Wilmer, at the intersection of West Bridge Street, Charlestown Road, and West Pothouse Road.

William W. West - William was born in Philadelphia on May 20, 1836 and died in Spring City on December 13, 1898. The following information on him was found: (1) although he was born in Philadelphia according to his funeral record, his parents resided in Chester County for many years; (2) the 1860 Federal Census lists him as a tailor in Willistown Township in Chester County; (3) an 1863 Civil War Draft Registration lists him as a photographer in Phoenixville; (4) tax records show that he was taxed as a photographer in Phoenixville in 1864; (5) the book, "Directory of Pennsylvania Photographers, 1839-1900," a copy of which is at Chester County Historical Society in West Chester, lists him as a photographer in Phoenixville in 1864 and then in West Vincent Township and Spring City; (6) he joined Company K of the 1st Provisional Pennsylvania Mounted Cavalry during the Civil War as a private on February 17, 1865 and was mustered out on July 13, 1865; (7) the 1870 Federal Census lists him as a tailor and photographer in West Pikeland Township and (8) the 1880 Federal Census lists him as a tailor in Spring City. This information indicates that he was a photographer in Phoenixville only around 1863 to 1864. No photographs labeled with his name and Phoenixville were found. One label that he used in Spring City was "W.W.West, Photographer, Spring City, PA."

Mahalalel Beaumont Yarnall - Mahalalel was born in Ohio on April 22, 1816 and died in Phoenixville on April 27, 1888. While his mother was from Ohio, his father was from Chester County. Mahalalel always used the name "M. B. Yarnall" including on his gravestone in Morris Cemetery. Several different spellings of his first name can be found in records for him. The source of this name is Genesis 5:12-17 of Hebrew Scriptures, called the Old Testament in Christianity. Tax records demonstrate that M. B. began to be taxed as a photographer in Phoenixville in 1863. He was residing in Schuylkill Township at that time but later moved to 238 Hall Street in Phoenixville. He operated his photography business until around 1887. His business address in 1873 and 1875 directories is listed as the "Corner of Bridge and Main Streets," which is what 201 Bridge Street was often called. From 1882 to 1889, he had a second photography business at 738 Spring Garden Street in Philadelphia although he still resided in Phoenixville. Since his son David C. Yarnall, born in Chester County on December 17, 1848, was a photographer, he must have worked with his father in Phoenixville. By 1889 David was operating the business at 738 Spring Garden Street in Philadelphia. David died in Philadelphia on November 6, 1911.

Ralph Forester Channell - Ralph was born in Chester County on June 30, 1837 and died in Spring City on August 2, 1905. In 1840 his family was residing in East Nantmeal Township in Chester County although by 1850 they were now in nearby Warwick Township. Ralph was a house painter in Phoenixville in 1860; a photographer from 1864 to around 1895 and a day laborer in 1900. Ralph and Adolphus Bonzano in 1872 patented an improved photographic plate holder designed to save the chemicals employed in connection with photographic negatives. Adolphus was a civil engineer with Clarke, Reeves & Co. in Phoenixville and in 1884 became vice-president and chief engineer of the successor company named the Phoenix Bridge Company. Ralph's photography business locations, starting with the earliest, were given by him as follows: (1) Main Street above Bridge, which refers to Main Street between Bridge and Church Streets, (2) Bridge Street near Main Street and (3) 173 Bridge Street which is currently a vacant lot between Jaworski's Music Centre which closed in 2016 and the Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce. On many of Ralph's early photographs, his last name is spelled "Channel." Ralph had two sons who were photographers in Phoenixville: (1) Ulysses Grant Channell

and (2) George W. Channell. The Channell family home for many years was at 300 Gay Street although their house was torn down and replaced around 1929.

Rhinehard Keeler Horning - Rhinehard was born in Montgomery County, PA around 1861 and died around 1931, probably in Wilmington, DE. He often used the name "R. K. Horning." He was a half first-cousin of both the older Lewis Horning and John M. Horning who were brothers. Lewis and John were grandsons of Samuel Horning and his first wife Martha Shannon who died at age 37 while Rhinehard was a grandson of Samuel Horning and his second wife Rachel Boileau whose first husband David Wair died at age 29. According to the Federal Census dated June 28, 1880, Rhinehard was residing in Upper Providence in Montgomery County and was learning photography. According to the Phoenixville Messenger newspaper dated January 8, 1881, he sold his short-lived photography business in Phoenixville to John M. Horning of Maryland. It is assumed that Rhinehard's business was at 201 Bridge Street since John was located there after this. Rhinehard later became an automobile painter in a factory. No photographs with his name have been found. On a side note, Rachel's husband David Wair and their four children all died within a span of two years and all five died in either a September or an October. Three of their children died within 8 days of each other. All four children were all less than 7 years of age at death.

John Milton Horning - John was born in Pennsylvania on June 28, 1832 and died on August 19, 1894. He normally used the name "John M. Horning" although he used "J. Milton Horning" in the 1880 Federal Census for Chestertown, MD. His earliest photographs date back to around 1860 which was two decades before he came to Phoenixville. Some of his photographs are simply labeled "J. M. Horning & Co." or "J. M. Horning & Co., Traveling Artists" with no address. The latter label shows that John was an itinerant photographer during part of his career. John did have a brief partnership with Franklin Z. Fritz in Philadelphia, called "Horning and Fritz, Photographers," which ended in 1866. He then conducted the business by himself. In 1868 he and his brother Lewis Horning had a partnership called "Horning Brothers" at 820 Arch Street in Philadelphia. This partnership did not last long since by 1870, Lewis has a partnership with a printer named Robert B. King called "Horning and King," which ended by 1872. The 1880 Federal Census shows that John was now a photographer in Chestertown, MD. However, it also lists him a second time as a daguerreotypist photographer in Philadelphia and residing with his wife Susanna Hildreth Horning who was actually residing with members of her family including her mother. Apparently, she was in Philadelphia while he was 90 miles away in Chestertown. Furthermore, it appears that Susanna always resided in Philadelphia yet John is not listed in any Philadelphia directory during the years of their marriage. By January 8, 1881, John was in Phoenixville since he had bought the photography business owned by R. K. Horning. One label that he used in Phoenixville was "J. M. Horning, Art Studio." He left Phoenixville around 1885 but where he next went and where he died could not be found. He was buried Center Square in Montgomery County, PA while his wife Susanna was buried in Philadelphia.

Lewis Horning - The second, or younger, Lewis Horning was born in Phoenixville on March 17, 1861 and died in Willistown Township in Chester County on January 1, 1951. His father, Benjamin Franklin Horning, was a brother of the older Lewis Horning and John M. Horning. It is assumed that during 1881 to 1885, the younger Lewis Horning worked for

John at 201 Bridge Street since no photograph with Lewis' name dating to these years has been found. However, a cabinet card photograph dating to 1890 shows that he was now working in the "Whitaker Building" which is where the photographer William Lee Shoemaker was working. Andrew Robeno Whitaker owned this building which is at 245 Bridge Street. Andrew was called a Druggist. He sold drugs, patent medicines, fancy goods, toiletries, perfumes, brushes, paints, whitewash, oils, glass and other goods. He bought this business in 1880 from Irvin J. Brower who in 1890 became president of the Farmers and Mechanics' National Bank and later in 1903 also president of the Phoenix Gas and Electric Company, both of Phoenixville. Prior to 1880, Andrew had been an iron master and civil engineer. He was the second son of the well-known Phoenixville iron master Dr. Samuel Adams Whitaker. Significant changes in careers like this were not unusual at that time. It appears that Lewis Horning left Phoenixville by early 1894 since he is not listed in any directory after 1893 and his first son was born on March 1, 1894 in Media, PA. Lewis also changed careers since he later became a house painter in Norristown, and while he had this profession for many years and also other professions, his death certificate in 1951 lists him as a photographer. Lewis had a brother named James Oscar Horning whose various professions included working as a photographer for the older Lewis Horning in Philadelphia and later for the State Lunatic Hospital at Norristown. Even so, no evidence was found showing that he ever worked in Phoenixville. Another brother named Charles Shannon Horning was a physician in Phoenixville from 1881 to 1895. He then moved to Norristown. In 1893 he was renting 302 South Main Street in Phoenixville where ancestors of the author of this report resided from 1898 to 1975 and purchased in 1901.

John William Sigman - John was born in Dayton, OH on November 3, 1861 and died in Phoenixville on December 8, 1954. He often used the name "J. William Sigman." Although he was born in Ohio, his parents were originally from Chester County and he had relatives named Eaches in Phoenixville including his grandmother Hannah Philips Stille-Eaches who was the first member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) from Pennsylvania. Her father, Lieutenant Josiah Philips, had been in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War and a scout at Valley Forge. He also served in the army for one month during the War of 1812. Hannah's gravestone in Morris Cemetery includes a bronze marker labeled "Real Daughter" which was the title given to members of the DAR whose fathers served in the American Revolutionary War. In 1879 at age 17, John became a photographer in Pottsville, PA working as an apprentice. In 1881 he joined the photographer John M. Horning in Phoenixville. Around 1885 he bought Horning's business which means that photographs bearing the name Sigman date back to this year. John was a photographer in Phoenixville for 70 years from 1881 to 1951, and for most of these years, he resided at 253 Morgan Street. His business was always at 201 Bridge Street except around 1886 since a 1886 directory locates him next door at 203 Bridge Street. Beside portrait photography, John took many photographs of Phoenixville. His real photo postcards of places and people are usually simply stamped on the back "Sigmans Studio" or "Sigmans Picture Shop." One time when John was in the hospital, he was so impressed by the nursing care that he started a trust fund to award scholarships to students who were going to nursing school. Since he and his wife Mary Evans Sigman did not have any children, they placed their money in this fund which continued to be dispensed several decades after they died by relatives of the author of this report. Interestingly, John's second cousin Cecelia Griffith, who was another descendant of

Lieutenant Josiah Philips, married Oliver B. Channell who was a brother of the Phoenixville photographer Ralph F. Channell. Another descendant, Albert DeHaven Eaches, owned the house at 901 Gay Street in Phoenixville which has the stone carriage block by the curb engraved "Eaches."

Ulysses Grant Channell - Ulysses was born in Phoenixville in 1864 and died in Orange, NJ on May 11, 1960. In the 1870 and 1880 Federal Censuses, his name is listed as "U. S. Grant Channell." Ulysses took over the family photography business from his father Ralph around 1885 with one source of information on Ancestry.com stating that he did this when his father became ill. The 1880 Federal Census reports that Ralph back at that time was unable to work because he had lung disease. Ulysses in 1893 was also a part owner of a business called "Channell and Waitneight" which was located in Phoenixville and at 311 Market Street in Wilmington, DE. By 1896 he had left Phoenixville and by 1900 he was residing with his wife Margaret F. Davis and her parents in Orange, NJ where he continued to work as a photographer for many years. Ulysses and Margaret had married in Manhattan, NY in 1897. Interestingly, the 1900 Federal Census lists him as "Hugh G. Channell" instead of the similarly sounding "U. G. Channell." Mistakes in censuses were quite common back then including misspelled names and incorrect years of age. They were handwritten by census takers who walked from door to door to gather information. A similar story was recently provided by a relative of Ulysses doing genealogy research but could not find any information on her family member "Uncle Hugh." She was researching the name Hugh Channell. He was actually "Uncle U."

Channell & Son - This label which is found on some cabinet card photographs refers to Ralph Forester Channell and his son Ulysses Grant Channell. They used this label around 1885 to 1888 after which Ulysses used the label "Channell" with an overstriking monogram consisting of the letters "UGC."

William Lee Shoemaker - William was born in Philadelphia on July 21, 1843 and died in Philadelphia on January 23, 1909. He came to Phoenixville around 1888 after having been a photographer and a solar printer in Philadelphia for many years. A solar printer used sunlight to form an image of an object on a sensitized material, often paper. Photographs could even be reproduced from a negative using this process. William first resided in Schuylkill Township and then in Phoenixville. His home address in Phoenixville is listed as "Main Street across from Morgan Street" which would be one of the houses next to the Presbyterian Church. In the 1890 Veterans Schedule for soldiers who served in the Civil War, he reported that he had served as a private with Company B of the 40th Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry in 1863 but his discharge was lost. He would have served with them from July 2, 1863 to August 16, 1863. He left Phoenixville around 1901, perhaps, after his son Jessie Groome Shoemaker, who was a physician in Phoenixville, died of tuberculosis in 1901 at age 35 and was buried in Morris Cemetery.

Ulysses Grant Channell - George was born in Phoenixville on February 21, 1872 and died in Spring City on February 17, 1922. In 1893 he was a part owner of the business called "Channell and Waitneight." By 1896 he was operating the family business at 173 Bridge Street in Phoenixville which he closed around 1897 to become a photographer in East Pikeland Township where he resided until his death in 1922. Photographs labeled with his name and "Spring City, PA" have been found but none with "Phoenixville." His middle

name, which could not be found, was probably "Washington" since his father Ralph had a brother named George Washington Channell; one of 13 siblings in the family. Furthermore, his own brother Ulysses was named after another U.S. president who was Ulysses S. Grant.

Waitneight - Three cabinet card photographs, one in possession of the Chester County Historical Society, have been found with the label "Channell and Waitneight." These photographs provide locations of both Phoenixville and 311 Market Street in Wilmington, DE. Wilmington directories associate Ulysses and George Channell with this business and reveal that it only lasted one year which was 1893. However, the 1893 Wilmington directory and the Wilmington directories for the years around it do not include anyone named Waitneight. Based on this, Waitneight was probably a son of William W. Waitneight who had businesses in Phoenixville for many years and died in 1886. He had several sons residing in Phoenixville although none of them was found to have been a photographer. It is possible that one son, rather than being a photographer, provided financial support to Ulysses and George so they added his last name to their photographs in 1893. In other words, he was a short-term business partner. How they managed the two locations is not known.

George W. Day - George was born in Pennsylvania on March 2, 1853 and died in Philadelphia on March 17, 1925. He was a resident of Norristown. The 1880 Federal Census indicates that before coming to Norristown, he was a photographer in Tamaqua in Schuylkill County. While residing in Norristown, he operated photography businesses in Norristown, Phoenixville, and Easton, PA. However, the only directory for Phoenixville that includes his name is the 1898 directory. By 1910 he had moved to Philadelphia and was no longer in the photography business. He was now a debt collector for an electric company.

Jeremiah F. Wilson - Jeremiah was born in Maine in 1846 and died in Norristown on February 7, 1901. He was a photographer in Philadelphia from around 1879 to 1888. He then moved to Norristown and had photography businesses in both Norristown and Phoenixville. In Phoenixville he used the names "J. F. Wilson" and "Wilson's Art Studio." The only directory for Phoenixville that includes his name is the 1900 directory. He died the next year.

John Wesley Pickard - John was born in North Carolina in 1862 and died in New Jersey sometime after 1940. His father, John Pickard, had been a wheelwright by trade and a Confederate soldier in Company D of the 53rd Regiment, North Carolina Infantry in the Civil War. He entered the war as a private in April 1862; was promoted to a corporal and then to a sergeant. He was captured by Union Troops and sent to Elmira Prison in New York, dubbed "Hellmira" by its inmates, and released in 1865. It appears that he died before 1870 at less than 40 years of age. His wife Matilda raised their five children with two of them dying before 1870 at less than 13 years of age. By 1870 she and her three children which included John were residing in Hope, IN which had been founded by members of the Moravian Church from North Carolina in 1830. Based on this, it is highly likely that they were members of this Church. By 1880 John was working in a blacksmith shop there. He eventually became a photographer and established several photography businesses spread throughout eastern USA although both his residence and headquarters after 1898

were in Philadelphia, PA. He used the label "Pickard" on the front of many of his photographs. He produced many small-sized photographs which are also labeled "Pickard's Penny Photographs" on the reverse. Around 1901 he opened a business in Phoenixville called the Pickard Studio. However, since his residence and headquarters were still in Philadelphia, it is highly probable that John himself never worked full-time in Phoenixville. John's brother, Jasper S. Pickard, was also a photographer including in Philadelphia.

Frank Radel - Frank was born in Millville, NJ on May 22, 1876 and died in Phoenixville on December 20, 1967. In 1895 Frank opened a photography business in Millville which he soon sold. In 1903 after working for other photographers in Philadelphia and Atlantic City, Frank came to Phoenixville. He first worked at the Pickard Studio at 245 Bridge Street but then purchased their business around 1904 and renamed it "The Radel Studio." In 1923 he moved to 12 Gay Street; a building that he had built according to a 1946 Phoenixville Daily Republican newspaper article. By 1930 his nephew Charles William Radel was working as a photographer for him. Besides portrait photography, Frank did commercial photography and took many pictures of Valley Forge Park which were then colored by hand. He was also the first president of the Phoenixville Chamber of Commerce. In November 1946, Frank sold his photography business to Alexander Orlando of Spring Mount, PA but then purchased it back from him in December 1947 after Orlando decided to retire. Frank then retired in 1951. He resided for many years at 381 Washington Avenue and then at 741 South Main Street. On a side note, Frank in 1919 was issued a patent for a bath paddle used to help a person wash inaccessible parts of the body. The paddle held a washcloth or small towel.

Pictorial Art Studio - This studio was on the second floor of the building on the southwest corner of Bridge and Main Streets above the F. W. Woolworth Co. 5 and 10 Cent Store. It was across the street from J. William Sigman's photography business. The entrance was at 206 Bridge Street. It was in business by 1911 since they produced a real photo postcard of the 1st Baptist Church in Phoenixville that year; a photo which was used by this church for many years. The studio was still in business in 1917 since their street sign can be seen outside of 206 Bridge Street on a 1917 photograph.

The Parisian Art Studio - Only one photograph, which is in possession of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area, was found with this name. It dates to around 1912 and shows that they sold 12 photos for 2 cents. The studio was at 21 South Main Street. No additional information on this studio could be found.

Katherine G. Mullin - Katherine was born in Phoenixville in 1874 and died in Phoenixville on September 18, 1937. Her first name is sometimes spelled "Catharine" in early records. Her reported date of birth of December 15, 1887 on her death certificate is not correct. It is well known that years ago when very few official records on people were kept, the year of birth for some women gradually increased over time. By 1916 Katherine had a photography business on the second floor of the building on the southwest corner of Bridge and Main Streets above the F. W. Woolworth Co. 5 and 10 Cent Store. Her relationship to the Pictorial Art Studio at the same location is not known. Although Woolworth's closed in the late 1920's, she remained at this location until around 1934 when she moved her business to her home at 217 Franklin Avenue. Her obituary states that she called her

business the “Mullin Photography Studio.” In early advertisements, she used her name “Katherine Mullin.” These advertisements show that around 1916, the building on the southwest corner of Bridge and Main Streets was called the “Buck Building.” Katherine’s label on a 1917 photograph of a grandfather of the author of this report, and on a photograph of a great grandmother, is “Mullin Studio.”

Other Names Associated with Early Professional Photography in Phoenixville, PA

Robert Walmsley Lenhard - Robert was born in Schuylkill Township on March 21, 1891 and died in Washington, D.C. on August 15, 1966. He often used the name “Walmsley Lenhard.” Robert’s father, William H. Lenhard, was a merchant and flour mill operator in the year 1900 at William’s Corner on the Pickering Creek. He later resided at 215 South Main Street in Phoenixville and operated a flour and feed store at 23 Gay Street and then 118 Gay Street. Robert was found in a list of early Chester County photographers but not on any photographs. He was a professional portrait artist. If he practiced photography in Phoenixville, it was probably around 1911 to 1916 since he is not listed as a photographer in the 1910 Federal Census and he was residing in Manhattan in 1917 and in Los Angeles in 1920, although his first son was born in Phoenixville in 1919. One source of information on professional artists does state that he was both an artist and photographer although it does not provide when or where he practiced photography. He named one of his sons “Pancho Villa Lenhard” in 1925 which was about two years after Pancho Villa was assassinated. Robert was residing in California at that time. In 1948 he published and copyrighted the District of Columbia Taxicab Zone Map.

Dr. Edward Livingston Coffman - Edward was born in Phoenixville on November 15, 1853; he died in Philadelphia on December 15, 1927 and was buried in Philadelphia. Although he is listed as a photographer in Phoenixville in the business section of the 1882 Chester County directory, he is listed as a dentist in the main section of this directory. Furthermore, he is only listed as a dentist in the directories for other years and in Federal Censuses, and his name was not found on any photograph. Since his dentistry office was in the same building as John M. Horning’s photography business, perhaps, besides being a dentist, he also worked with John for a short period of time. Alternatively, he might have provided financial support to John when John started his business in Phoenixville in 1881.

Compiled by Kevin. D. Stuart, June 2, 2017 Edition
Member of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area (HSPA)