

## Photographers in the Montague Area

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If it were not for the many photographers who came to this area over the years, we would not have any pictorial records of what things were like back in the day. While some were only here for a very short time, still others stayed much longer. Some of you may even have one of their pictures in your old family album. Here, then, is a little “picture” of some of them. Unfortunately, there don’t seem to be any pictures “of” them, probably because they were always behind the camera.

Clark, E.B. (1862-1863) - He was considered a White River photographer who was born near Montreal, Canada on 9 March 1831. He opened a photo gallery in Pentwater in June 1863, known as Clark & Bunnington, which operated for about a year. He married Almira E. Palmiter about 1868. She brought a baby with her named Belmont. They had a son Ebenezer in September 1870 and another son Willis in July 1877. The senior Ebenezer Clark was a real estate agent in 1870. He served as Township clerk for several terms as well a village assessor. He was the Pentwater Justice of the Peace from 1867-1889 and again in 1900. By 1900 he was widowed, living with the family of his son Ebenezer and along with his other son Willis.

Sauders, William (1880) - William was born in Canada in February 1835. He immigrated in 1860 but he never obtained US citizenship. He married Sarah Gould in 1865. She was born in New York in February 1847. They had four children, three of whom have been identified. Their daughter Laura was born in

Indiana in 1867. Their other children, Frank born about 1870 and Ida about 1876, were both born in Michigan. In 1870, the census shows William working in a mill. By 1880 the census showed that he was a photographer.

In 1900-1910 it appears he had given up the photography business and was working as an engineer in one of the sawmills in North Muskegon. He died on 8 July 1912 in North Muskegon. His wife Sarah died in 1927. They are both buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Montague.

Marshall, William Eliphalet (1882-1885) - William was born to a father from Maine and a Canadian-born mother in Ottawa County on February 18, 1852, the third of six children of Hiram and Charlotte Marshall. He married Josephine Monroe who was born to Orion and Anna (ne Meyers) Monroe on December 11, 1858, in Otsego, MI. They were married there on August 2, 1874. They had two sons, Harry E. Marshall on October 6, 1883, and Clyde Sharpe Marshall on May 30, 1892.

Before coming to Montague, he was a photographer in Pentwater from 1880-1881. Shortly after, he moved to Montague, where he lost \$800 in the fire that swept through the Ripley block October 1884. From 1886-1913 he was relocated to Big Rapids. He and his first wife divorced. He remarried in December 1912 to Mrs. Elizabeth (ne Fredericks) Brown, a lady who had been his housekeeper. By 1920 they had moved to Grand Rapids where William died on May 2, 1923. His second wife Elizabeth died in Grand Rapids in September 1944.

Elliott, Harry L. (1885) - Harry was one of five children born in Indiana to Rev. F. M. and Nancy P. (ne McKee) Elliott on 7 August 1864. In 1883 he was listed in the city directory as a photographer's apprentice in Montague.

In 1884 he was working in Pierceton, Indiana before returning to Montague where he opened a studio in 1885. By 1889, he had returned to Lafayette, Indiana where he worked for several other photographers. He died 16 October 1926 in Chicago, Illinois.

Brower, John I. (1886-1890) - John was born in Canada in 1862 to Ezra M. and Isabelle Brower. His father was born in New York in 1819 and his mother in Ireland about eight years earlier. John was the youngest of their six children and their only son. They all lived in Benona in Oceana County.

Brower's Art Studio was located in the Ripley block from 1886 to 1890. During that time, John was shown as living at the Franklin House.

Wirsing, Theodore A. (1890-1894) - Theo was born in Germany in November 1865, to Karl and Rosa (ne Prill) Wirsing. His sister Julia was born 3 years later and in 1872 the family immigrated to the US. He and his father became US citizens in 1883.

Theo started out working in a sawmill in 1880. He switched to photography around 1890.

He married Hannah "Anna" Tuin in July 1890. Anna was born in Norway in 1869 and came to the US in 1880. They had a son Donald in April 1891. The marriage would not last, however, and they would later divorce.

In October 1894, Theo moved his photographic outfit to Whitehall. In February 1895, it was reported that he left for one of the Southern states, to find employment in a mill. A week later it was reported that he gotten no farther than Muskegon, where he secured the promise of a job there.

In May 1900, he married Mrs. Lillian (ne Bovee) Lauterberg. At the time he was conducting a very successful photographic gallery in Annadale, Minnesota, where they remained until 1921. They moved to Bellingham, Washington in 1922. From 1923 to 1925 he was back working in a lumbermill. From 1927 to 1930 he was a carpenter. He died in Washington in September 1938 and was brought back to Whitehall where he was buried in Oakhurst Cemetery. His wife Lillian died in 1930.

Ladd, B. W. – Ladd & Son (1898-1905 & 1908-1909) - Burrell Whipple Ladd was born in Herkimer County, New York on August 27, 1838, the only son of Charles D. and Eliza (ne Johnson) Ladd. He had a sister Mary who was born in 1836. His mother died shortly after he was born, and he was raised by his father's second wife Celina.

Burrell married Emily Louise Holt who was born in Erie County, New York on February 25, 1847, the last of five children of Henry F. and Anna Maria (ne Barnard) Holt. They were married in June 1869 and their son Charles was born in New York in 1870. There other children were born in Michigan: George in 1871, Lulu (later Louise) in 1874, Henry in 1876, Effie in 1877, and Burrell (later Bert) in 1879.

Burrell purchased the Muskegon gallery of Norman B. Lawson in June of 1892. He employed his son Charles A. Ladd as a photographer from 1893-1899 and made him a partner in 1902. The opening of the branch gallery in Montague took place in May 1898 and it was in business until 1909. They also opened a gallery in Grand Haven from 1908 to 1911.

Burrell died on February 11, 1918. His wife Emily and their son Charles continued the Ladd & Son studios in Muskegon as proprietors. Emily died in March 1920 and her son Charles continued the business until his untimely death in June 1925.

Raze, J. E. (1901-1902) – James E. Raze was born in Michigan in November 1887 to David E. and Rose (ne Wellman) Raze. He married Helen G. Hough in October 1890 and they had five children. According to the 1900 Census, he was a teacher in Charlotte at the time. By November 1901 he had come to White Lake where he was living in the Maple Grove area and where he took a panoramic view of the lake front property of William Peck. He also took some elaborate views of Montague's principal buildings and had them on display in the Franklin House. In December he had a studio over the Eagle Drug store in the Franklin block. According to local ads in August 1902, he had opened the Whitehall Gallery, which was located opposite the tunnel. In March 1903 it was indicated that he had secured a job in Lansing where he had already gone and that his family was to follow shortly.

Cauzac, J. A. (1909-1911) – Very little information seems to be available on this photographer. It appears that he was mostly an exterior scenic photographer. One of his ads in the local paper indicated that he lived near the Presbyterian Church parsonage.

His pictures had a general description with the identification number in a circle. Some of his pictures were simply identified as CAUZAC PHOTO in block letters. He also did scenes in Hart, Mears, New Era, Pentwater, and Rothbury.

Some of his postcards were published by L. G. Ripley Co. The post cards could be made for 75 cents per dozen. Photographic color postcards were \$1.00 per dozen.

It appears that he also worked out of Chicago from 1910-1911.

Flood, E. B. (1909-1917) – Emery Baxter Flood was born in Claybanks in July 1861 to Lyman and Diana Flood. He was working on a farm in the 1880s. By the 1890s he was associated with Flood and Dill photographers of Fremont and Newaygo.

In January 1893 he married Edith McDonald. They would divorce in May 1897. He married his second wife, Anna Cox in November 1904.

He started his photography business in Shelby from 1908-1910. He opened his Montague Studio in January 1910. It was located on the second floor of the Ripley Block. In August 1917, it was announced in the local paper that Mr. & Mrs. Flood were going to be moving to Beulah, leaving Montague without a photographer. His wife Anna died November 1933. He died in Benzie County on 15 June 1945.

Photographs by Flood had a distinctive letter “G” in the picture descriptions.

Murphy, William J. (aka James W.) (1903) – William was born in Rockford, Kent, Michigan, on 31 October 1868 to an Irish father and a Canadian mother. He came to Montague in 1888. He married Emma Hawks on 18 September 1890, and they had three daughters: Myrtle, August 1891; Hazel, August 1893; and Fern, January 1896.

In 1903 his studio was listed as being over the Bank in Montague. In April 1903, he then set up shop in Whitehall until 1910. He began to develop some mental issues and was admitted to the hospital in Traverse City where he died on 11 August 1910.

Sweney, Fred D. (1921-1926) – Fred Sweney was born 12 June 1882 in Missouri to James E. and Nancy L. (ne Hawks) Sweney. He married Nellie Raderstorf on 25 November 1909 in Stanton, MI. They divorced in September 1916. He then married Kate Ellen (ne Brown) Maroin in February 1917 at Crystal Valley.

He moved to Montague from Pentwater in June 1921 where he had been for several years and set up his studio in the Ripley Block. He took pictures of the Goodrich boat at the dedication of the new dock at Maple Grove in July 1921. And it was reported that he took pictures of each of the grades in school in 1922. He moved on to Muskegon in June 1926.

Camelot Photography (1971-2001) – For over 30 years, Camelot Photography was located somewhere on Ferry Street in “downtown Montague.” A photograph in the local paper in January 1971 showed Camelot Photograph moving into a storefront in the former Bank building along with Nancy’s Bridal. No specific address was listed. They appear to have remained there through 1979 when they were again featured in the paper. Still no indication of who the owner was or what the address was.

Then in 1980 a street address finally appeared in an ad – 8695 Ferry.

In January 1992, a news item appeared when Camelot Photography owner Dan Amstutz moved from 8695 Ferry to 8812 Ferry in the former C-TEC Cable building. The move was due to Master Tag purchasing the building where he was previously located.

Dan Amstutz was the second child born to Elmer and Ruth Amstutz on September 26, 1941, in Lucas County, Oh. He was an English teacher before pursuing a lifetime career in photography. He married twice and had three children. He passed away on August 21, 2017. His developing lab now belongs to the Montague Museum.