



Members Behind the Lens: Photographers of the House

While Members of the State Legislature are often the subject of the camera's lens, two House Members from the twentieth century became famous for their work behind the camera.



*Photo credit: Courtesy of
HistoricCamera.com*

William H. Tipton

Tipton was born August 5, 1850, in Gettysburg. By age 12, he was already working as an apprentice to Charles and Isaac Tyson, who operated a photographic studio. Along with the Tyson brothers, Tipton documented the aftermath of the infamous Battle of Gettysburg. In 1866, Tipton and a colleague, Robert A. Myers, purchased the Tyson studio and began Tipton & Myers Excelsior Gallery. By 1880, Tipton was the sole proprietor of W.H. Tipton & Company.

In the years following the Civil War, Tipton established himself as one of the premier battlefield photographers. His most famous works included photographs of the Gettysburg battlefield and monuments that were fitted throughout the years following the war, as well as the many famous visitors who came to see Gettysburg. Tipton also took photographs at other famous Civil War battle sites, including Antietam, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, and Spotsylvania. His pictures of Gettysburg have been used in numerous publications, sold as prints, and even used on postcards for tourists to purchase. The postcards were so popular that during the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1913, he sold 865,000 cards alone.

Tipton served as burgess of Gettysburg for four terms and was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1897-1898 session.



*Left: Photo shows Gate to
Gettysburg National Cemetery in
front of statue of Major General
John F. Reynolds with the
Soldiers' National Monument in
the distance. 1882.*

Members Behind the Lens: Tipton



Above: Sergeant Nicholas G. Wilson of Co. G, 138th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment in uniform. Photographed between 1862 and 1865.



Left: House that served as Robert E. Lee's headquarters at Gettysburg.



Left: Unidentified Civil War veterans of the 90th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment with one Boy Scout at Oak Ridge to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, 1913.

All Tipton images used courtesy of the Library of Congress.



From the collection of the House Archives.

David Clark Burnite

Burnite was born on October 24, 1833, in Cecil County, Maryland. During the Civil War, he served as a private in Company B, 127th Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. After quitting a painting apprenticeship, Burnite took up photography and eventually became one of Harrisburg's most respected photographers. One of his most famous images was taken as President Lincoln's funeral train passed through the railroad depot in Harrisburg. Burnite served in the House for the 1883-1884 session.



Pictured: Lincoln's funeral train which stopped overnight in Harrisburg, Pa., on April 21, 1865.

Image is from the Chrysler Museum Collection.

Taking Care of Photographs

Keeping your family's photographs in good condition – both old and new – can be a challenge. Photographs are easily damaged by temperature extremes, moisture, light, pests, and excessive handling. Here are some tips to help maintain your photographs:

Temperature and Humidity:

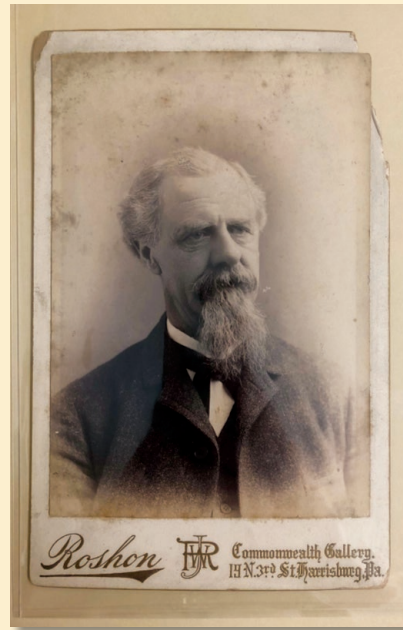
- As a rule of thumb, cooler temperatures (standard room temperature or below) and lower humidity levels (30-40%) are best for preserving photographs.
- Avoid storage in attics or basements due to temperature extremes and dampness.
- Be particularly careful with images printed from an ink-jet printer as the ink can easily be smeared when exposed to heat and moisture.

Handling:

- When handling photographs, have clean hands, keep food/drink away, and if possible, avoid writing on photographs since pencils, pens, and markers can smear, bleed, and create indents.

Storage:

- Photographs are commonly stored in albums or photograph boxes. While albums are convenient, be sure to avoid ones with stick-adhesive, as these can damage pictures.
- Using acid-free paper (100% cotton) to separate photographs stored in boxes will protect them from light exposure and moisture. Paper can also be easily labeled with a pencil to note dates and persons in photographs.
- Acid-free plastic sleeves for photographs are another great option. They can be purchased from archival



Rep. Harvey W. Haines (1889-1892) is shown in this cabinet card – a popular kind of photograph in the 20th century which consisted of a photographic print mounted on thin cardboard – and it is preserved in an acid-free plastic sleeve to protect it from further damage.

From the collection of the House Archives.

material suppliers or many craft store vendors and can fit into albums or be sized for individual pictures. Though more costly than paper dividers, the clear sleeves prevent dirt from getting on images, as well as reduce the risk of damage while handling or accessing photographs.

Displaying:

- Keep pictures you have on display away from direct sunlight and heat sources to prevent fading and warping.
- Avoid having important photographs directly touching glass in a frame: if a photograph gets wet and dries, it will be nearly impossible to separate it from the glass.
- Rotate pictures to prevent fading over time or consider displaying copies of your favorite photographs.



This photograph featuring Governor Tom Ridge and former Speakers K. Leroy Irvis and Matthew Ryan was donated to the House Archives by former Chief Clerk Roger Nick. It is signed by former Governor Ridge, and to protect both the picture and the signature, we keep the photograph in a plastic sleeve, as well as in its own acid-free folder.

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KNOW?**

The House Archives has an Internship Program!

The House Archives is proud to be able to provide internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Interns gain hands-on, real-world experience through working alongside professional archivists and research staff.

General Information:

- 13-week paid internship
- Full-time summer internship opportunities
- Full-or part-time internship opportunities in fall and spring semesters

Qualifications:

- Be a second semester junior, senior, or graduate student
- Attend a college or university in Pennsylvania or be a resident of Pennsylvania
- Have at least a 3.0 GPA
- Must complete an application and submit a resume, official college transcripts, a writing sample, and two letters of recommendation.



Interns meeting with Capitol Preservation to tour their collection of Civil War battle flags (left), and working with one of our collections (right).

Types of Work:

- Arranging, describing, preserving, and making records available for research
- Conducting research for biographical and oral history projects
- Working on research requests from the public
- Writing features for our blog, newsletter, and other publications
- Assisting with various special programs and assignments



Interns have the unique opportunity for behind-the-scenes tours of the Capitol and House Floor.

More Information:

Visit our website to view the application and to see applicable deadlines:

<http://www.house.state.pa.us/BMC/archives/internship.cfm>

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