



## Project Fact Sheet

### ***“Capturing Life” (1839 – 1869)***

**Series Title:** *The Big Picture: A History of Photography in Greater Cincinnati*  
**Episode One Title:** “Capturing Life” (1839 – 1869)  
**Components:** One-hour documentary, companion website, and educational materials.  
**Subjects:** Photography, history, economics and culture  
**Producer:** Voyageur Media Group, Inc.  
**Distribution:** Public screenings, regional public television, and streaming video.  
**Project Director:** Tom Law, email: [contactus@voyageurmedia.org](mailto:contactus@voyageurmedia.org)  
**Project website:** <https://voyageurmedia.org/projects/the-big-picture-a-history-of-photography-in-greater-cincinnati-home/>

#### **Summary:**

“Capturing Life” (1839-1869) is the first episode in *The Big Picture: A History of Photography in Greater Cincinnati*, a three-part documentary series that examines the role of photography in the region’s economic, social and cultural development from 1839 to 1939. Greater Cincinnati was a major center for the development of American photography. However, few know about the contributions made by regional scientists and daguerreotypists to the growth of photography from a technological invention into a new artistic medium and thriving business from 1839 to 1869. “Capturing Life” presents the remarkable careers of such photography pioneers as John Locke, Ezekiel Hawkins, James P. Ball, Charles Fontayne, William Porter, Charles and Mary Waldack, and John Wildman Winder. The one-hour documentary explores the impact of photography on key historical events, including immigration, western expansion, the abolitionist movement, the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, and post-war industrialization. “Capturing Life” also reveals how photography helped to shape the identity of individuals, families and communities as the region rose from modest river towns into a major commercial center in America’s heartland.

Voyageur Media Group, Inc. is a 501 c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the creation of public media about science, history and culture. Established in 1998, Voyageur’s production team is collaborating with regional scholars, archivists, museums, libraries and academic institutions on development of the documentary project, which also features a companion website and educational materials. “Capturing Life (1838-1868)” will be distributed beginning in October of 2024 via a series of public screenings a part of the 2024 FotoFocus Biennial, regional public television stations and streaming video. Future episodes in the series are: “Developing Communities” (1870 – 1909), and “Expanding Views” (1910 – 1939).



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