



Lesson 2: Photography and Economics

Background

Greater Cincinnati had a thriving economy in the middle of the 19th century focused on the processing of pork; it became known as Porkopolis. Numerous businesses sprang up in connection with that industry, like Procter & Gamble, a company that salvaged fats to make candles and soaps. Transport of these and other goods occurred along the Ohio River, which also served as a conduit for the dissemination of ideas. Publishing industries, educational and medical institutions, and religious organizations followed the ideas, establishing centers in Greater Cincinnati and attracted leading scientific and cultural thinkers. The combination of access to goods and ideas made the city a prime location for the development of photography.

Prompt

What economic factors contributed to Greater Cincinnati becoming a leading center of early American photography?

Reference Images



Image 1

Ezekiel Hawkins, *Jacob Strader at Wharf, Cincinnati*, ca. 1853. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

Link: <https://art.nelson-atkins.org/objects/50647/the-jacob-strader-at-wharf-cincinnati?ctx=84d4bb2b-7327-4354-8343-55d2cc5b7fef&idx=0>



Image 2

John Wildman Winder, four-plate panorama, *View of Cincinnati*, ca. 1866. Library of Congress. See also J.W. Winder's *Photographic View of Cincinnati, Covington and Newport*, ca 1866, Library of Congress.

Link: <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2007662637>

Academic Fields

Social Studies:

- The variability in the distribution of productive resources in the various regions of the world contributed to specialization, trade, and interdependence.
- The movement of people, products and ideas resulted in new patterns of settlement and land use that influenced the political and economic development of the United States.
- The Industrial Revolution fundamentally changed the means of production because of improvements in technology, use of new power resources, the advent of interchangeable parts and the shift from craftwork to factory work.

American History:

- Historians analyze cause, effect, sequence, and correlation in historical events, including multiple causation and long- and short-term causal relations.
- Immigration, internal migration, and urbanization transformed American life.

World Geography:

- The characteristics of regions change over time and there are consequences related to those changes (e.g., industrial belt to rust belt, pristine locations to tourist attractions, colony to independent state).
- Patterns of settlement change over time in terms of functions, sizes, and spatial patterns (e.g., a canal town becomes an industrial city, a rural area becomes a transportation hub, cities merge into a megalopolis).

Documentary Reference Clips

Clip 1: The Rise of Daguerrean Studios, 8:05 – 09:47

Clip 2: Ezekiel Cooper Hawkins, 09:48 – 14:20

Clip 2: Fontayne and Porter, 14:22 – 17:12

Clip 3: Innovation and Activism, 17:13 – 22:32

Clip 4: The Homefront, 36:45 - 38:42.

Discussion Questions

- What Cincinnati industries supported the development and growth of photography from 1839 - 1869?

- Did photography change the economic landscape of Cincinnati, or did it simply reflect changes that were occurring within the city?
- How did photography impact Greater Cincinnati during the second industrial age after the Civil War?

Activities

- Find additional photos from Cincinnati and/or other cities from this period that illustrate or inform us about industry and economics during this time. Compare and contrast them with the reference images above.
- Acquire photos and other elements to create an image/inspiration board that depicts A) Dominant industries in Cincinnati today, or B) Industries in Cincinnati that relate to or rely on photography and other visual media. What has changed?

Online Resources

- There are few online resources that directly cover the economics of early American photography (1839-1869). Researchers need to combine information contained in books (see Bibliography) about the region's history with books and academic papers about early American photography to begin to understand the business of early American photography and its economic impact on the region. Here are some starting points.

Bibliography

American Photographic History

- Brown**, Julie K., *Making Culture Visible: A Public Display of Photography at Fairs, Expositions and Exhibitions in the United States, 1847-1900*, Volume 3, Routledge Library Editions: Art and Culture in the Nineteenth Century, Routledge, New York, NY, 2019.
- Davis**, Keith F. Keith, *The Origins of American Photography: from Daguerreotype to Dry-Plate, 1839-1885*, with contributions by Jane L. Aspinwall; Hall Family Foundation in Association with The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Distributed by Yale University Press, New Haven and London, October 28, 2007. An accompaniment to *Developing Greatness: The Origins of American Photography, 1839 – 1885*, an exhibition of The Hallmark Photographic Collection at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.
- Gagel**, Diane VanSkiver. *Ohio photographers: 1839-1900*, second Edition, Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Company by Genealogical Publishing Company, 2013.
- Newhall**, Beaumont, *The Daguerreotype in America*, Third Revised Edition, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1976.
- Orvell**, Miles. *Photography in America*, Temple University, Oxford University Press, New York, 2016.
- Taft**, Robert. *Photography and the American Scene, A Social History 1839-1889*, 1938; paperback, Dover Publications, 1964.
- Van Gogh Museum**. *The Photograph and the American Dream 1840-1940*, published to accompany an exhibit by the same name, 2001.
- Welling**, William, *Photography in America: The Formative Years, 1839-1900*, original Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York, 1978; paperback reprint, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1987.
- Hamber**, Anthony, "The Daguerreotype and the 1851 Great Exhibition," pp. 81-105, *The Daguerreian Annual*, 2016.

Ezekiel C. Hawkins and Thomas Faris

- Doyle**, Joseph B., *20th Century History of Steubenville and Jefferson County, Ohio and Representative Citizens*, by Joseph B. Doyle, Published by Richmond-Arnold Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1910. Chapter XX "A Company of Worthies," Hawkins family: pp. 331-333
- Faris**, Thomas "Personal Reminiscences," [A Paper read before the Photo. Section at the last meeting], by Thomas Faris, pages 490-493, published in *The Photographic Times and American Photographer*, Volume XIV, J. Traill Taylor, Editor, Scovill Manufacturing Company, Publishers, New York, 1884.
- Hanlon**, David R., "E.C. Hawkins: History of a Photographic Pioneer," pp141-159, *The Daguerreian Annual*, 2016.
- Hunter**, W.H., compiled by, Steubenville Gazette, "The Pathfinders of Jefferson County," pp 95 - 313, *Ohio archaeological and historical quarterly*, Vol. 6, published in 1898 for the society by John L. Trauger, Columbus, Ohio. Hawkins bio from pp. 299-304, image p. 300.

John Wildman Winder

Haverstock, Mary Sayre, editor and compiler, Meggitt, Brian L. and Vance, Jeannette Mahoney (compilers). *Artists in Ohio 1787-1900, A Biographical Dictionary*, The Kent State University Press, 3rd Edition, 1996.

Regional History

Baskin, John. and O'Bryant, Michael (editors), *The Ohio Almanac: An Encyclopedia of Indispensable Information about the Buckeye Universe*, Third Edition, Orange Frazer Press, Wilmington, 2004.

Berlier, Nancy (editor). *Cincinnati: Days in History*, A Bicentennial Almanac, published by The Cincinnati Post, 1988.

Cincinnati Historical Society, *Cincinnati: The Queen City*, Bicentennial Edition, Cincinnati Historical Society, Eden Park, Cincinnati, Ohio 1988.

Cist, Charles. *The Cincinnati Miscellany: Or Antiquities of the West and Pioneer History and General and Local Statistics*, Compiled from the Western General Advertiser, from April 1st, 1845 to April 1st, 1846, Volume II, Cincinnati: Robinson & Jones, 109 Main Street, 1846.

City of Cincinnati. *Cincinnati: A Guide to the Queen City and Its Neighbors*, a publication of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Project Administration, published in 1943.

Cornell, Alice M., ed. *Art as Image: Prints and Promotion in Cincinnati, Ohio.*, Ohio University Press/Athens, in association with the University of Cincinnati Digital Press, 2001.

Feck, Luke. *Yesterday's Cincinnati: Special Bicentennial Edition*. Cincinnati: Writer's Digest Books, 1975.

Fleischman, John. *Free & Public: One Hundred and Fifty Years at the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County 1853-2003*. Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Published by Orange Frazer Press, 2003.

Giglierano, Geoffrey. "Portrait of Change." *Cincinnati Historical Society Bulletin* 36 (Winter 1978): 242-252.

Haverstock, Mary S. et al., *Artists in Ohio, 1887-1900: A Biographical Dictionary*, Kent State University Press, Kent, Ohio, 2000. P 534.

Hurley, Daniel, *Cincinnati: The Queen City*, Bicentennial Edition, Cincinnati Historical Society, Eden Park, Cincinnati, Ohio 1982.

Jakle, John A., *Images of the Ohio Valley: A Historical Geography of Travel, 1740 to 1860*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Miller, Zane. *Cincinnati 1788 - 1943*, The WPSA Guide to Cincinnati, reprint of *Cincinnati: A Guide to the Queen City and its Neighbors*. Cincinnati: The Cincinnati Historical Society, 1987.

Mowery, David L., *Cincinnati in the Civil War: The Union's Queen City*, Charleston, S.C., The History Press, 2021.

Painter, Sue Ann. *Architecture in Cincinnati: An Illustrated History of Designing and Building an American City*, Ohio University Press, in association with the Architectural Foundation of Cincinnati, 2006.

Rosenboom, Eugene H. and Weisenburger, Francis P. *A History of Ohio*, The Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, 1996.

Sarna, Jonathan D., and Klein, Nancy H. *The Jews of Cincinnati*, Center for the Study of American Jewish Experience on the Campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1989.

Stevens, R. Harry, *The Ohio Bridge: Cincinnati's Roebling Suspension Bridge (1846 - 1939)*, Commonwealth Book Company, St. Martin, Ohio, 1939.

Suess, Jeff. *Cincinnati: Then and Now*, Jeff Suess, Cincinnati Enquirer, 2000.

Taylor, Nikki M. *Frontiers of Freedom: Cincinnati's Black Community, 1902-1868*, Ohio University Press, Athens, Ohio 2005.

Tenkotte, Paul. *The Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky*, by Paul Tenkotte (editor and James Claypool (editor) University of Kentucky Press, Illustrated Edition, 2009.

Tolzmnn, Don Heinrich. *Cincinnati's Germans Before World War I*, First Edition, Little Miami Publishing Co., Milford, Ohio, 2021.

The Big Picture: A History of Photography in Greater Cincinnati
Copyright Voyageur Media Inc. 2024