



**PHSNE Members to Tour Simon Wing Photographic Collection**  
**Field trip to Wing Fort House and Wing Memorial History Center**  
**63 Spring Hill Road, East Sandwich, MA, Sunday, May 6, 2018, 1:30 P.M.**  
 See p. 4 for driving directions and carpool information



*Wing Fort House, built 1641*

PHSNE members attending the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will have a special preview of a long-closeted collection of Simon Wing's nineteenth century photographic innovations. The extensive variety of memorabilia includes wooden cameras, lenses, glass plates, stamp photographs, daguerreotypes, cabinet cards, prints and tintypes, studio furnishings, patent papers, and account logs. The recent family donation yielded other significant aspects as well, such as political writings and domestic items.

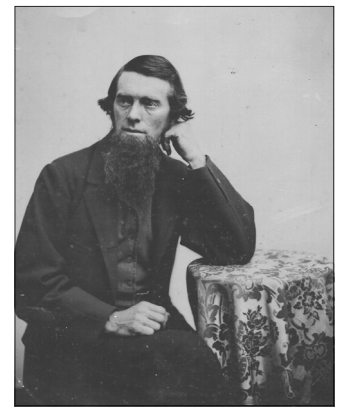
Born in Maine, Simon Wing made the Boston area his home base, establishing studios in Boston, Charlestown and Watertown. Wing was known for his multiplying camera that had the ability to produce multiple images on a single plate (See related article on page 3).

Over the course of his life, he invented and tweaked many styles of cameras, all as lovely as they were functional. His business grew beyond mere studio portraiture, quite stunning in itself, into the manufacturing and sales of cameras and stand, tripods, and photo studio apparatus, including a patented daguerreotype card and even developing chemicals and labels.

Wing developed a franchise-like system of studios in many commercial centers including Detroit, Chicago, Denver, and San Francisco. Studio owners there were able to use his multiplying camera only if they purchased exclusive regional patent rights so that a photo made with Wing equipment maintained a special status. He outfitted two traveling studios specializing in ferrotype portraits. He was a relentless marketer and a great believer in the patenting process, although around the turn of the century he encountered a long series of patent violations and broken contracts that led to irrecoverable losses in his wealth.

A visionary on many fronts, Simon Wing (1826-1911) was known later in life for his socialist bent as much as for his daguerreotypes. The futility of maintaining control of all aspects of his business could have informed his dissatisfaction with capitalism and growing passion for socialism. In his sixties he accepted the nomination to run for U.S. President under the Socialist Labor Party slate.

Wing's great granddaughter, Evelyn Kok, saved the intriguing photographic objects and archives he left behind, as well as his political and domestic memorabilia, and passed the entirety to her niece Christina Shipps.



*Simon Wing Portrait, Ferrotype c. 1856, courtesy of Wing Family of America*

Today, nearly one thousand Wings belong to the "Wing Family of America," originally formed as a genealogical group descended from the devout Quaker Reverend John Wing in England. The nonprofit organization has gathered at the Fort House, the historic house property that it has owned continuously since Wings settled on Cape Cod in the 1640s. Visit <http://www.wingfamily.org/wingfamilyforthouse.html> for more information.

In 1902 the need for a Memorial Hall for safe keeping of the family history archives, books, and objects was recognized. Having recently acquired the house opposite the Fort House, the Wings celebrate the opening of the long-awaited facility.

The Wing Family of America welcomes PHSNE on May 6<sup>th</sup> to an early stage in its roll-out of the Shipps' donation of The Simon Wing Family Photographic Collection. Following a brief orientation to the Wing Family, the program will feature a presentation by Ms. Shipps on family mythology, and long-time PHSNE member Dr Peter Schultz will share his extensive knowledge of Simon Wing and his cameras.

*~Randy Mott Cobb, Curator  
 Wing Fort House and Wing Memorial History Center*

## An Auction Where the Public Wins: Celebrating Harriet Tubman, and the Emily Howland Album

A photo album belonging to Emily Howland, a champion of education for freed slaves and for women's rights, came on the auction block in 2017, just months after the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened as part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. In a unique partnership, the Library of Congress (LOC) and the Museum pooled resources and bid on the remarkable album. As a result, instead of residing in a private collection, it is owned by and available to the public.

A Quaker and abolitionist, Howland was also a teacher and a friend of Tubman's. Like Tubman, she worked to support freedmen both during and after the Civil War.

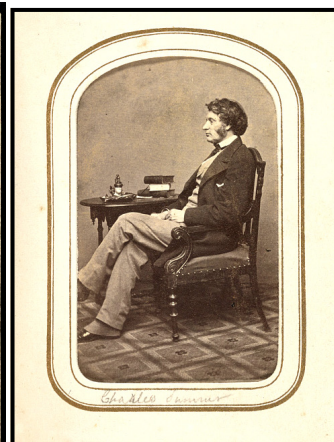
The LOC site lists several ways in which the public can access, enjoy, and learn from the album:

- "Page through the Howland album. All of the images are also featured in the Library's Flickr account, where Flickr members can leave reflections about the images and the people they depict. The photos are also being featured in the Library's Facebook account.

- Read about the conservation of the newly acquired album, *Library Conserves, Digitizes Rare Photographs Including Harriet Tubman Portrait* and watch a video that discusses the work that was done: *Conservation of the Emily Howland Album*
- Read the proclamation that established Harriet Tubman Day in 1990, available through the University of California at Santa Barbara's American Presidency Project™.
- View images of the Charles Sumner School, and learn more about the landmark, which now houses a museum and archive for the DC public school records and artifacts."



Left: Portrait of Harriet Tubman, Photo by Benjamin F. Powelson, c. 1868, LOC



Above right: Charles Sumner, Photo by Brady's National Photographic Portrait Galleries, c. 1860, LOC  
Below: Emily Howland, 1897; photo-mechanical print published in *American Women: Fifteen Hundred Biographies* with over 1,400 Portraits, LOC

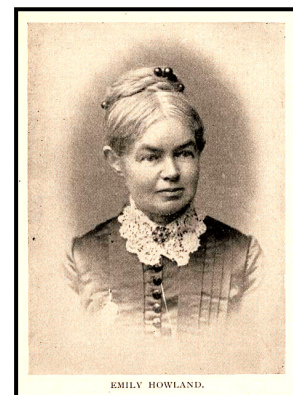
### PHSNE Membership

*New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year.* Regular PHSNE membership (U.S. and Canada) is \$20 for students, \$40 for individuals and institutions, and \$45 for a family; foreign membership is \$50. Join or renew online at [www.phsne.org/join](http://www.phsne.org/join) or [www.phsne.org/renew](http://www.phsne.org/renew), or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order. Check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending in dues.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters Jr, PHSNE Membership Chair, 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: [membership@phsne.org](mailto:membership@phsne.org)).

*snap shots*, edited by Beverly Regelman, is published monthly, September through June, by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. It is available to members at <http://phsne.org/member-services/archives/> within a few days of mailing. Articles and exhibition/book reviews are always welcome. Send to [snapshots@phsne.org](mailto:snapshots@phsne.org). Authors retain copyright to their original articles; however upon written application to the *snap shots* editor, PHSNE may grant non-profit societies with similar aims and interests a one-time right to reproduce a *snap shots* article as long as the author and source are credited and a complimentary copy of the publication is sent to the PHSNE address above.

The album will be on display at the Museum in the near future, and the museum's website will contain the digitized images. The album contained a previously unknown portrait of Tubman along with 47 other "portraits of abolitionists, suffragists, teachers, and statesmen" (<https://blogs.loc.gov/picturethis/2018/03/celebrating-harriet-tubman-and-the-emily-howland-album/>).



## Simon Wing's Multiplying Camera



Simon Wing designed an innovative camera that permitted multiple images to be produced on a single plate. "As described and illustrated in Wing's 1887 patent (361,387) and catalogue, two key features stand out; panels to shift the lens board horizontally and vertically, and a ball and socket mount allowing a lens-tube to universally tilt in any direction. Yet a third, subtle but important feature discloses the camera's true intention . . . Wing's View Camera was purposely designed with a rigid back. . . While this might appear as a drawback, it permits the camera to be used as a multiplying apparatus" (<http://www.antiquewoodcameras.com/wingv.html>).

The rigid back was well suited to keep all parts of the plate equidistant from the lenses which, in turn, enabled the pictures to focus simultaneously. Other features of the multiplying cameras included a fixed ground glass frame, metallic plate holders, and a rail lock. Despite its unique features, the camera was not a commercial success.



*Reversible back*

~Photos from antiquewoodcamera website

## Agfa Isolette L

A short while ago I purchased an Isolette L on an auction website. The camera (with meter, c. 1952) was equipped with a three element, 85mm middle of the road Apotar f:4.5 lens and a Pronto shutter with 4 speeds (1/25, 1/50, 1/100, 1/200), and bulb. It had been owned by a man in Bulgaria, and the postage was almost equal to the cost of the camera.

The Isolettes often have light leaks in the bellows but they proved to be light tight. The folding action was smooth, as was the shutter, and the lens was clean and clear, though the focus action was stiff. A couple drops of rubbing alcohol helped considerably.

"Like the original Isolette, the L has hinged blinds mounted on the film roller spindles, allowing it to be used for two different formats" ([http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Isolette#Isolette\\_L](http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Isolette#Isolette_L)). It could shoot 12 images on 120 film, or with the blinds deployed, 24 images in 3x6 cm which could be trimmed for a 24x36 mm slide mount if desired.

With a roll of Tri-X 120 film loaded and a light meter in hand, (the built-in meter was limited to an ASA range well below 400), I set out to test my new purchase, and I was more than satisfied with the results.



*Isolette L: camera-wiki.org/wiki/Isolette*

For a mere fraction of the cost of a DSLR or other digital camera, a local photofinisher did a basic scan of my negatives (developed at home) and gave back 12 image files on a CD of just under 7 Megs each. Detail was more than ample for a large print.

Taking the photos was a slow and deliberate process, but it reinforced my connection to traditional photographic methods. Looking at the negatives, I realize I could have done better with metering as there was definite variation in density, but nothing a few tweaks in my photo editor could not address. It was an enjoyable experience, and the camera is a welcome addition to my collection!

~Joel Moses, PHSNE President

### Photo Exhibits at Bruce Museum

The Bruce Museum of Arts and Science in downtown Greenwich, Connecticut is hosting several interesting and overlapping photographic exhibits:

***In Time We Shall Know Ourselves,: Photographs by Raymond Smith***, April 7 - June 3, 2018: “Black-and-white photographs . . . Inspired by the photographs taken in the American South in the 1930s by Walker Evans. . . Vivid short stories explode into an epic travel narrative.”

***Wild Bees: Photographs by Paula Sharp and Ross Eatman***, April 14 - November 11, 2018: “Exquisite color photographs of native bees in their natural habitats, along with an exploration of their varied lifestyles.”

***National Geographic Photo Ark: Photographs by Joel Sartore***: June 2 - September 2, 2018: “A multi-



year effort to document every species living in wildlife sanctuaries, inspire action through education, and help save wildlife by supporting on-the-ground conservation efforts.”

For further information about these exhibits, visit [https://brucemuseum.org/site/exhibitions\\_landing/current](https://brucemuseum.org/site/exhibitions_landing/current).

### PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. preceded by an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m.

### Upcoming meetings:

**June 3**—Interesting revisit of PHSNE’s past  
**September**—TBA. (There are no summer meetings)

### Driving directions to Wing Memorial History Center, 63 Spring Hill Rd., East Sandwich, MA:

From the north: 95 South to MA 3 South to Quaker Meeting House Rd. in Sandwich; exit 3 (from U.S. 6E). Continue on Quaker Meeting House Rd. to Spring Hill Rd. The History Center is across the street from the Wing Fort House.

**To carpool:** email [snapshots@phsne.org](mailto:snapshots@phsne.org).

**Trip Adviser reviews:** <https://tinyurl.com/ycewjstt>

### Connect to PHSNE Online and by email:

PHSNE’s Web site is online at <http://phsne.org>. See <https://www.facebook.com/PHSNE/> for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit <http://phsne.org/archive> for PHSNE history and *snapshots* issues. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

Stay connected to PHSNE via our emails: a *snapshots* e-copy, and *Photographa* show announcements. Sign up at <http://phsne.org/emails>.

## Useful Websites

<http://pinholeday.org/> Coming up very soon, Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day, April 29, 2018. Anyone, anywhere in the world, who makes a pinhole photograph on the last Sunday in April, can scan it and upload it to this website where it will become part of the annual Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day celebration's online gallery. Nearest event in NE is in VT.

<http://www.mfa.org/programs/lectures-and-courses/relentless-the-stories-behind-the-photographs-of-neil-leifer> **Lecture** Relentless: The Stories Behind the Photographs of Neil Leifer. MFA Boston, Sunday, May 20, 2018, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Ticket required (\$20; members \$16). Join Neil Leifer, arguably the most notable sports photographer of the 20th century, for a survey of his illustrious career, from photographing his favorite subject, Muhammad Ali, at all 35 of his fights, to covering 16 Olympic games, presidential and celebrity portraits, countless World Series, and even filming his short film *What About Sal?* on location at Fenway Park.