

*Chester County Historical Society Photographic Collections
225 N. High St., West Chester, PA 19380*

THE HORACE ENGLE COLLECTION

INVENTORY AND INDEX

*This project was supported in part by an award from
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to improve museum, library and information services.*

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The Horace Engle Collection

Introduction

Collection Description

The Horace Engle Collection consists of 25 circular glass plate negatives, each bearing from six to three images, taken with a Stirn's Concealed Vest Camera in 1888. The Stirn's camera was worn under the photographer's vest, with the lens peeping out through a buttonhole. After the photographer made an exposure by pressing a release bulb, the plate was rotated into position to make another exposure.

The images are candid views of the streets in West Chester, largely showing High, Market, Gay and Church Streets. Refer to the map in the front of each album to help locate buildings shown in the photographs.

How to use this guide

For rapid location of a particular subject check the index. All images have been cross-referenced by subject, geographical location, or proper name. All subject headings used are from the *Thesaurus for Graphic Materials* published by the Library of Congress. The inventory listing gives a description for each image on the plate.

To request viewing the collection write the call number PH47 on a photo collection call slip and a librarian will bring the volumes to you.

About Horace Engle

Horace Engle, 1861-1949, was a mineralogist and inventor who dabbled in many areas of technology, including photography.

Engle was the son of Lancaster County farmer Henry Engle and his second wife Lizzie Musser. Horace Engle was educated at Millersville State Teacher's College. He also studied electrical engineering at Lehigh University and received a B.A. in Chemistry at Johns Hopkins University. For about 11 months beginning late in 1889, Engle worked as an "experimenter" at Thomas Edison's laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey. He worked on a variety of projects including producing artificial sapphire to be used for cutting phonograph records. He left Edison's employ in 1890 to pursue his interests in mineralogy at Roanoke, Virginia.

Horace Engle's life and work with the Stirn's concealed vest camera is well documented in Edward Leos book "Other Summers" published by The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1980. A copy of the book is in the CCHS library. (TR 140 .E58L45)

Engle chose to live in West Chester when he retired, not far from Glen Mills where his brother Ezra operated a small farm. He lived on Dean St. from 1923 - 1944 and was an active member of the Chester County Historical Society. Engle along with Harry

Wilson, George R. Cope (the geologist) and J. Carroll Hayes enjoyed rock hunting and studying nature together. These four, who called themselves the "Musketeers," organized many of the historical pilgrimages that the Society members enjoyed during this period. It is most likely that Engle donated the Stirn's plates to the Society's collection. The Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg also holds photographs taken by Horace Engle. They can be found in Manuscript Group 196.

Why Engle came to West Chester in 1888 to take the views in the CCHS collection is as yet a mystery. Could he have come to West Chester on business for the Prohibitionist Party? Chester County voted as a strong supporter of Prohibition in Pennsylvania. Engle was the Secretary of the Prohibitionist Party in Lancaster County and was an alternate delegate to the 1888 National Convention of the Prohibition Party in Indianapolis, Indiana. According to manuscript material, Engle compiled an album of photographs made with the Stirn's camera of all the members of the party. The whereabouts of this album is not presently known.

Unnumbered Plates A - E show views of places other than Chester County. It is possible that Plate D shows some views of Marietta, Lancaster County. The images of the sod house and the pioneering settlement on Plate E possibly could have been taken while Engle was prospecting for ore for Edison in 1889.

About this project

With the help of a matching grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded in 1997, the collection was properly housed, duplicated, indexed and made available to the public. The original glass plate negatives were housed in protective enclosures custom made by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia. The negatives were duplicated and reference prints were made by The Chicago Albumen Works in Housatonic, Massachusetts. In order to preserve both the informational value and the artifact value of these negatives, 8 x 10 duplicate negatives were made of the entire plates and also individual images were copied on to 5" roll film. The reference prints were housed in archival quality photograph albums by CCHS volunteers. A print showing the entire plate precedes the individual views of each image on that plate. The plates have been divided into two albums, Plates 17-28 in Volume I and Plates 29-36 and A - E are in Volume II.

HORACE ENGLE NEGATIVE INVENTORY

Plate 17:

17A "Indian" riding a horse in a circus parade at intersection of Gay and High Streets, West Chester, 1888. The Green Tree Hotel is on the right.

17B Four-horse chariot in circus parade on Gay St., West Chester, 1888. Green Tree Hotel is in the background.

17C Lions in a horse - drawn cage in circus parade on Gay Street, West Chester, 1888. Northwest corner of High Street in background.

17D Six horse circus wagon on parade on Gay Street, West Chester, 1888, looking north on High Street.

17E Elephants in the circus parade on Gay Street, West Chester, 1888. Green Tree Hotel in background.

17F Circus Wagon on Gay Street at the intersection of High Street, West Chester, 1888.

Plate 18:

18A Gentleman walking on High Street, West Chester, 1888 with National Bank of Chester County in background.

18B Gentleman walking past 13 North High Street, West Chester, 1888.

18C Gentleman walking past 19 North High Street, West Chester, 1888.

18D Gentleman standing before First National Bank of West Chester, on High Street, West Chester, 1888.

18E Gentleman walking before National Bank of Chester County, West Chester, 1888.

18F Gentleman walking before The Hemphill Building, High Street, West Chester, 1888.

Plate 19:

19A Men standing before Baker & Brother shoe store on northeast corner of Gay and Church Streets, West Chester 1888. Livery stable in background.

19B Men standing on West Market Street before H.F. Freeman's Optical Shop and R & E Palmer's Store, West Chester, 1888.

19C Men standing along a street, West Chester, 1888.

19D Men standing along a street, West Chester, 1888.

19E Lady walking South on High Street past the National Bank of Chester County, West Chester, 1888.

19F Gentleman crossing High Street, West Chester, 1888. Chester County Courthouse, the Hickman Fountain, and West Market Street in background with old Post Office (before construction of the F & M Building.)

Plate 20:

20A First West Chester Fire Company, Church Street, West Chester, 1888.

20B View looking North on Church Street at the intersection of Gay Street, West Chester, 1888.

20C View of the West side of North Church Street, near the intersection of Gay Street, West Chester, 1888. First West Chester Fire Company is visible.

20D View of Fame Fire Co., north side of E. Market St., between High and Walnut Streets, West Chester, 1888.

20E View of Fame Fire Co., and Sill & Reed Grocery Store, 27 E. Market Street, West Chester, 1888.

20F View looking East on Gay Street, West Chester, 1888 with the Green Tree Hotel and the Chester County Democrat in view.

Plate 21:

21A View of fireman pulling hand-drawn hose carriage south on High Street past Thomas C. Hogue's Store and Thomas G. Pierce's Drug Store at the intersection of Gay Street, West Chester, 1888.

21B View of fireman pulling hand-drawn hose carriage south on High Street past Thomas C. Hogue's Store and Thomas G. Pierce's Drug Store at the intersection of Gay Street, West Chester, 1888.

21C View of fireman pulling hand-drawn hose carriage north on High Street, West Chester with SW and NW corner of High and Gay Streets in the background 1888.

21D Bearded gentleman before E.W. Baker & Brother shoe store on northeast corner of Gay and Church Streets, West Chester 1888.

21E View of fireman pulling hand-drawn hose carriage past the Green Tree Hotel, NE corner of High and Gay Streets, West Chester 1888.

21F View of fireman pulling hand-drawn hose carriage south on High Street, West Chester, 1888. Green Tree Hotel and Thomas C. Hogue's Store in the background.

Plate 22:

22A Looking north on South Church Street from the Mansion House Stables to the intersection of Market Street, West Chester 1888.

22B Looking south on High Street, West Chester with the National Bank of Chester County, and 13 North High Street in the foreground, 1888.

22C Looking south on High Street, West Chester with the Hemphill Building in the foreground on the left and the Old Post Office on the right at the corner of High and Market Streets, West Chester 1888.

22D Looking south on High Street, West Chester with the Hemphill Building in the foreground on the left and the Old Post Office on the right at the corner of High and Market Streets, West Chester 1888.

22E Looking south on High Street, West Chester with the Hemphill Building in the foreground on the left and the Old Post Office on the right at the corner of High and Market Streets, West Chester 1888.

22F Gentleman standing before the National Bank of Chester County, North High Street, West Chester 1888.

Plate 23:

23A Looking east on Gay Street at the corner of Church Street, West Chester, 1888. Man seeing away snow at B.T .Hoopes Store, Baker & Brother shoe store in the background.

23B Man walking past 13 North High Street, West Chester, after a snow storm, 1888.

23C Gentleman strolling past the First National Bank of West Chester, on High Street, West Chester, 1888.

23D Group of Afro-American men standing beside the Turk's Head Hotel, corner of High and Market Streets, West Chester 1888.

23E Man walking through snow before the old Post Office on SW corner of High and Market Streets, West Chester 1888.

23F Gentleman on the porch of the Turk's Head Hotel, High and Market Streets, West Chester, 1888.

Plate 24:

24A Gentleman with crutches crossing Gay Street, before the Green Tree Hotel, West Chester, 1888.

24B Looking South on High Street towards the intersection of High and Market Streets, West Chester, 1888.

24C Double Exposure.

24D Damaged image, Piano shop of Kane W. Lewis, 133 East Market Street , West Chester 1888.

24E Looking west on Gay Street at the intersection of Church Street, West Chester, 1888. B.T. Hoopes Store, on NW corner of Gay Street is visible.

Plate 25:

25A Women pushing baby carriages along the south side of West Market Street, West Chester, 1888. H. F. Freeman's optical shop is visible.

25B Gentleman standing before Kennard H. Gould's Hat Shop, 24 West Market Street, West Chester, 1888.

25C Gentleman standing before Kennard H. Gould's Hat Shop, 24 West Market Street, West Chester, 1888.

25D Men walking along Gay Street, West Chester, 1888. Sign for Charles T. Young's store, 32 West Gay St. in the background.

25E Gentlemen walking along the south side of West Market Street, West Chester, 1888. Turk's Head Hotel in the background.

25F Man with long beard standing on West Market Street, West Chester, 1888. Chester County Courthouse in the background.

Plate 26:

26A Polar Bear at the Zoo, n.p., n.d. [possibly Philadelphia]

26B Street scene n.p., n.d. [possibly Philadelphia]

26C Boy riding pony, n.p., n.d. [sign for M. L. Best Brew Company in background, possibly 12th St., Philadelphia]

26D Man feeding swans, n.p., n.d. [possibly Philadelphia]

26E Swans beside a pond, n.p., n.d. [possibly Philadelphia]

26F Bear in a tree at the zoo, n.p., n.d. [possibly Philadelphia]

Plate 27:

27A Intersection of West Market and Church Streets, West Chester looking east, 1888. Mansion House Hotel and the Lincoln Building are visible on the right.

27B Gentleman mailing a letter at intersection of High and Gay Streets, West Chester, 1888. Looking north on High Street.

27C Afro-American boys fighting on High Street, West Chester, 1888. Looking north towards Gay Street.

27D Afro-American boys fighting on High Street, West Chester, 1888. Looking north towards Gay Street.

27E Gentleman walking down High Street, West Chester, 1888. Looking North on High Street. First National Bank of West Chester, and Turk's Head Hotel are across the street.

27F Gentleman walking down High Street, West Chester, 1888. Looking north on High Street, from the First National Bank of West Chester.

Plate 28:

28A Man with watering can on West Market Street, West Chester, 1888. Looking east toward the Turk's Head Hotel.

28B Gentleman walking down the west side of High Street, West Chester, 1888. Intersection of High and Gay Streets in the background.

28C Gentleman on High Street, West Chester, with the Assembly Building, (or McConkey Mansion) in the background, 1888.

28D Gentleman on High Street, West Chester, with the Assembly Building, (or McConkey Mansion) in the background, 1888.

28E Gentleman walking by Chester County Courthouse, West Chester, 1888.

28F Gentleman standing by West Market Street, West Chester, 1888. Looking east toward the intersection of High and Market Streets, Turk's Head Inn visible in the background.

Plate 29:

29A View looking south on High Street, West Chester Edmiston Taylor shop sign in view (25 North High Street) with old post office in background, 1888.

29B Children and street vendor, West Chester, 1888.

29C Gentleman walking, West Chester, 1888.

29D Street vendor selling suspenders in front of 13 North High Street, West Chester, 1888.

29E Street vendor selling suspenders on High Street, West Chester, Assembly Building in background, 1888.

Plate 30:

30A Gentleman at the doorway of the First National Bank of West Chester, 1888. View looking north on High Street.

30B Mailman retrieving mail from a mail box at the corner of High and Markets Streets, West Chester, 1888. The Hemphill Building, First National Bank, and Turk's Head Hotel are visible in the background.

30C Gentleman walking down High Street, West Chester, 1888. View looking north, with the National Bank of Chester County in the background.

30D Man jumping before Kennard's Hat Shop on West Market Street, West Chester, 1888.

30E Brass band playing before James Brothers store on North Church Street, West Chester, 1888. First West Chester Fire Company is visible on the right.

30F Man walking across High Street at intersection of Market Street, West Chester, 1888. View looking west, Old Post Office is visible on the left.

Plate 31:

31A Men standing under shed roof, West Chester, 1888.

31B Gentleman walking before Green Tree Hotel, Gay Street,. West Chester, 1888.
View looking east on Gay Street.

31C Man walking before the National Bank of Chester County, N. High Street West
Chester, 1888.

31D Man riding high-wheeled bicycle before Haines & Shaw Grocery Store on the SW
corner of Market and Church Streets, West Chester, 1888.

31E Man crossing the intersection of High and Gay Streets, West Chester, 1888.
Building on NW corner is visible in background.

31F Man at the doorway of 19 N. High Street, West Chester, 1888.

Plate 32:

32A Men walking past E.W. Baker & Sons Shoe Store on the SE corner of Gay and
Church Streets, West Chester, 1888.

32B Gentleman driving four-wheeled cart on High Street, West Chester, 1888. The
Assembly Building and the Chester County Mutual Life Insurance Company are visible
in the background.

32C Men talking before 13 North High Street, West Chester, 1888.

32D Man standing in a doorway, West Chester, 1888.

32E Gentleman strolling down High Street, West Chester, 1888. The Assembly Building
in the background.

32F Men walking on High Street, West Chester, 1888. Intersection of High and Gay
Streets with the Green Tree Hotel in the background.

Plate 33:

33A Gentleman standing before Chester County Courthouse, West Chester, 1888.

33B Man walking on High Street, West Chester, 1888. View looking north toward Gay Street, National Bank of Chester County on the right.

33C Man standing on High Street, West Chester, 1888. The Assembly Building in the background.

33D Man walking before the Chester County Courthouse, West Chester, 1888.

33E Gentleman with beard on High Street, West Chester, 1888. Lady standing before the National Bank Of Chester County in the background.

Plate 34:

34A Back view of lady walking under shed roofs, West Chester, 1888.

34B Men crossing street before Marshall's Art Gallery, SE corner of High and Market Streets, West Chester, 1888.

34C Man walking on High Street, West Chester, 1888. Intersection of High and Gay Streets visible in background.

34D Man walking on High Street, West Chester, 1888. Intersection of High and Gay Streets visible in background.

34E Man crossing High Street, West Chester, 1888. View looking north on High Street, towards Gay Street. East side of High Street is visible.

34F Man crossing Church Street, West Chester, with Mansion House Hotel in background, 1888.

Plate 35:

35A Elderly man walking on High Street, West Chester, 1888. Buildings on east side of High Street, near the intersection of Gay Street are visible.

35B Gentleman walking on High Street, West Chester, 1888. Buildings on west Side of High Street, near the intersection of Gay Street are visible.

35C Same gentleman as in #35B pointing to damage on tree, High Street, West Chester, 1888.

35D Elderly gentleman walking on West Gay Street, West Chester, 1888. C.&E. B. Richard's Trimmings and Notions store on 113 West Gay Street is visible.

35E Workmen before First West Chester Fire Company firehouse on North Church Street, West Chester, 1888.

35F Gentleman on High Street, West Chester, 1888. View looking north showing shops on the east side of High Street near the intersection of Gay Street.

Plate 36:

36A Wagon traveling down West Market Street, near intersection of Darlington St., West Chester, 1888.

36B Gentlemen gathered in street, West Chester, 1888.

36C Men looking out a window, West Chester, 1888.

36D Men erecting pole behind F.P. Thomas Printing office, 13 North High Street, West Chester, 1888.

36E Men erecting pole behind F.P. Thomas Printing office, 13 North High Street, West Chester, 1888.

36F Man mowing lawn, N. Church and Biddle Streets, West Chester, 1888.

Plate A:

- A-1 Men on deck of masted ship, n.d.
- A-2 Passengers on board ship, n.d.
- A-3 Passengers on board ship, n.d.
- A-4 Ladies playing shuffle board on board a ship, n.d.
- A-5 Band playing on deck on ship, n.d.
- A-6 Indistinguishable exposure.

Plate B:

- B-1 Carriages on Gay Street, West Chester, 1888. View of building on NW corner of High and Gay Streets in background.
- B-2 Intersection of High and Gay Streets, West Chester, looking south on High Street. Buildings on east side of High Street are visible, 1888.
- B-3 Scissors grinder carrying his tools, West Chester, 1888.

Plate C:

- C-1 Double Exposure with railroad locomotive. [See: Edward Leos, Other Summers: The Photographs of Horace, page 86.]
- C-2 Gentleman beside creek, n.p., n.d.
- C-3 Gentleman beside creek, n.p., n.d.
- C-4 Gentlemen in plowed field, n.p., n.d.

Plate D:

- D-1 Frame dwellings, n.p., n.d. [Emulsion flaking off negative]
- D-2 Laborers constructing stone building, n.p, n.d. [Emulsion flaking off negative]
- D-3 Man standing under porch at Green Tree Hotel, West Chester, 1888. View of the north side of Gay Street, between High and Walnut Streets.

Plate E:

E-1 Horses drinking at a water trough, n.p., n.d.

E-2 Sod houses, n.p., n.d.

E-3 Men getting into four-wheeled cart, frame buildings in background, n.p., n.d.

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Note: Each plate contains up to six views. When a full plate is listed in the index, it indicates that the index subject appears in all images on the plate.

The plates have been divided into two albums, Plates 17-28 in Volume I, Plates 29-36, and A -E are in Volume II.

Addresses listed are taken from the 1888-1889 Boyd's Chester County Directory, and may not reflect present day street addresses. See the map included in each volume for the location of buildings in West Chester.

A

Afro-Americans

23D, 27C, 27D

Assembly Building, High St., West Chester (also known as the Meconkey Mansion)

28C, 28D, 29E, 32E, 33C

B

Baker & Brother Shoe Store, NE corner of Gay & Church Sts., West Chester

19A, 21D, 23A, 32A

Baby carriages

25A

Bands

30E, A5

Banks – West Chester (see also proper name of bank)

18A, 18D, 19E, 22B, 22D, 22F, 23C, 27E, 27F, 31C

M. L. Best Brew Co. sign, [possibly 12th St., Phila.]

26C

Bicycles

31D

C

Carriages

19F, 26B, 30C, 32B, 34D, 34F, 35E, 36A, B1, B2, E3

Chester County Courthouse, West Chester

25F, 28E, 33A, 33D

Chester County Democrat, 13 E. Gay St., West Chester

20F

Circus Parades

Plate 17

Construction

D2

Creeks

C2, C3

D

Dwellings – West Chester, Church St.

36F

Dwellings – West Chester, Market St.

36A

Dwellings – N.P.

D1, E2

E

Elephants

17D

F

Fame Fire Co., E. Market St., West Chester (between High & Walnut Streets)
20D, 20E

Fire Fighters
Plate 21

First National Bank of West Chester, 7 N. High St., West Chester
18D, 22D, 23C, 27E, 27F, 30F

First West Chester Fire Co., N. Church St., West Chester
20A, 20C, 35E

H. F. Freeman, optician, 18 W. Market St., West Chester
19B, 25A

G

Kennard H. Gould's Hat Shop, 26 W. Market St., West Chester
25B, 25C, 30D

Green Tree Hotel, NE corner High & Gay Streets, West Chester
17A, 17B, 17E, 21E, 21F, 24A, 31B, 32F, D3

H

Haines & Shaw Grocery Store, SW corner of Market & Church Sts., West Chester
31D

Hemphill Building, High St., West Chester
18F, 22D, 30B

Thomas C. Hogue's Store, SE corner of High & Gay Sts., West Chester
21A, 21B

B.T. Hoopes Store, NW corner of Gay & Church Sts., West Chester
23A, 24E

Horses
Plate 17, 26C, 30C, 32B, 34D, 36A, B1, B2, E1

Hotels & Taverns – West Chester (see also proper name of Hotel)
17A, 17B, 17E, 21E, 21F, 24A, 31B, 32F, 34F, D3.

J

James Brothers Store, 20 N. Church St., West Chester
30E

L

Lawn mowers
36F

Locomotives
C1

M

Mailboxes
27B

Mansion House Hotel, SE corner Market & Church St., West Chester
27A, 34F

Mansion House Stables, S. Church St., West Chester
22A

Marshall's Art Gallery, SE corner of High & Market Sts., West Chester
34B

Men

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C, Plate D, Plate E.

N

National Bank of Chester County, 15 N. High St., West Chester
18A, 18E, 19E, 22B, 22F, 31C, 33B, 33E

P

R & E Palmer's Store, 12 W. Market St., West Chester
19B

Thomas G. Pierce's Drug Store, 23 N. High St., West Chester
21A

Post Office, SW corner of High & Market St., West Chester
19F, 22C, 23E, 30F

Postal Service Employees
27B

R

C. & E.B. Richard's Trimming & Notions Store, 113 W. Gay St., West Chester
35D

S

Scissors Grinders
B3

Ships
Plate A

Shuffle Board
A4

Sill & Reed Grocery Store, 27 E. Market St., West Chester
20E

Street vendors
29D, 29F

Streets – West Chester, Church St.
19A, 20A-C, 21D, 22A, 30E, 31D, 32A, 34F, 35E, 36F

Streets – West Chester, Gay St.
19A, 20F, 21D, 21E, 23A, 24A, 24E, 25D, 31B, 31E, 32A, 35F, B1, B2, D3.

Streets – West Chester, High St.

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Streets – West Chester, Market St.

19B, 20D, 20E, 24D, 25A-C, 25E, 25F, 27A, 28A, 28E, 28F, 30D, 30F, 31D, 34B, 36A.

I

Telegraph Poles

36D, 36E

Thirteen North High St., West Chester

18B, 23B, 29D, 32C

F.P. Thomas Printing Office, rear of 13 N. High St., West Chester

36D, 36E

Turk's Head Hotel, NE corner of Market & High Sts., West Chester

23D, 23F, 27E, 28F, 30B

W

Winter

Plate 23

Women

19E, 25A, 25F, 33E, 34A, A4.

Z

Zoos

26A, 26D-F