

**PICTURING THE WEST: MASTERWORKS OF 19TH CENTURY LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY**

HENRY HAMILTON BENNETT was born in Canada in 1843, but he spent most of his childhood in Vermont. In 1857 he traveled to Kilbourn City, Wisconsin, with his father, seeking a new home for their family. During the Civil War, Bennett joined a local Wisconsin regiment and fought until 1864. At the age of twenty-two he returned to Kilbourn with a crippled right hand and bought a local photography business. Although at first his business failed, eventually Bennett began to attract customers. 1868 was his first year of landscape photography; most of his photographs were stereoscopes. Business continued to flourish, and in 1875 a Milwaukee businessman, William Metcalf, gave Bennett the funds for a new studio. In the years to follow, he traveled throughout the state photographing and held exhibitions in several other states. Bennett died in 1908.

JOHN K. HILLERS arrived in America at the age of nine, from Hanover, Germany, where he had been born in 1843. He served in a naval brigade, in the Union army during the Civil War, and reenlisted to serve at western garrisons until 1870. At this time Hillers joined his brother on a trip to San Francisco. Within one year he had settled in Salt Lake City where he worked as a teamster. There he chanced to meet John W. Powell, of the United States Geographical Survey. Hillers joined Powell's expedition down the Green and Colorado rivers as a boatman. On this trip Hillers became interested in photography. He joined Powell's next survey, in 1874, as the chief photographer and was the first man to photograph the Grand Canyon. Between 1875 and 1879 Hillers took field trips to Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico for both the U.S. Geographical Survey and the Department of Ethnology. In 1900 he retired from an administrative job in Washington. He died in 1925.

EADWEARD J. MUYBRIDGE was born in Kingston-on-Thames, England, in 1830. By 1855 he had moved to San Francisco and was the proprietor of a bookstore. As an amateur, he began to take photographs of daily life in San Francisco. A stagecoach accident in 1860 forced Muybridge to return to England. But while in England he became a skilled photographer. In 1868 Muybridge copyrighted his first views of Yosemite, and by this time he had also traveled to Alaska. Fifty-one of Muybridge's mammoth plates of Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada were copyrighted in 1872. Also in 1872 he met Leland Stanford and began an experiment to photograph Stanford's horse, Occident, while galloping. Muybridge killed his wife's lover in 1874, and fled to Central America the following year. From 1877 until 1881 Muybridge conducted photographic experiments on motion with the help of Stanford. Subsequently, Muybridge toured Europe, then returned to his home, Kingston-on-Thames. Muybridge died in 1904.

TIMOTHY H. O'SULLIVAN was born in 1840 in New York. While in his teens he worked at Mathew Brady's Fulton Street Gallery. At the age of twenty-one he traveled with Brady's photographic corps to record the Civil War. Until 1862 O'Sullivan photographed chiefly in South Carolina. Then in 1863 he was employed by Alexander Gardner. After the war he helped Gardner compile his *Photographic Sketch Book of the War*. O'Sullivan left New York for San Francisco in 1867 with King's Fortieth Parallel Survey. Three years later he accompanied Lieutenant Commander Selfridge's Darien Expedition to Panama. He was the official photographer for Wheeler's 100th Meridian Survey in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Idaho from 1871 until 1874. He left this survey for only one season, to join King's Montana survey. Late in 1874 O'Sullivan traveled to the Canyon de Chelly. He returned to Baltimore in 1875 to print an album of photographs from Wheeler's survey. In 1882 O'Sullivan died of tuberculosis.

CARLETON E. WATKINS was born in 1829 in upstate New York; by the time of the gold rush he had moved to San Francisco. He learned to photograph in Robert Vance's daguerreian studio about 1854. In 1861 Watkins made his first trip to Yosemite with a large camera made for him by a San Francisco cabinet maker. His mammoth plates (18 by 24 inch negatives) were praised highly, but none were copyrighted until 1867. That same year Watkins opened his own Yosemite Art Gallery. Also in 1867 the painter William Keith traveled with Watkins to northern California and Oregon. He became acquainted with Clarence King of the Fortieth Parallel Survey and in 1870 journeyed with King to Mounts Shasta and Lassen. In 1873, again with Keith, Watkins photographed in Utah and along the route of the Central Pacific Railroad. Watkins was forced to declare bankruptcy during the financial panic of 1873–1874 and forfeited all of his negatives to his creditors. Eventually these negatives fell into the hands of I. W. Taber. After photographing further in Yosemite, Watkins made his first trip to southern California. By 1890 his eyesight was failing. In 1906 Watkins was totally blind, and the San Francisco earthquake and fire destroyed all of his work in his studio. Carleton Watkins died in an asylum in 1916.

WILLIAM HENRY JACKSON, born in 1843, took his first trip west as a “bullwacker” with a wagon train in 1866. He did not begin to photograph until he opened his own studio in 1867 in Omaha. As a railroad photographer, Jackson traveled west of Omaha in 1869. From 1870 until 1878 he worked for F. V. Hayden's survey, creating, in 1875, his first mammoth plates (20 by 25 inches). Jackson used only dry plates for his series of Yellowstone photographs made in 1878. One year later he founded the Jackson Photographic Company in Denver, where he did most of his work until his death in 1942.

Biographies, taken from:

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