

7 Corridor, Bath:

the biography of a photographic studio

Part One. 1852-1880

By Ron Cosens and Allan Collier

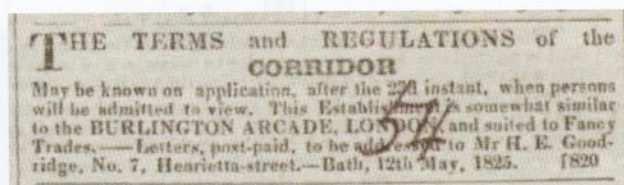
There are many biographies of past photographers in books and on the internet but has anyone thought about a 'biography' of a *photographic studio*?

How interesting it would be to find a studio that was occupied continuously, but by many different photographers, from the start of time – well from 1839 or thereabouts anyway.

Tens of thousands of studios throughout the country were studied and 7 The Corridor, in Bath, was selected as it fitted the bill very nicely.

In 1839, Bath was a proud and wealthy city of around 38,000 inhabitants; a centre of culture and commerce. It was an ideal place to build an amazing, new and innovative business such as photography and, therefore, it had photographic connections from the very beginning when, in 1841, it attracted the entrepreneurial Richard Beard. Later, in the 1870s and 1880s it was home to the famous photographic inventor William Friese-Greene and, even today, it houses the Royal Photographic Society.

Here is a Talis map of Bath in 1851 with the location of 7 Corridor marked in red.



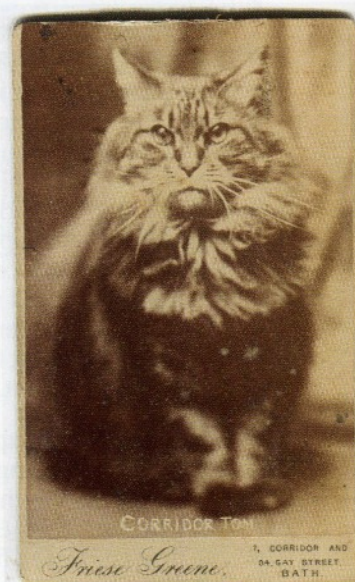
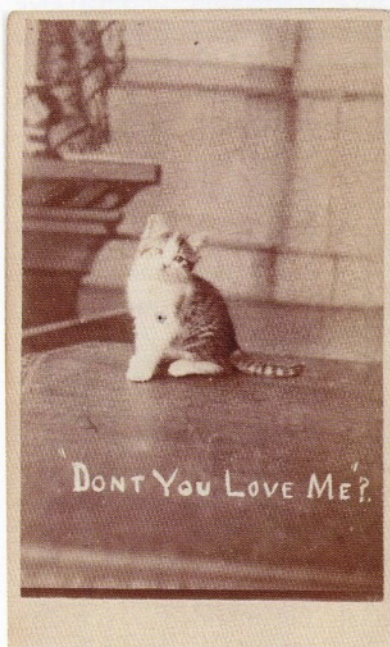
The Corridor is one of the world's earliest retail arcades and an advertisement appeared in the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* on Thursday 12 May 1825.

Many thousands of people including many local dignitaries attended the opening of the arcade on 12 October 1825, looking at the 22 shops whilst being serenaded by an orchestra playing on a balcony above. The arcade was designed and built by local architect Henry Edmund Goodridge. The Grade II listed arcade featured, at the High Street end, a Doric colonnade and arch with marble columns. A musicians' gallery with a wrought iron balustrade and gilt lions' heads and garlands was in the centre of the arcade, thus making it one of the most attractive of its kind in the world.

There were two studios at The Corridor in Bath; 7 The Corridor AND 7a The Corridor (also known at various times as the Corridor Rooms or the Victoria Rooms).

So come on in!!

Firstly, meet Corridor Tom who belonged to Mrs. Jane Overton, a Toy & Fancy Goods Dealer, who had the shops either side of William Friese Greene about 1881. The first photograph is most probably Corridor Tom as a kitten; the second one definitely is him.



The Photographers

Many photographers have worked in, and some have also lived at, 7 and 7a the Corridor, Bath since the early days of photography. Let's have a look at this interesting and varied group of men and women and discover something about their fascinating lives. They were:-

William Whaite	7	Corridor/Corridor Rooms	1852	1855
Mrs. Hannah Whaite	7	Corridor/Corridor Rooms	1861	1865
James Hugh Gillen	7a	Corridor Rooms	1864	
Bath Photographic Company	7	Corridor	1865	
William Hancock	7	Corridor	1866	
William Henry Edwards	7a	Corridor Rooms	1870	1873
Lambert Brothers	7	Corridor	1873	
Edwin James Strange	7	Corridor	1876	
Charles Herman Biskeborn	7	Corridor	1876	1877
John Dugdale (& Co.)	7	Corridor	1878	1892
Albert Henry Holbrook	7a	Corridor Rooms	1878	
William Friese-Greene	7a	Corridor Rooms	1880	1889
London Photographic Company	7a	Corridor Rooms	1892	1894
Mrs. Mary A Dugdale	7	Corridor	1894	1903
Algernon Spurge	7	Corridor	1897	1902
Mrs. Ida Carlyle Spurge	7	Corridor	1903	
Tom (Leonard) Carlyle Leaman	7	Corridor	1905	1906
Tom (Leonard) Carlyle Leaman	7	Corridor	1911	1939
Cyril Tom Leaman	7	Corridor	1925	1977
Focal Photography	7	Corridor	1977	1993

Richard Beard, holder of the patent of the Daguerreotype process in England and Wales

Richard Beard never occupied 7 Corridor but he made it possible. After opening his own studio in London in 1841, Beard set about selling licences to use the Daguerreotype process throughout England and Wales. Bath was one of the obvious places to find a buyer and by June 1841 he was able to record that he had disposed of licences in Liverpool, Brighton, Bristol, Bath and Cheltenham. The licence for Bath was bought by Thomas Sharp who set up his studio in the Royal Victoria Park in 1841.

Photography began at **7 Corridor** in 1852 when William Whaite took over occupancy of the premises from William Mendenhall, a haberdasher, hosier and glover.

1852 (No.7) William Whaite, did well from humble beginnings but passed away at just 33 years of age

William was born in 1822 in Gaddesby, Leicestershire to Joseph, a labourer, and Ann his wife. When he was 26 years old William married Hannah Gay in Bristol.

In 1848 he was listed as a ratepayer at 1 Seymour Street but the 1851 census shows that he was a photographic artist living at 5 Green Park, Bath with his wife, a small child and a baby. They also had visitors: Robert Allan, aged 27 and a Scottish photographer, with his wife Eliza. Also in the household were two servants.

In a directory in 1852 he advertised **7 Corridor** as his first studio, calling himself a 'photographist' and an advert in the *Bath Chronicle* on the 6th October 1853 stated:

Photographic Portrait Establishment, Corridor Rooms (entrance no.7): Mr. Whaite ... is now enabled to take coloured photographic portraits... A stereoscopic panorama of Paris may be seen daily at the Rooms...

Shortly afterwards, on the 20th October he advertised to let his home at Green Park – he had decided to move his household of six people into the Corridor:

To be let. Handsomely furnished, no.5 Green Park Buildings, Bath. This excellent commodious house is in com-

plete repair, and may be had for the season, or by the year. Apply to Mr. Whaite, 5 Green Park Buildings, Bath.

He also advertised his business in the *Bath Chronicle* and *Weekly Gazette* in January 1854:

'PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT ESTABLISHMENT, CORRIDOR ROOMS (Entrance No. 7). MR. WHAITE begs to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and Public generally of Bath and its vicinity, that, having recently made extensive alterations in his Premises, and spared no expense in obtaining the best Apparatus from the most celebrated makers, he is now enabled to take COLOURED PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS with greatly increased Brilliancy of Tone and Colour. Parties are invited to pay visit to this Establishment, where may be seen the great improvements recently made in Photography. Family Groups Taken. The Stereoscope supplied, and Portraits from Busts or Life adapted. Paintings, Miniatures, Engravings, &c, accurately copied. The Art taught, and English, French, or German Apparatus supplied. Parties attended at their own residence at a moderate charge. A STEREOSCOPIC PANORAMA OF PARIS may be seen daily at the Rooms, and Stereoscopic Views and other Subjects lent out to Parties for the Evening, at moderate charge. Apply at the Photographic Portrait Establishment, Corridor Rooms, Bath.'

He also advertised similarly in Jan 1854 in *Keene's Bath Journal*.

In 1854 his address in trade directories was listed slightly differently as simply Corridor Rooms and he was advertising an additional studio at 11 Albion Place, Upper Bristol Road, Bath.



In April 1855 the *Bath Chronicle* noted that William had contributed to the 'Bath Society for the promotion of the fine arts... Mr. Whaite sent several collodion portraits on glass, with stereoscopic views of Paris.' Although William had already made arrangements to open a studio in the High Street in Weston-super-Mare he died suddenly in September 1855 at the young age of 33. William left a widow and family of two young sons; Edward aged six and Henry aged four.

Very sadly, an announcement of his death was made in the *Bath Chronicle* on the 13th September and just two days later an advert appeared in the Weston-super-Mare Gazette re his new studio:

Photographic Portrait Institution, High Street, Weston-super-Mare Mr. Whaite, having the command of a well-constructed operating room which is now complete The stereoscope supplied, pictures of every kind copied, and the art taught.'

It was followed a month later stating that the Weston-super-Mare studio had closed: 'Photography – The closing of the establishment in High Street, owing to the decease of the late proprietor Mr. Whaite, has left M Schomberg of the Regent Street gallery without a rival in the photographic art in the town.

continues over

7 Corridor, Bath (continued)

Although a trade directory listed him at Corridor in 1856; this was obviously compiled before his untimely death. William never lived to enjoy the carte de visite boom which was to follow a few years later in 1860.

The excellent book on early photography, *A Faithful Likeness* by Bernard & Pauline Heathcote, says: 'William Whaite, a photographer in Bath since about 1850; later moved to new premises where one especially attractive feature for visitors was a stereoscopic panorama of Paris. In 1855 he opened a branch studio in Weston-super-Mare, but this had been operative for only a few days when he suddenly died leaving his widow with the unexpected responsibility of bringing up their children. Although the studio at Weston closed, Mrs. Whaite continued on her own at Bath, with the aid of an assistant, until 1862.'

No example of his portrait work has yet been found, as images of that era rarely identified the name of the photographer.

1855 (No.7) Hannah Whaite, a widow who experienced some hard times but lived to a good old age

Mrs. Hannah Whaite, nee Gay, was born in Berkeley, Gloucestershire and became a widow when her photographer husband, William, died in September 1855. They were living at **7 Corridor** and she was pregnant at the time. She gave birth to a son the following April; but tragically the little one also died in the November – just seven months old.

She notified the public on 4th October 1855 that:
Photographic Rooms, Corridor, Bath Mrs. Whaite .
Thanks her friends and the public for the liberal patronage bestowed on her late lamented husband and takes this opportunity of informing them that she has engaged an experienced assistant who will conduct the business, under her superintendence, for the benefit of herself and children..

On the 18th she followed this with:
American Portrait Gallery, no 35 Milsom Street, Bath.
Mrs. Whaite thanks [public etc.] for their kind patronage since the opening of the above establishment, and to inform them that, as Mr. Newport's engagement has now expired, the business will be carried on by Mr. Milton, a nephew of the late Mr. Whaite, who has had much experience in the art, having been with the deceased Mr. Whaite for several years..

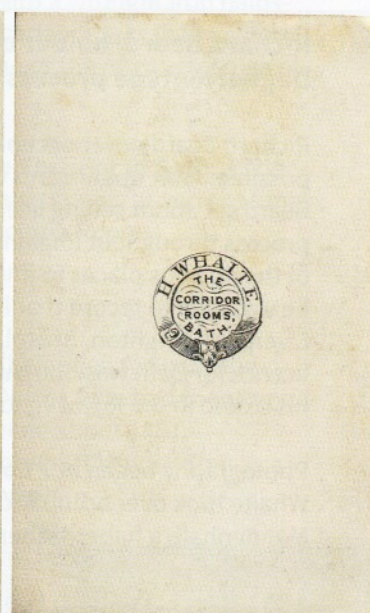
Hannah was at 15 Kingsmead Terrace, Bath when grant of administration of William's will was granted on 10 March 1856 and she was still there in 1858. She was also listed at 11 Albion Place in 1856.

By July 1856, Hannah had re-opened the studio at Weston-super-Mare and in September the *Gazette* declared:
Photography – On a recent visit to Mrs. Whaite's Portrait Gallery we were pleased to see several striking and well-executed likenesses of our leading townsmen and their families 'Advert' 'Photographic Rooms, opposite the Independent Chapel, Weston-super-Mare : portraits taken by an entirely new process; warranted not to fade.'

Further notices later in the year informed the public:

Photography : parties wishing correct photographs of members of their families would do well to take the opportunity of visiting the rooms in High Street before they close for the season' AND 'Photography – We see by an advertisement in another column that Mr. J S Milton, who has conducted Mrs. Whaite's business at the rooms in High Street with so much success during the past season, has closed the same for the winter months. He has taken the portraits of many of our leading families and given great satisfaction.

In 1860, Hannah's residential address in a directory was 44 Milsom Street and in the census in 1861, aged 46, she was described as an artist, lodging at 44 Milsom Street, Bath with two sons and two daughters. By 1862 she was at 1 Kingsmead Terrace, Bath.



Hannah's photographic business was drawing to a close and apparently in some difficulty when early in 1863 she was involved in a court case:

Bath County Court. *Reeves v Whaite*: The plaintiff, a young lady, sought to recover 17s 6d from the defendant, who keeps a photographic establishment in the Corridor, under the following circumstances. On 1st December 1862, Miss Reeves went to the premises of the defendant to have four carte de visite taken' [money was taken from her purse in the waiting room while she went to the studio; Mrs. Whaite promised to reimburse her] '...but, having a large family, struggling with difficulties, and being in ill-health, she was unable to do so. 'The plaintiff was non-suited and Mrs. Whaite offered to give the plaintiff sufficient likenesses either of herself or friends to satisfy her claim.'

By 1864, Hannah was at 8 Old King Street where she was recorded as a Lodging House Keeper: there are no records of her in Bath directories from 1866 onwards.

By 1871 she was at 369 Edgware Road, London with her son Edward G Whaite, aged 22, artist and photographer and three other children. Edward went on to have a long life in photography in London.

Sadly, in 1880, an appeal was made for her in the *Bath Chronicle*:

To the benevolent ladies and gentlemen of the city of Bath: the friends of the widow of the late William Whaite, of the Corridor, photographic artist, appeal to the sympathy of the public on her behalf. Her husband died some years since, leaving her with six children. She struggled with the business for some time, but owing to adverse circumstances, it did not answer. She is now in great need and her friends seek to raise sufficient to enable her to open a small business. Subscriptions will be thankfully received ...

In 1899, another appeal was published in London:

A widow, Hannah Gay Whaite, aged 85, great granddaughter of John Gay the poet, is very poor and needs help. Contributions thankfully received by Rev. Canon Floyd, 7 Alexandra Road, NW and Mrs. J Elliott Fox, 38 Belsize Road, NW to whom she has been known for many years.

Hannah died in 1904 aged 90.

1864 (No.7a) James Hugh Gillen, a local man, previously a pub landlord in the town

James was born in Bath in 1829, the son of a baker. In 1848, at 19, he married Ann Coles and by 1861 he was listed as a brewer at Chatham House public house, Walcot, Bath with his wife and six children.

He was involved in at least two court cases in 1863 and 1864 regarding items stolen from the pub and a further case in 1864 from an unnamed venue.

In 1864 he opened his studio in the **Corridor Rooms** but does not appear to have advertised again in trade directories. He died early in 1868, aged 39, and his wife, Ann, died in 1871.

To date, no example of his work has been found.

1865 (No.7) Bath Photographic Company, a mystery

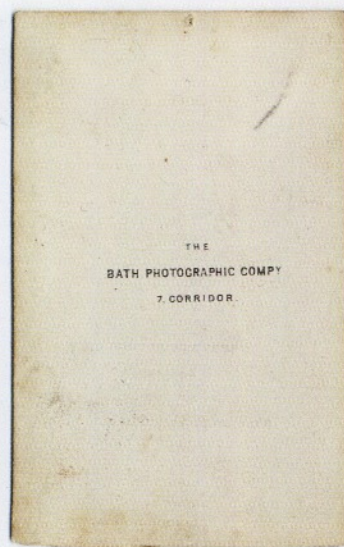
The only record of the Bath Photographic Company is a carte de visite with an estimated date of 1865. The address thereon is 7 Corridor (*illustrated at top right of this page*)

The occupier of that address, possibly from July 1861, was John Dugdale who was a photographic printer and publisher who later opened a studio on the site in his own name. John remained there until his death in 1892.

Dugdale was declared bankrupt in July 1862, and it is possible that he temporarily renamed his firm the Bath Photographic Company.

1866 (No.7) William Hancock, a local lad who was adjudged bankrupt and emigrated to the USA

William Hancock was born in Bath in 1836 and by 1851, aged fifteen, he was an apprentice auctioneer living at 1



Kensington, Bath with his parents William, a dairyman, and Mary and his two sisters, Mary Ann (16) and Emily (14).

Sometime in the next few years, William moved to London but in 1859 he married Susannah Maria Corbould back in Somerset. She was the daughter of a local brewer from Bath.

In 1861, William was an artist, designer & draughtsman and he and his wife and a servant were back in London at 5 Priory Road, Hampstead.

December 1862 saw the birth of their first child, a girl, and by this time they were living at 5 Argyle Street in Bath where William had opened a photographic studio which he advertised a few months later as follows:

Mr Wm. Hancock, photographic miniature painter and photographer, 5 Argyle Street, Bath ... respectfully invites an inspection of his coloured portraits, which are acknowledged to be unrivalled and the nearest approach to ivory miniatures yet produced in the West of England Mr Wm. H does not colour for any photographer in Bath; and, to correct misapprehension announces that his portraits are photographed by himself and competent assistants, and coloured solely by him, at his establishment as above.

Examples of his hand coloured portraits do not bear out his boastful claim.

Sometime before 1866, he moved his studio to 7 Corridor but soon experienced financial troubles.

In February 1866 he was 'adjudged bankrupt' but in April was discharged by the Court.

By July 1868 he advertised (from 5 Argyle Street):

'Glass house for sale, less than one fourth its cost, suitable for a photographer or a conservatory'.

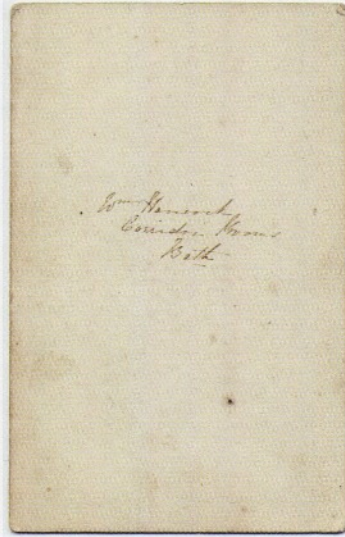
By the middle of the next year he and his family had emigrated to America aboard the 'Atlanta'.

He settled in rented accommodation in Auburn City, Cayuga, New York where he stayed until his death in 1911.

(*illustrated on next page*).

continues over

7 Corridor, Bath (continued)



1870 (No.7a) William Henry Edwards, a man of poor health who never married

William was born in 1819 in St. Agnes, Cornwall.

John Passmore Edwards' autobiography, *A Few Footprints*, (London: Watts & Co., 1906) mentions his brother's health: Passmore Edwards recorded that as a boy his brother, William, suffered so much from indigestion that the doctor decided to bleed him. Passmore Edwards was assigned to hold the basin but fainted when it was about half full. He said that he soon recovered but William remained ill for some time, and 'for many years after, at the same time of year, he felt languid and depressed.' Edwards thought that the bleeding had impaired his brother's life and may have led to his early death' (p.6).

Whether this is a clue to William's later paralysis is impossible to tell.

In 1841 William, aged 20, was a carpenter and was living at Blackwater, St. Agnes, Cornwall with his father William, a brewer, and his mother Susan and three younger brothers and by 1851 he appears to be single and is described as a naturalist, lodging at the Market Place, Boston in Lincolnshire. Ten years later he was at the Corridor (no number given) and referred to himself as a carpenter and bird fancier.

In November 1861 W.H. Edwards organized an American entertainment at the Bath Assembly Rooms but no more details are available.

In 1864 William advertised a photographic studio at 3 Old Bond Street in Bath where he stayed until 1866, then, in May, he advertised: 'Sales by auction ... 3 Old Bond Street: to be sold by auction ... the stock-in-trade of Mr. W H P Edwards, comprising ... albums, work boxes ... photographs, gilt frames ... photographic apparatus...'

This appears to have been to get rid of surplus items as in September he advertised:

'W H Edwards begs to inform his numerous supporters that he has removed to no.44, Milsom Street, where he intends carrying on the photographic business in all its branches, at the lowest possible charges.'

In October he was advertising he wanted to:

'call special attention to his Gem photographs. These photographs being adhesive may be used for books, letters, visiting or trade cards, scrap books etc.; first dozen 3s, 2nd dozen 2s'. [Gem photographs usually refer to tintypes, often in a carte de visite size mount, but this advert is unclear.]

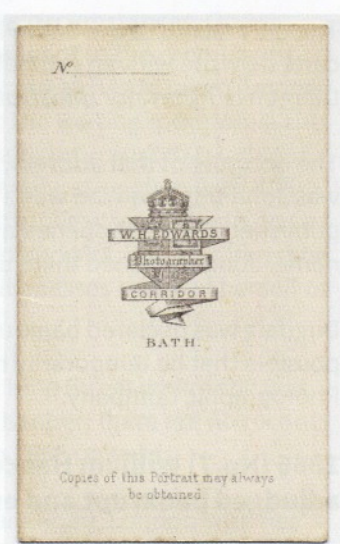
The studio at 44 Milsom Street continued until October 1868 when he notified the public that his: 'Great Panorama Gem picture of the world: farewell exhibitions: closing 31st October' and it appears that the studio also closed at that time as no more advertisements appeared in local trade directories.

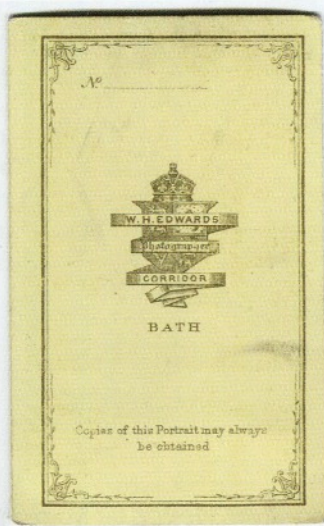
In 1870 William Henry Edwards took over the studio at **7a The Corridor**; probably from James Gillan's widow, Ann who died just a year later in 1871.



His earliest carte de visite mounts were printed for 3 Old Bond Street which he left in 1866 and were overwritten in manuscript, see below.

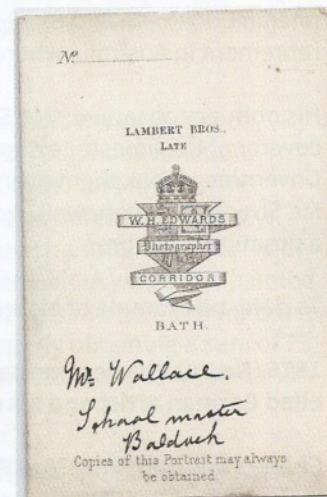
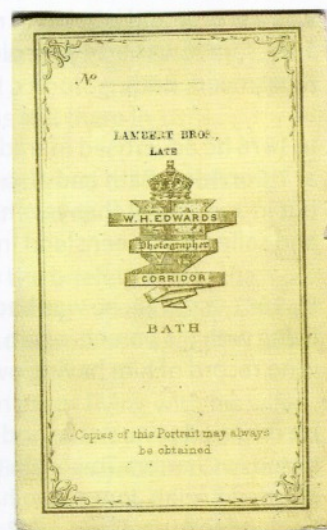
Later mounts were printed specifically for 'Corridor'; but with no number!





articled pupil. Apply 10 Fountains Buildings between the hours of 4 & 6' and by 1871, he was listed as a photographer living with his wife and children at 10 Fountain Buildings, Walcot, Bath where he had his studio.

In 1873, Henry opened a second studio at **7 The Corridor** when he took over from W H Edwards but by 1876 the studio was given up and bought by Charles Biskeborn.



Henry had an inventive mind, as on 2 February 1877 the *London Gazette* recorded the award of provisional patent protection 'To Henry Lambert, of the city of Bath, in the county of Somerset, Photographer, for the invention of 'improvements in the production of carbon and other permanent photographic pictures.' (p.514.)

In 1880 his brother Herbert opened a further studio at 32 Milsom Street in Bath and it became Henry Lambert & Co in 1890.

Here is the back of one of his cabinet card photographs with the patent details advertised.

Henry continued to live at, and operate out of, 10 Fountain Buildings until 1888 but he died in 1889 at the age of 48, leaving £285 15s (c £36,863) to his widow Sarah.



continues over

In the 1871 census William, aged 52, was a photographer living at **7a Corridor** in Bath but by 1873 he had passed the studio on to the Lambert Brothers as clearly shown by the cartes de visite produced by the Lambert Brothers who used up his stock of mounts and overprinted them - (see below).

By 1881 William had retired to Walton on Thames in south west London and was suffering from paralysis – still not a well man. Two years later he died in Hendon in north west London.

1873 (No.7) Lambert Brothers, Henry & Ernest Lambert t/a

Henry Lambert was born in 1840 in Bath and by 1841 he was with his brother John, aged two, and with George Lambert, an agricultural labourer and Ann Hibberd in the 'neighbourhood of the Brassknocker Inn', Monkton Combe, Bath – possibly just visiting. His parents William, aged 30, a hatter and Sarah, aged 25, and baby Sarah aged just 12 days old were at New Bond Street Place, Bath. By 1851 Henry was an errand boy living with his mother Sarah, a widow and a milliner, a brother and two sisters at 4 New Westgate Buildings, Bath and in 1861 he was an artist photographer living with his widowed mother and three siblings at 10 Carriage Road, Widcombe, Bath.

In June 1861, he advertised his own studio in Bath as follows: 'Photographic Rooms at Mr Noble's, 10 Fountain Buildings, Mr. H Lambert (late operator at Mr Beard's, King William Street, City, London) has opened an establishment at the above place'

On the 31st August 1862 Henry married Elizabeth Granger of Pimlico, London but tragically she died on 7th November the following year. A notice in the local paper read: 'Death: Elizabeth, the beloved wife of Mr Henry Lambert, photographic artist of this city'.

By 1865, Henry had moved back near Bath to a village called Charlcombe and married a local girl, Sarah Olver, in September.

In November 1870 he advertised: 'To parents and guardians Mr Lambert, Photographer, has a vacancy for an

7 Corridor, Bath (continued)

Henry's dynasty lived on and in January 1898 Lambert & Lambert informed the public that: 'they have purchased the negatives etc. of the photographic business recently carried on by Mr Berryman at 29 Milsom Street, Bath'.

1876 (No.7) Edwin James Strange: a cheery fellow who emigrated to Australia

Edwin was born in Bedminster, Bristol in 1857. His father was a grocer and a baker in nearby Christian Malford: By 1871 James was a 14 year old scholar at 5 Albion Place, Kingsmead, Bath.

In 1876 he advertised in trade directories as a photographer at **7 Corridor**, Bath and also advertised in the 1877 edition but in January of that year he boarded the Scottish Knight and sailed for Queensland in Australia.

By 1881, aged 24, he was back in the UK as a photographer, living with his parents again in Christian Malford but there is no record of him having owned his own studio.

He returned to Australia and was a travelling photographer based in Charters Towers in Queensland until 1883. He married Keziah Jones who had emigrated from Plymouth, England to Australia in 1883 and continued as a photographer in Cooktown and Bowen, both in Queensland, until his retirement in Australia where he died in 1930, aged 73.

His obituary observed: 'Mr. Strange was the original discoverer of the limestone deposits at Ben Lomond, but the Government took them over and he received no reward. Mr. Strange was very well liked, his cheery disposition being a prominent feature.'

To date, no example of his work has been found.

1876 (No.7a) Charles Herman Biskeborn, a widely travelled German artist and his unruly English wife

Charles was born in 1836 at Aschersleben, Saxony-Anhalt, in Germany. After living in Berlin, Vienna, Roeselare and Ypres he turned up in England in Uxbridge in 1868 where he joined the Royal Union Masonic Lodge in July 1869. He was then 32 and described as an artist of 64 New Bond Street, London.

Sometime in 1870 Charles was in Lille in France but in August of that year he married Eliza Kenning, a Winslow girl, in Dover.

In the 1871 census, Charles was recorded as a photographer living at 48 High Street, Chatham, Kent next door to a German born watchmaker, Leander Baurle. Directories listed Charles as a photographer there from 1871 until 1876 and he also operated at 34 High Street in 1872.

Tragedy struck when their second child, Charles Cyril Biskeborn, died at the age of 3 weeks and was buried at the Maidstone Road and Palmerston Road Cemetery in Chatham.

In 1876 Charles was still involved with the Masons at the United Chatham Lodge of Benevolence, Old Brompton, Kent (lodge 184) and was an artist - but by the end of that year, or very early in 1877, Charles and Eliza moved to Bath and he opened a photographic studio at **7a The Corridor**.



However, life was far from uneventful as reported in the *Bath Chronicle* on 1st February 1877:

Bath Police 30 January A respectably dressed woman, named Eliza Biskeborn, was charged with being drunk and incapable in Prior Park Road, on the previous night. The prisoner engaged a cabman to drive her to Combe Down to see a gentleman, but when she reached the house she found that he had removed. Being, as she said, cold, she had some brandy at a public house there, which made her drunk, and when she was coming down the Carriage Road, at Widcombe, she leaped through the window and severely lacerated her face. Her purse, which contained a deposit note for £115, two sovereigns, and other coins, was afterwards found in the cab. She was fined 10s and costs, with the alternative of a week's imprisonment. - The money was paid.

Also in 1877, architect Goodridge's heirs were struggling financially and decided to sell **The Corridor**.

The tenants grouped together to buy the freehold and created a management committee to oversee the business and it is almost certain that Biskeborn was involved in this transaction.

It is not clear if Charles and Eliza still lived together but by the late 1870s Charles moved to a studio at 9 Landport, Southsea (Portsmouth).

By 1881 Eliza was living with her son Fritz at her parents' home back in Buckinghamshire and by the early 1880s Charles was back and living in several different countries in Europe with a new wife.

Charles died in Berlin in 1902 at the age of 66.

1878 (No.7) John Dugdale, an only child from Lancashire who sometimes traded as John Dugdale & Co

John was born in 1837 at Preston and in 1841 he was living with his father Richard, a grocer, and Rachel his mother at Lune Street, Preston, Lancashire: by 1851 the family had moved to 5 Bispham Street in Preston. John appears to have been an only child.

In 1858 John married Cecilia Ralphs, a Lancashire lass from Clitheroe and by 1861 he was a photographic printer living with his wife and baby daughter Mary at 20 Corridor, Bath.

John had had a studio at The Photographic Institution, 8 Broad Street, Bath since 1859 but sold it to J Foot in July 1861; it would appear that he was having financial difficul-

ties as shown in the *London Gazette* 26 August 1862, issue 22656, p 4226:

'... entry made in the book kept by the Chief Registrar of the Court of Bankruptcy.... Deed of conveyance, assignment and composition ... 26th July 1862 John Dugdale, of **no. 7 Corridor**, in the city of Bath, photographer, of the first part ... the Trustees ... Elisha Mander of Birmingham, photographic merchant, trustee for himself and the rest of the creditors'



In October 1864 John was a photographic printer at **7 Corridor**, Bath when he advertised for sale: 'a large photographic tent, doing a good business'.

In December 1869 John Dugdale was still advertising as a photographic publisher at 7 Corridor and in 1871 he described himself as such and was living with his wife and four children at the same address. Tragically his wife Cecilia died a year later.

By 1878, he had opened a photographic studio at 7 Corridor in addition to his publishing business.

John got remarried to Mary Ann Duckering in 1880 and they lived at 7 Corridor with John's daughter Cecelia who, at 18, was a photographic publisher's assistant.

According to Mary's obituary in 1923: 'Mrs. (Mary Ann) Dugdale came to Bath on her marriage in 1880. Her husband's business, the fine art and ecclesiastical repository, library etc., was in the Corridor where it had been established for 40 years'.

More financial pressures occurred again in October 1882 when it was announced in the *Bath Chronicle*: 'Great flood in Bath Messrs. Dugdale & Co, photographic publishers, are unfortunately great sufferers through the floods, having lost over £200 worth of negatives at the North Parade Lodge, in fact the work of a lifetime, some of which cannot be replaced'.

Despite the setbacks, John applied for a patent in January 1891 for: 'Viewing lantern slides by means of an instrument termed a Lanternscope'.

By the 1891 census he was still a photographic publisher but his wife Mary had moved out of Corridor to 17 Eastbourne, Walcot, Bath.

In the following year, John died aged just 56. He left £450 19s 6d (c £57,000), his house at 17 Eastbourne, Walcot and 7 The Corridor Bath to widow Mary Ann.

1878 (No.7a) Albert Henry Holbrook, a fleeting visitor at Corridor who later photographed criminals in London

Albert was born in 1844 in Timsbury in Somerset – to the south west of Bath.

In 1861 he was unmarried, aged 17, and a coal miner just like his father George. He married Emma Reed in Bristol six years later.

By 1871 Albert was a coal agent and living in Chelsea, London but by 1876 he had opened a photographic studio at 14 Danvers Street, Chelsea and was still there in 1878.

However, sometime in 1878 he returned to his roots and opened a studio at **the Corridor Rooms** in Bath.

Albert is the photographer with the briefest stay in the arcade as, by 1879 he was advertising a studio at 17 Church Street, London SW which he also advertised again in 1880.

In 1881 Albert was a commission agent living with his wife, two children and widowed mother-in-law at 4 Lincoln Street North, Bristol but by 1888 he was back in London as a working photographer.

However, his marriage was in trouble and he was on the wrong side of the law according to the *Sheffield Evening Telegraph*:

Jealous of theatrical ladies': Albert Henry Holbrook, photographer of Falcon Terrace, Clapham Junction, charged with ignoring a court order (of May 1887) to pay 10s a week to his wife Emma; defendant was now living with a policeman's widow; he stated his wife 'had ruined his business', due to her jealousy when he painted theatrical ladies; in Feb [1888] he had been 'committed to prison for 6 months for improperly obtaining a sum of £3 10s' from a fellow prisoner, following a spell on remand for failing to pay his wife.

In 1891 Albert was an artist, sculptor and photographer and was living with his 'wife' Marian Holbrook in Battersea, London - but she was NOT his wife (yet). Meanwhile his real wife Emma was at Hanover Square as a boarder with a gas engineer.

Albert eventually married Marian (Lewsey) in 1902. By 1911 they were back in Bath where he died in 1921 at the age of 77.

Notices of his death were interesting:-

'Mr Holbrook was formerly official photographer to the Metropolitan Police, and greatly prized an album of notorious criminals he had photographed' and: 'Death of Albert Henry Holbrook, owner of the Albert Terrace Photographic Studio, Bath; taken ill while gardening and taken into hospital; his wife called in to the hospital and found he had died at the exact same time their clock at home had stopped'

The story continues in Part Two in PW 169, as William Friese-Greene takes over at No.7a....