

Biography of Walter J Pursell

From *History of the 2100 Block Lafayette Street*, 1987

For someone who considered himself "New Mexico's Leading Photographer," there is little information to be found on Walter J Pursell in the historical record.

Twitchell recorded some information. "Walter J. Pursell, proprietor of one of the leading photographic studios of Albuquerque, established business in this city in 1914, and has been accorded a liberal patronage in the years which have come and gone. [Does not sound so impressive when you consider that this statement was published in 1917]. He was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1868, his parents being Peter M. and Mary (Thomas) Pursell. The later died in the year 1908, but the father, a native of Sunbury, Pennsylvania, born in 1840 is still living.

"At the usual age Walter J Pursell entered the schools of his native city, where he received his educational training, and when deciding upon an occupation which he wished to make a life work he concluded to turn his attention to photography and entered upon study along that line in 1890. For seven years he was in Chicago, where he engaged in photographic work, and in 1914 he became identified with the Southwest.....

"On the first of August 1890, in Greenfield, Indiana, Mr. Pursell was married to Miss Della E. Lindley, and they have two daughters: Helen L., the wife of Addison Golden Kenyon; and Mary June, at home. Mr. Pursell's military experience covers two years' service with the Richardson Zouaves at Indianapolis." The report goes on to say that Pursells are Republicans and members of the Presbyterian Church.

His connections with Dr W. W Hyde (see below) suggest that he might have been in Denver before 1914. I am unable to confirm this (see directory listings). Other fragmentary sources first identify him in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1914, where he appears to have taken over the Albuquerque office of W. M Gray, at 219 W Central Ave. He was recovering from an illness at the time, perhaps tuberculosis, but considering Dr Hyde's occupation (see below), it might have been alcoholism. Gray was another little-known New Mexico photographer, who must have been reasonably prosperous, as he had an additional office in Santa Fe at 249 San Francisco St and had managers listed in the local directories for each office. An appraisal of his business valued it at \$4544.40 at the time of transfer to Pursell. This was a tidy sum at the time, considering that most of the transactions from the company checking account thereafter were for less than \$100. There is no record of Gray after 1915 in the Albuquerque directories.

How the transition from Gray to Pursell was accomplished is uncertain. "Creative financing" may have been involved. Gray received a promissory note from Pursell on 26 September 1914 for \$100 for 10 months for 10% interest. This was signed off without a date, by Gray and by CJ Bowman (who I am unable to identify). Pursell had other loans with an El Paso bank. Pursell must have been an active photographer as judged by the number of checks written to Wells Fargo for shipping. His accounts included the University of New Mexico, and its president, David R. Boyd, PhD, as well as the local high school. Stella de Sa Rego, of the University of New Mexico noted that she was "unable to locate original prints or negatives of the photographs mentioned in the invoice you enclosed. Nor could I locate any works in our collection attributed to Mr. Pursell. The only reference I could find to him was an advertisement in the 1916 University of New Mexico yearbook, the *Mirage*. This edition of the *Mirage* was also the only one of the issues I researched (1913-1918) in which the subjects mentioned in the invoice consistently match items in the yearbook. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that these photographs may have come from the Pursell Studio." Pursell lived in his studio at 219 W Central Ave, as had his predecessor. No mention is made of a wife in the directory, but he lived with Miss Helen Pursell and Miss Mary J Pursell. Checks on his account were also written to AT Pursell and RM Pursell. Herbert H Huxley, who is listed in the directory in 1916 as "pipeman station No 1 Fire Dept r same," wrote many of these checks for Pursell. He is listed in the 1915 general directory as a photographer for Pursell Studio. Mary June Pursell bought a four-cylinder Saxon Roadster from Cooper Brothers Motor Co on 15 September 1915. Checks written to Coleman Blank Motor Company indicate that WJ Pursell also had an automobile. Little record of his work exists in the Museum of New Mexico or the Museum of Albuquerque.

For unknown reasons he moved to Denver in 1916 where on 26 April he was renting a house at 548 S. Pearl St. What happened to his wife and children is unknown. It appears that he didn't have an abundance of funds, as he had his belongings shipped to Denver in a piecemeal fashion, and the attorney in New Mexico, Albert Simms, who handled his accounts receivable was able to collect only small amounts (of which he took 50%). Between 1917 and 1919 he was listed in the Denver Directory as a photographer, operator or artist with When Studio (WH Castor, proprietor). In 1920 he and Mrs. Elsie Mead, a clerk at When Studio, formed the Mead-Pursell Studio, which was listed in the directory from 1920 on. Harber reports that the firm existed until 1941. I have not been able to find examples of his work in Denver. He and Mrs. Mead were always listed at different addresses, and his address changed frequently. He is listed as having lived with his daughter, June, at 2123 Lafayette in 1917 and in 2117 Lafayette in 1919.

The Mead Pursell Studio lasted for many years beyond Pursell's disappearance from the directories. Although little is known about the studio, it has some rather distinguished descendants. According to the Denver Directories, and

according to the recollection of Robert "Smokey" Stoffel, his father, Everett Stoffel, who was Denver's leading portrait photographer in the 1930' and 40's worked for Mead Pursell between 1924 and 1929 when he opened his own studio. "Smokey" has shadowy recollections of Mrs. Mead, but does not remember Pursell. Stoffel's studio was taken over by Edward De Croce in 1966, and De Croce has remained Denver's leading portrait studio to this day. Edward De Croce's portraits of Denver Symphony members have won national acclaim, and his work is on display at the Epcot Center. Mrs. De Croce reports that there are no old negatives or records remaining from Mead-Pursell, and "Smokey" is aware of no such records.

It is intriguing to have "New Mexico's Leading Photographer" as an inhabitant of the Dozier houses, but research has done little other than tantalize our curiosities as to who he really was.

Denver Directory Listings for the Pursells

1890-1917 No listing for any of the Pursells
1917 Pursell Walter J Photographer When Studio 403 Barth Blk r 2123 Lafayette
 1917 Pursell Mead, Elsie no listing
1917 Pursell Miss June r 2123 Lafayette
 1917 Pursell When Studio WH Castor prop 403 Barth Blk 809 16th (in classified)
 1917 Pursell AT Helen Mary Jane Della no listing
 1918 Pursell Walter J opr When Studio r 2257 Emerson
 1918 Pursell Mrs. Mary J r 1166 Stout
 1918 Pursell Walter J opr When Studio r 2257 Emerson
 1918 Pursell AT Mary Jane Della Helen no listing
 1918 Pursell classified When Studio WH Castor prop 403 Barth Blk 809 16th
 1918 Pursell Mead Elsie M Mrs. clk When Studios r 7 1358 Ogden
 1919 Pursell When Studio Photographers 405 Barth Blk 809 16th
 1919 Pursell classified no listing
 1919 Pursell AT Della Helen Mary Jane no listing
1919 Pursell Miss June r 2117 Lafayette
1919 Pursell Walter J artist When Studio r 2117 Lafayette
 1919 Pursell Mead Elsie M Mrs. clk When Studio r 1358 Ogden
 1920 Pursell When Studio WH Castor prop 403 Barth Blk 809 16th
 1920 Pursell classified Same address as 1921 but listed under photographers
 1920 Pursell AT Della Helen Mary Jane no listing
 1920 Pursell Walter J (Mead-Pursell) rms 1530 California
 1920 Pursell Mead Elsie M Mrs. (Mead-Pursell) r 7 1358 Ogden
 1921 Pursell Mead Elsie M Mrs. (Mead Pursell) r 1358 Ogden
 1921 Pursell WJ (Mead-Pursell) rms 1530 California
 1921 Pursell Classified photo engravers- Mead-Pursell 223 1554 California. Not listed under commercial photographers
 1921 Pursell AT Della Helen Mary Jane no listing
 1921 Pursell Walter J (Mead Pursell Studio) rms 1530 California
 1921 Pursell Mrs. Mary J r 2456 Lawrence
 1922 Pursell Walter J Mead-Pursell Studios rms 1530 California
 1922 Pursell AT Della Helen Mary Jane no listing
 1922 No further listings for WJ Pursell or family. listings from this point on are for Elsie Mead
 1923 Pursell When Studio 405 Barth Block
 1923 Pursell Mead Pursell 233 McClintock bldg 1554 Calif
 1927 Pursell Mead-Pursell same as 1929
 1928 Pursell Mead Pursell same as 1929
 1929 Pursell Mead-Pursell Studio 237 1554 Calif (c)
 1930 Pursell Mead Pursell same as 1929

Denver Directory Listings for Elsie Mead and Successors

1890-1918 Mead Elsie no listing
 1918 Mead Mrs. Elsie M clk When Studio s r 7 1358 Ogden
 1922 Mead Mrs. Elsie M Mead Pursell Studios r 7 1358 Ogden

1923 Mead Mrs. Elsie M mgr Mead Pursell Studios r 1358 Ogden
1924 Mead Mrs. Elsie M prop. Mead-Pursell Studio r 1358 Ogden
1925 Mead Mrs. Elsie M Mead Pursell Studio r 7 1358 Ogden
1926 Mead Elsie M Mrs. Mead Pursell Studio r 7 1358 Ogden
1927 Mead Elsie prop Mead-Pursell Studio h 3 1414 Marion
1928 Mead Elsie prop Mead Pursell Studio h 2 1345 Grant
1929 Mead Elsie M Mrs. Mead-Pursell h 2 1345 Grant
1930 Mead Elsie M Mrs. Mead-Pursell h 2 1345 Grant
1931 Mead-Pursell 237 1554 California
1931 Mead Elsie (Mead Pursell) h 5 1345 Grant
1932 Mead Elsie (Mead Pursell) h 5 1345 Grant
1932 Mead-Pursell 237 1554 California
1933 Mead Elsie same
1933 Mead-Pursell same
1934 Mead Pursell Studios same
1934 Mead Elsie same
1935 Mead -Weary Edwin E ((Adelia L) photog Mead Pursell Studio h 2520 High
1935 Mead Elsie same
1935 Mead -Elsner Anna Elsner Anna with Mead Pursell Studio r 217 S Washington
1935 Mead Pursell Studios same
1936 Mead-Pursell Studios same
1936 Mead Elsie same
1937 Mead Pursell Studios same
1937 Mead Elsie same
1938 Mead Pursell Studio same
1938 Mead Elsie Mead-Pursell Studio h 17 1675 Logan
1939 Mead Elsie h 17 1675 Logan
1939 Mead Pursell Studios same
1939 Mead-Pursell Studio Anna Elsner & E E Weary lessees photogs 237 1554 California
1940 Mead Pursell Studios (non-business dir.) same as 1939
1940 Mead Pursell Studios (business directory 237 1554 California
1940 Mead Elsie same as 1939
1941 Mead Pursell Studio (bus. dir.) same
1941 Mead Elsie same as 1939
1941 Mead-Pursell Studios (non-bus. dir.) same as 1939
1942 Mead Pursell Studio (Anna T. Elsner E. E. Weary) phototogs 237 1554 California
1942 Mead-Pursell Studios (bus. dir.) same
1942 Mead Elsie same
1943 Mead Pursell Studio (Anne T. Elsner E. E. Weary) photogs 237 1554 California (classified)
1945 Mead Pursell Studio same listing as in 1943 Business Dir.
1945 Mead -Weary Edwin E (Adelia L) mgr. Mead-Pursell Studio h 1209 Pearl apt. B
1945 Mead Mrs. Elsie (Kensington Apts.) h 1675 Logan apt. 17
1945 Mead -Elsner Anna mgr Mead-Pursell Studio r 217 S. Washington
1947 Mead -Elsner Anna same as 1945
1947 Mead Mrs. Elsie h 1675 Logan apt 17
1947 Mead -Weary Edwin E (Adelia L) mgr Mead-Pursell Studio h 1260 Adams
1947 Mead-Pursell Studio Anna Elsner and Edwin E Weary mgrs. photogs 1554 California R237
1948 Mead-Pursell (Mrs. Elsie Mead) photogs 1554 California r 237
1948 Mead -Elsner Anna same
1948 Mead -Weary Edwin E same as 1947
1948 Mead Elsie same as 1947
1950 Mead-Pursell Studio (Ann Elsner Edwin E Weary) same address
1950 Mead Elsie same
1950 Mead -Elsner Anna same
1950 Mead -Weary Edwin E same
1951 Mead Mrs. Elsie (Mead Pursell Studio) h 1675 Logan apt. 17
1951 Mead-Pursell Studio (Elsie Mead) photogs same address
1951 Mead -Elsner Mrs. Anne T photog Mead-Pursell Studio r 217 S. Washington
1951 Mead -Weary Edwin E (Adelia L) photog Mead-Pursell Studio h 1260 Adams
1953 Mead Pursell Studio Walter M Anderson
1953 Mead -Anderson Walter M (Anita) Mead-Pursell Studio h 1176 Gaylord apt 2
1953 Mead Elsie h 1675 Logan apt. 17
1953 Mead -Elsner Anna T r 217 S. Washington
1953 Mead -Weary Edwin E (Adelia L) photog h 1260 Adams
1954 Mead -Anderson Walter M no listing
1954 Mead -Hausman Nathan (Esther) Mead-Pursell Photographic Studio h 2115 E. 14th Ave Apt. 10
1954 Mead Elsie r 1675 Logan apt 17
1954 Mead Pursell Photographic Studio (Nathan Hausman) 1675 Logan apt 12
1954 Mead -Weary Edwin E (Adelia L) h 1260 Adams

1956 Mead-Pursell Photographic Studio E. Peterson mgr. 1675 Logan apt.12
 1956 Mead -Peterson E. mgr Mead Pursell Photographic Studio RD 1 Golden Co
 1956 Mead -Weary Edwin E (Adelia) DaNae Studio h 1260 Adams
 1956 Mead -Anderson Walter M no listing
 1956 Mead -Hausman Nathan no listing
 1956 Mead Elsie h 1675 Logan Apt 17
 1956 Mead -Elsner Anna T DeNae Studio r 2345 S. Lowell Blvd.(DeNae Studio 306 E. Colfax Ave.)
 1957 Mead -Lowell David mgr. Mead Pursell 1675 Logan apt 12
 1957 Mead -Peterson E no listing
 1957 Mead Elsie same as 1956
 1957 Mead -Anderson Walter M no listing
 1957 Mead -Elsner Anna T same as 1956
 1957 Mead -Hausman Nathan (Esther) h 2115 e 14th ave apt 10
 1957 Mead Pursell Photographic Studio David Lowell mgr. 1675 Logan apt. 12
 1957 Mead -Weary Edwin E same as 1956
 1958 Mead -Lowell David no listing
 1958 Mead -Hausman Nathan same as 1957
 1958 Mead Elsie same
 1958 Mead -Peterson E no listing
 1958 Mead Pursell Photographic Studio no listing in 1958 or beyond. Also follow-up of the listed managers until their disappearance was not productive of a living relative.

Denver Directory Listings for Everett Stoffel

1905 Stoffel no listing
 1906 Stoffel no listing
 1907 Stoffel no listing
 1908 Stoffel no listing
 1909 Stoffel no listing
 1910 Stoffel Everett A Kirkland Studio same as 1911
 1910 Stoffel Everett A no listing
 1911 Stoffel Everett A Photographer Kirkland Studio rms 1251 Pennsylvania
 1911 Stoffel Everett A Kirkland Studio 1452 Tremont Pl (c)
 1913 Stoffel Everett A (Stoffel and Stoffel) (EA and EE) Portraits 1121 Colfax
 1913 Stoffel Everett A (Stoffel and Stoffel) r 1221 Colfax
 1913 Stoffel Earl E (Stoffel and Stoffel) r 1121 Colfax
 1914 Stoffel Everett A Stoffel and Stoffel 1121 Colfax Ave (c)
 1914 Stoffel Earl E 1449 Downing
 1914 Stoffel Everett A 1449 Downing
 1915 Stoffel Everett A Stoffel and Stoffel r 1266 Downing
 1915 Stoffel Emmett E Stoffel and Stoffel r Crest Co
 1915 Stoffel Everett A Stoffel and Stoffel 1121 Colfax Ave (c)
 1916 Stoffel Everett Stoffel and Stoffel (EE and EA) home portraits 1230 Lafayette (c)
 1916 Stoffel EA r 1230 Lafayette
 1916 Stoffel Earl E r 1230 Lafayette
 1917 Stoffel Everett A Photographer r 2130 Colfax
 1918 Stoffel Everett r 184 s Emerson
 1918 Stoffel Everett Photographer 2130 Colfax Ave (c)
 1919 Stoffel no listing
 1920 Stoffel no listing
 1922 Stoffel Prestel no listing
 1922 Stoffel no listing
 1923 Stoffel Prestel Studio no list
 1923 Stoffel No listing classified or individual
 1924 Stoffel Everett Prestel Studio PO Dodge prop 446 Bwy
 1924 Stoffel Everett Photographer Mead Pursell Studio r 1684 Clermont
 1927 Stoffel Prestel Studio same as 1928
 1927 Stoffel EA (Robbie L) photographer Mead-Purcell (sic) 4655 Colfax
 1928 Stoffel EA (Robbie L) photographer Mead-Purcell (sic) 4655 Colfax
 1928 Stoffel Prestel Studio P.O. Dodge prop 446 Bwy
 1929 Stoffel Everett A Prestel Studio (Everett A Stoffel) portraits of children in the home or at the studio 446 Broadway
 1929 Stoffel Everett A (Robbie L) h 4655 Colfax
 1930 Stoffel E A Prestel studio no listing
 1930 Stoffel E A 446 Bwy
 1931 Stoffel E A 4655 E Colfax

Inventory of Pursell papers found in basement of 2123 Lafayette

Approximately one years worth of Checks on The American Trust and Savings Bank of Albuquerque, New Mexico between November 1914 and 1915. Many of these were signed by Herbert L Huxley for WJ Pursell. The heading on the checks is W.J. Pursell, New Mexico's Leading Photographer. Items of note from reviewing these checks include:

Checks to Herbert Huxley for \$5 and \$6 ? paychecks

A check to AT Pursell on 5 April 1915 for \$12

A check to RM Pursell

Multiple checks to Coleman-Blank Auto Co

A check to the Albuquerque Directory Company for \$5 on 5 April 1915

Multiple checks to Wells Fargo

A check to American Savings Bank of El Paso for \$50

A check on 14 Sep 1915 for \$25 to Citizens Bank "in full for notes on car."

3 undated invoices from Pursell Studio "New Mexico's Leading Photographer and Prize Winner" The most interesting of these is to the University of New Mexico for class, band, and fraternity photos. Dr Boyd's name appears on the invoice. There is a note on the bottom that a "dup to Simmes," who was the lawyer who collected the accounts receivable when Pursell left New Mexico.

There is a promissory note to W.M Gray dated 26 September 1914 for \$100 for ten months at 10% per annum signed by WJ Pursell.

There is also a signed off version, signed by WM Gray and CJ Bowman (no date)

There is a receipt on 26 April 1916 for "\$10 on account of rent for house 548 South Pearl St" signed Eugene(sic) Robitaille.

A receipt for a ticket on the Santa Fe Railroad from Albuquerque to Denver on 8 May 1916

Various letters from Albert G. Simms, Attorney and Counselor at Law, 12-14 Cromwell Building Albuquerque. One lists the results of attempts to collect accounts receivable, Note that of the total collected , \$23, Pursell received \$11.95

The remains of a \$50 promissory note dated 1 May 1915 to Cooper Brothers Motor Co which was signed off on an unknown date by BJ Cooper

A bill of sale from Cooper Brothers Motor Co to Mary June Pursell on 15 September 1915 for a "Saxon Roadster Automobile-4 cylinder" for \$450 witnessed by Simms

A letter from Springer Transfer of Albuquerque dated 30 May 1916 and addressed to WJ Pursell, Denver. It looks like a quotation for shipping specific cartons to Denver and includes two marked "Osser Photo Sup Co Denver" (note that Ossens is an old time Denver Photo Supply House that recently went out of business).

A letter from American Trust and Savings Bank of El Paso, Texas

acknowledging receipt of \$100 and asking for \$2.65 interest.
A piece of letterhead from The Gray Studio ("New Mexico's Leading Photographers"), Albuquerque Office. 219 W. Central Ave, Santa Fe Office 249 San Francisco St. On the back is an appraisal of the business, and comes to \$4544.40 including \$1000.00 of "Good Will and Business" and no date.

A memorandum from Simms:

"April 3, 1916
Albuquerque, NM

I have in my possession for collection the following accounts on a basis of 15% first deducting the balance of fee due me of 20.00
University 101.00 [this invoice mentioned above]
High School 37.00
Pearl Corson 5.00
Woolsey 1.60
Agnes Lincler 2.50
Nestor Montoya 22.50
Wiley 3.00"

Letter from Dr HW Hyde July 1915

Denver July 26, 15
W.J Pursell
Albuquerque
New Mexico

My dear Pursell!--

I am sending you under separate cover the nose-glasses you so kindly loaned me when mine were--well let me say lost. This pkg has been lying ready on my desk almost ever since I returned home from ? McKay's which was about six weeks ago. It was waiting till I felt able to write you. So you see I have been very slow regaining normal health. Now, however, I feel quite equal to going to work and shall do so this week. Hope you have done better. My memories of you from first to last were most pleasant. Everyone of the bunch there with us did well save only Mrs. White-poor girl-. I am afraid its over the hill to the funny house for her. It would gratify me to have a line from you; if your cure was as thoro as mine-why, we're both f///// man for life. Wishing you all kinds of good luck, your friend, HW Hyde, 323 W First ave (?fourteenth ave). P.S. Please pardon the pencil- I am yet too unsteady for pen and ink.

Sources

de Sa Rego, Stella, University of New Mexico
Colorado State Board of Medical Examiners as found in the archives of

the Colorado State Medical Society retrieved by Bill Pierson "Dr. Hyde was born in Maine. He received his M.D. degree from the Detroit Medical College of Detroit Michigan, in 1878. He was licensed to practice medicine in Colorado on January 5, 1892, and at that time received Colorado Medical license number 1682. Dr Hyde stated he was 39 years old when his license was issued in 1892. Dr. Hyde practiced medicine in Denver, Colorado.

Dauner, Bob: On 8 August 1986 I spoke to Bob Dauner, Photo curator of the Museum of Albuquerque who noted that William Gray is listed in Rudisill's book as being in practice in Albuquerque between 1910 and 1914.

Denver Directory contains the following listings for the Keeley Institute (incomplete search)

-1892 Keeley Institute. MH Insley business manager, Dr. HW Hyde, medical director, Gold cure treatment for liquor, opium and tobacco habits, Club Building, 1725-39 Arapahoe.

-1893 Keeley Institute. same as 1892 except address Belvedere Block 15th cor Curtis

-1898 Leslie E Keeley Institute Co, props MH Insley President. Gold Cure.....1805 Curtis cor 18th.

Fairmont and Riverside Cemeteries no record of Pursell (note that he was protestant)

Harber, Opal Masters Thesis University of Denver, The Early Photographers of Colorado 1853-1876 1956

Harber, Opal, Photographers and the Colorado Scene. Denver Public Library 1961

Harber, Opal Photographers and the Colorado Scene 1901-1941, Western History Department 1977

Mead-Purcell studio 1920-1941 Colorado State Business Directories 1902-1941 and Denver directories

When Studio 1916-1925 WH Castor

Castor also worked for D'Forrest Portraits 1926

Richard Rudisill, Photographers of the New Mexico Territory 1854-1912, Museum of New Mexico, 1973

No listing for Pursell. This seems to be a complete catalog of photographers

Rudisill, Richard Curator of Photographic History, Museum of New Mexico, Box 2087 Santa Fe 87504, author of "Photographers of the New Mexico Territory 1854-1912" reports listings in New Mexico Business Directory and Worley's Directory of Albuquerque

1910-1913 The Gray Studio, W.M. Gray, prop, was at 219 Central Ave, Albuquerque: residence at same

1914 The Gray Studio, Manager Martin L. Myer; otherwise as above

1915 The Gray Studio, 247 San Francisco Street, Santa Fe, E.V. Harris, Manager.

1916 No listings for Gray of Myers

The Pursell Studio, Walter J Pursell, prop., was at 219 Central Ave Albuquerque; residence at same. (also lists "Miss Helen Pursell" and : Miss Mary J Pursell" at the same address but no reference to a wife)

1917, 1918 No listings for any of the above.

Herbert Huxley pipeman station No 1 Fire Dept r same (1916 only)

David R. Boyd. PhD President, University of New Mexico, residence 123 South High Street

Albert G. Simms Attorney, 12-14 Cromwell Block residence 211 North 14th (his brother John, also an attorney, was later Governor of New Mexico
J. Lester Cooper Proprietor, Albuquerque Overland Auto Company, 504 West Central Ave
Coleman-Blank Not primarily an auto garage, though so listed in New Mexico Business Directory (1916); mainly a dealer in electrical equipment, pumps, etc.
C.J. Bowman no listing in 1914, 6, 7
A.Todd Pursell "service company" rooms at 418 West Gold Ave
R.M. Pursell no references
Springer Transfer Company William H. Springer & L.C. Bennett, 110 West Gold Ave and various warehouses and barns in other locations
Polk's New Mexico and Arizona Pictorial State Gazetter for 1912-3 advertises Gray as "New Mexico's Leading Photographer. Kodaks and Supplies. Finishing for Amateurs Every day." Worley's for 1916 advertises Pursell as doing "portraits in both home and studio, Kodak finishing."

St Luke's Hospital Records

Twitchell, Ralph Emerson, Leading facts of New Mexico history, The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1917, Vol III, p 56.

Rocky Mountain News December 15, 1859. Mrs. Elsie Mead

Private funeral services will be at 1 PM Tuesday in Moore Mortuary for Mrs. Elsie Mead of 1675 Logan St. Burial will be in Fairmount.

Mrs. Mead died Monday in St Luke's Hospital. She was 69.

Born March 7, 1890, in Denver, she was graduated from East Denver High School and William Woods College in Fulton, Mo.

In 1910 she was married to Perry A Mead here. Mr. Mead died in 1927.

Mrs. Mead was operator of a photography studio until her retirement in 1940.

Mrs. Mead was a member of Pleasant View Community Church in Golden.

Surviving is a sister, Mrs. Beatrice Lewis of Denver.

Denver Post December 15, 1959 Elsie M Mead

Services for Mrs. Elsie M Mead, 69, of 1675 Logan St, owner and operator of a Denver photographic studio in Denver (sic) for many years, were at 1 pm Tuesday at Moore Mortuary E 17th Ave and Clarkson St. Burial was at Fairmount.

Mrs. Mead died Monday in St Luke's Hospital.

She established the Mead-Pursell photographic studio in Denver in 1927 and sold the business in 1940.

Born March 7, 1890, in Denver, she was graduated from East High School here and William Woods College, Fulton, Mo.

In 1910, she married Perry A Mead here. He died in 1927.

She was affiliated with the Pleasant View Community Church, Golden, Colo.

Mrs. Mead was a member of the Foster Parent Plan, nationwide organization which seeks donations for orphans and needy children in foreign countries. Persons who wish may contribute in her memory to the Foster Parent Plan, 352 Fourth Ave, New York, New York.

Survivors include a sister, Mrs. Beatrice Lewis of Denver.

Denver Post August 9, 1964 reports that Stoffel Studio became DeCroce Studio

Grissinger, John, a retired photographer to whom I was referred by Stoffel is not related to the M Grissinger, although she has often wondered who J Grissinger was.

Stoffel Family: I have discussed Stoffel with his son, who took over the studio when he retired and sold it to De Croce, and to Mrs. Lilly Linder, Everett's sister. They have filled in some gaps in the Denver directory files. Everett, it appears, came to Colorado from Charleston WVa in the early 1900s. According to Lilly, he had a studio in Colorado Springs before moving to Denver to work for Kirkland Studio. EE Stoffel, variously Emmet E and Earl E, was his brother, and was actually an accountant, who got out of the photo business. He lived in Crest, Colo in 1915, according to the directory. He eventually became an accountant in Pueblo and moved to Lincoln, Nebraska in the 1930's. Everett is not listed between 1919 and 1924. According to Smokey (born in 1922), the family was living on a ranch in Byers, Colorado, returning to Denver in about 1924. Lilly remembers Everett taking her picture at the Mead Pursell Studio before she was married in 1919, which would place Stoffel in Denver during the gap in the directory listings. Smokey is more credible. Both agree that Everett was not involved in WWI. None of the successors to Mead Pursell are recognizable.

Contributors to this report

Bill Pierson, Colorado Medical Society

Richard Rudisill, Museum of New Mexico

Robert Stoffel, son of photographer Everett Stoffel

Mrs. Edward De Croce of De Croce Studio

Bob Dauner, Albuquerque Museum

Stella de Sa Rego University of New Mexico Library

Mrs. Lilly Linder of Denver, sister of Everett Stoffel

I have checked with the photo curators of the State Historical Society,

Eric Paddock and Western History Collection, Auggie

Maestroguisepe, and they know of no pictures by Pursell, Mead or

Castor or When Studio, or pictures of the individuals