



# Historical Society of Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA'S LIBRARY OF AMERICAN HISTORY



On September 25, 1839, Joseph Saxton dabbled in a brand new technology—photography! He snapped his way into history by taking a picture of the Philadelphia Armory and Central High School located at Chestnut and Juniper Streets in Philadelphia. Saxton used a cigar box, glass lens, and silver coated metallic plate to produce the photograph, which needed ten minutes of exposure time.

Considered to be the first photograph taken in the United States, Saxton's image is part of HSP's Treasures Collection. You can check out our weekly series, [#OnlyAtHSP](#) every Monday on our [Facebook Page](#).

***Philadelphia Central High School for Boys and Pennsylvania State Arsenal daguerreotype, 1839 [1839.1]***