Wednesday, August 27 program Old Town Museum at 5 p.m.

A Tale of Two Artists:

On Early Old Town
Photography

Eisso Atzema, Vice-President Old Town Museum

Over the years many photographers have been active in Old Town and for most of these photographers, the Old Town Museum has many specimens of their work (albeit it probably only a small fraction of the photos they actually took). For most, being a photographer was just a day-time job that (as far as they were concerned) involved little artistic expression. In this program I want to focus on two prominent Old Town photographers who both explicitly did consider themselves artists. First, I want to showcase the work of Moses Lucien Averill (1825-1894), the first full-time photographer in Old Town, and how considering himself an artist may have impacted his work. Next, I will contrast the work of Averill with the work of Adelbert Frederick Orr (1872-1940), likely the most gifted photographer ever active in Old Town. As I will argue, whereas Averill clearly had to work to express himself artistically, almost without exception, Orr's photos demonstrate an obvious, seemingly effortless artistry. As it so happens, between the collections of the Old Town Museum and the Maine Historical Preservation Committee, much of the work of these two photographers has been preserved so there will be a lot to show.





The Old Town
Museum
is located at
353 Main St.,
Old Town