

D.P. Shrewsberry, Stereo Photographer?

Dean DeRosa¹
Arlington, Virginia
July 24, 2017

At a young age I was introduced to stereo photography through my fascination viewing vintage stereoview cards using a Holmes stereoscope. The cards and stereoviewer were always found in the side cupboard of an elegant for its day, wind-up console phonograph in the parlor of my great aunt's home in my home town of Everett, WA. I don't remember much about the individual stereoviews, but I do recall being told that my long-departed grandfather, D.P. Shrewsberry (1880-1942), dabbled in stereo photography during the early 1900s and was responsible for taking some of the stereoviews in my aunt's collection.

A year or two ago, I decided to look into the matter. I asked my cousin in the Seattle area who inherited my aunt's stereoview collection to loan me the collection. Upon receiving the collection, I found it amounted to about one hundred cards, consisting mainly of Cosmopolitan series and Metropolitan series stereoviews originally published by E. & H.T. Anthony & Co. and of the sort likely sold door-to-door or out of a mail-order catalog during the early 1900s.

Only one stereoview in the collection truly caught my eye. It was clearly not a published view and seemingly captured a location in my hometown (Fig.1). Posting a copy of the card on Facebook, I was soon informed that the image was a view of First and Union Avenue in nearby Snohomish, WA, c.1910, where my great grandparents settled with their several children in 1902. Was this a stereoview taken by my grandfather, whose real estate office was located in Snohomish during the same period as the photo (Fig. 2)?

[Figs. 1 & 2 here]

Today, I am almost certain that the Snohomish stereoview was taken by my grandfather. Recently I returned to Everett to begin clearing out my parents' home for sale. Combing through the last possessions of my great aunt, preserved by my mother, I found a few more unpublished stereoviews. And, combing through the last possessions of my grandfather (also preserved by my mother), I found an unusual devise (Figs. 3), a Kodak Stereo Hawk-Eye Self-Transposing

¹ Born and raised in Everett, WA, Dean DeRosa is a resident of Arlington, VA, where he is a history interpreter at George Washington's Mount Vernon and a National Park Service volunteer at Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial. An amateur stereo photographer himself, his modern stereoviews, including images of Snohomish and Monroe, WA, may be viewed at www.VirginiaLens.com. Special thanks are owed to the autonomous corresponding librarians at the Snohomish and Monroe branches of the Sno-Isle library system who identified for the author the old Monroe Union High School and the two nearby homes (and their original owners!) in Figs. 7 and 8, based on home descriptions and modern photos found in *Historic Homes and Building of Monroe, Washington*, a privately published book by Grace Kirwan (2000). The source of the image of the c.1910 Kodak stereo camera in Fig. 4 is http://camera-wiki.org/wiki/Kodak_Stereo_Hawkeye; all other images are the author's own. Communications may be sent to the author at va.vintage.photo@gmail.com.

Printing Frame. This device, I have since learned, was used with early roll-film Kodak Hawkeye stereo cameras (Fig. 4), specifically, for making stereoview cards. In combination with light-sensitive photographic paper, the frame was employed to make dual-image contact prints from the stereo camera's developed negatives. Finally, after developing, the contact prints were mounted on heavy stereoview cardstock.

Surviving family correspondence and other information provide no record of the actual stereo camera used by my grandfather. However, my discovery of the stereo photo printing frame convinces me that my grandfather was indeed an amateur stereo photographer, and that my aunt's unpublished stereoviews, now in my possession, were very likely scenes captured by my grandfather shortly after the beginning of the last century.

[Figs. 3 & 4 here]

The remaining figures presented here are the other stereoviews in my collection believed captured by D.P. Shrewsberry. First, they include two additional views of Snohomish: the still standing A.M. Blackman house at Fourth and Avenue D (Fig. 5), and the famed but no longer standing Snohomish bicycle tree, which was located just south of the city (Fig. 6). And second, they include views of two homes in Monroe, WA, both still standing along the city's central avenue: the C.F. Elwell house at 421 West Main Street (Fig. 7), and the E.P. Shipp house at 337 West Main Street (Fig. 8). Interestingly, the key to identifying Monroe as the location of the last two homes was the prominent building seen in the distance behind the Shipp home. The building is Union High School in Monroe, which is no longer standing but was completed in 1911 -- partially confirming the approximate date of the stereoviews presented here.

[Figs. 5-8 here]



Fig. 1. First and Union Avenue, Snohomish, c.1910

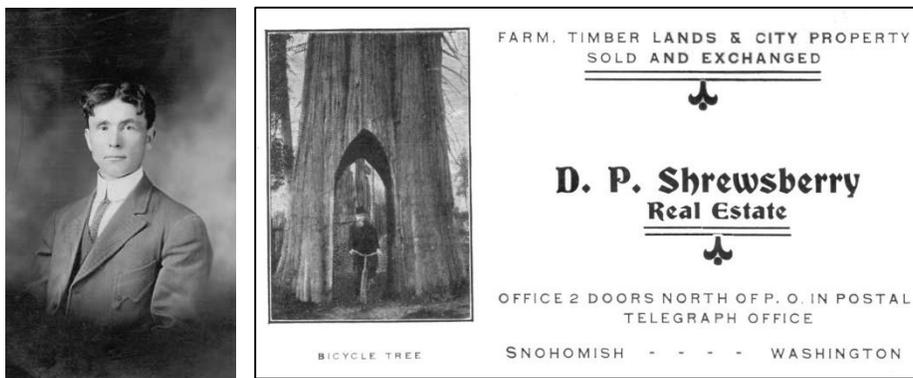


Fig. 2. D.P. Shrewsberry and Business Card, c.1910



Fig. 3. Kodak Stereo Hawk-Eye Self-Transforming Printing Frame



Fig. 4. Kodak Hawkeye Stereo Camera, Model 3



Fig. 5. A.M. Blackman House, Fourth and Avenue D, Snohomish, c.1910



Fig. 6. Snohomish Bicycle Tree, located a mile south of the city, along the Woodinville-Snohomish Road (Highway 9), c.1910



Fig. 7. C.F. Elwell Home, 421 West Main Street, Monroe, c.1910



Fig. 8. E.P. Shipp Home, 337 West Main Street, Monroe, c.1910
(Shipp family members? Union High School in the distance.)