

Website Art Hunt: Chester Ashley

Visit Historic Arkansas Museum’s online collection to find this photograph and answer the following questions.

What is this kind of photograph called? _____

What metal is this it printed on? _____

FAST FACTS: • Ashley County in Arkansas is named for Chester Ashley. • Daguerreotypes were the first publicly available photographic process.

ENGAGE: Let’s learn more about Chester Ashley. Read the following passage from the online [Encyclopedia of Arkansas](#):

“Chester Ashley was prominent in territorial and antebellum Arkansas. He was involved in the dispute over ownership of the site of Little Rock (Pulaski County), the Bowie land claims, and the ill-fated State and Real Estate Banks, as well as being the pre-eminent appellate attorney of the period. He was a member of the powerful Conway-Sevier-Johnson political faction, which controlled state politics until the Civil War. In addition, he was the third Arkansan elected to the U.S. Senate and was probably the wealthiest Arkansan for much of his life because of his land holdings. Chester Ashley was born on June 1, 1791, in Amherst, Massachusetts, to William Ashley and Nancy Pomeroy. Some sources list his birth year as 1790...”.



Now, write a short paragraph that includes three facts you learned. _____

EXPLORE: With today’s cell phone cameras , it’s not a big deal to snap a photo of someone. But this wasn’t always the case! In Ashley’s time, photography was an expensive and time-consuming process. Having a portrait taken was something even the wealthy might do only once in their life. Use the camera on your phone to take a formal portrait of someone—you can even make it “old-timey” with a black and white or sepia filter! If you don’t have access to a phone, draw a formal portrait on the back of this sheet.

VOCABULARY: Daguerreotype- a photograph taken by an early photographic process employing an iodine-sensitized silvered plate and mercury vapor.

Frameworks: H.13.2.3, H.13.3.5, WHST.6-12.2