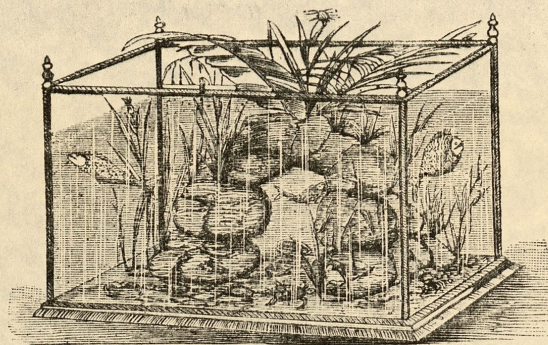




Oldest Aquarium Manufacturer in the United States? - E.W. Taxis Aquariums By Jessica Lykken



THE AQUARIUM TANKS

Now in use by the

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE,

For the FISH DISPLAY, in the North Western half of Agricultural Hall, are for Sale, (to be delivered at the close of the Exhibition.) There are some thirty-five in number, ranging in size from 2½ to 6½ feet in length. All the above Tanks are of the very best manufacture, and contain French Polished Plate Glass, from three-eighth to half an inch in thickness. For further information apply to the SUPERINTENDENT of AQUARIA, OFFICE No. 25, or address the manufacturer,

E. W. TAXIS, No. 60 N. Sixth St., below Arch, Philada.

The Tanks can be securely packed and shipped to any part of the United States or Canadas. E. W. TAXIS, 60 North Sixth Street, Philadelphia, is prepared to receive orders for Aquarium Tanks of any capacity, manufactured of Iron, Slate or Marble. Being the only Tank manufacturer in Philadelphia that makes a speciality of the business, and his establishment is

THE OLDEST IN THE UNITED STATES.

Aquarium Tanks of his make have been shipped to all the principal cities throughout the country.

He would specially call attention to the COMBINED IRON & SLATE TANKS on Exhibition at Space A, 21, Catalogue 126, which are symmetrical and beautiful in finish, with perfect opportunities for examining the contents. This advantage is specially claimed for these rectangular Tanks.

Everything in connection with Aquaria always on hand, such as

Cold Fish, Silver Fish, Aquatic Plants, Hanging & Standing Fish Globes, Stands for Aquarium Tanks, Etc.

All orders by mail or otherwise will receive immediate attention.

E. W. TAXIS,

Practical Aquarium Tank Manufacturer,

No. 60 North 6th St., below Arch, Philad'a.



An 1876 print advertises E.W. Taxis, a “Practical Aquarium Tank Manufacturer” based in Philadelphia. It notes that thirty-five tanks were in the possession of the Bureau of Agriculture and being displayed for sale in Agricultural Hall, one of five buildings at the Centennial Exposition. The event took place from May 10th to November 10th, 1876, in Fairmount Park, Pennsylvania, and commemorated the one-hundred-year anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The advertisement claims that E.W. Taxis is “the oldest in the United States,” and touts their position as the only manufacturer in Philadelphia experienced in the production of specialty tanks. Specifically, they promote their aquariums made of iron, slate, marble, or combined materials, and emphasize their ability to ship said tanks to buyers in the U.S. and Canada. Despite these claims no additional records of E.W. Taxis have been identified in readily accessible archival or digital sources, suggesting the firm may have been a small, short-lived aquarium manufacturer.



Image of the Agricultural Hall. Credit: <https://www.loc.gov/item/90708470/>

Agricultural Products, Land and Water Animals, Animal Products.

- 92 Thurlow, H., Skaneateles, N. Y.—Teasels. H 15. 624
- 93 Rogers, C. B., Philadelphia, Pa.—Field and garden seeds. I 16. 624
- 94 Red Wing Mills, Red Wing, Minn.—Fife-wheat. I 26. 624
- 95 McLaughlin, J. M., & Son, Skaneateles, N. Y.—Teasels. H 15. 624
- 96 Thornburn, J. M., & Co., New York, N. Y.—Garden, flower, field, and tree seeds. I 26. 624
- 97 Henderson, Peter, & Co., New York, N. Y.—Field and garden seeds. I 16. 624
- 98 Illinois State Board of Agriculture (collective exhibit), Springfield, Ill.—Samples illustrating the agricultural, horticultural, geological, and other resources of the State. G 22. 600-624
- Land Animals.**
- 99 Michigan State Agricultural College, Lansing, Mich.
a Birds, useful and injurious. H and I 20 to 21. 635
b Insects, useful and injurious. 638
- 100 Beath, J. R., Philadelphia, Pa.—Stuffed birds. K 23. 635
- 101 Aldrich, P. W., Readville, Mass.—Stuffed birds. K 23. 635
- 102 Howlett, C. K., Hudson, Ohio.—Stuffed birds of America. K 23. 635
- 103 Brown, Clark, D. W., Aurora, Ill.—Stuffed birds. K 24. 635
- 104 Crenshaw, George, Philadelphia, Pa.—Stuffed Hamburg fowls, with their young. K 24. 635
- 105 Academy of Natural Sciences, Allentown, Pa.
a Birds with their nests and eggs. 635
b Quadrupeds. K 23. 637
- 106 Rosenbaum, F., Watertown, Wis.
a Wisconsin birds. K 23. 635
b Animals of Wisconsin. 637
- 107 Forster, Christian, Hamilton, Ohio.
a Mounted birds of North America. K 24. 635
b Mounted animals of North America. 637
- 108 Wallace, John, New York, N. Y.—Stuffed animals. K 24. 635
- [Special displays of Live-Stock are arranged to be held during September, October, and November.]
- Water Animals, Fish Culture, and Apparatus.**
- 109 Ward, Henry A., Rochester, N. Y.—Casts of fossils, zoological specimens, mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes, batrachians, etc., stuffed and mounted. K 26 to 27. 640
- 109 a Crenshaw, George, Philadelphia, Pa.—Stuffed fish. K 24. 641
- 110 American Sardine Co., New York, N. Y.—Boneless sardines. A 19. 642
- 111 Hapgood & Co., San Francisco, Cal.—Preserved salmon. A 19. 642
- 112 Goodale, S. L., Saco, Maine.—Food extract from the juices of fish. J 23. 426
- 113 Rogers, John S., Gloucester, Mass.—Gelatine, isinglass, and glue made from salt-fish skins. A 22. 646
- 114 Norwood, C., & Son, Ipswich, Mass.—Isinglass. A 22. 646
- 115 Müller, Gustave, Chicago, Ill.—Russian isinglass. A 22. 646
- 116 Gulden, Charles, New York, N. Y.—Salad oils. I 28. 646
- 117 Fox, George, Jr., Philadelphia, Pa.—Split and glued bamboo trout fly rods. A 27. 647
- 118 Shipley, A. B., & Son, Philadelphia, Pa.—Fishing tackle. A 15. 647
- 119 Ferrell, J. A., Bloomfield, Ky.—Angler's transparent float. A 26. 647
- 120 Mansfield, G. H., & Co., Canton, Mass.—Braided fishing lines. A 26. 647
- 121 Conroy, Bissett, & Malleson, New York, N. Y.—Fishing rods, reels, lines, flies, and fishing tackle. A 28. 647
- 122 City of Gloucester, Essex co., Mass.—Exhibit of her progress, development, and industries as the largest fishing port in the United States. A and B 20 and 21. 647
- 123 Douglass, W. & B., Middletown, Conn.—Aquariums. C 18. 648
- 124 Murphy & Broom, Philadelphia, Pa.—Aquarium tanks. C 25. 648
- 125 Clarke, N. W., Northville, Mich.—Fish-hatching apparatus. A 24. 648
- 126 Taxis, E. W., Philadelphia, Pa.—Aquarium tank. A 21. 648
- Animal and Vegetable Products.**
- 127 Crawford & Watson, Philadelphia, Pa.—Bleached sponge. F 26. 650
- 128 American Condensed Milk Co., New York, N. Y.—Condensed milk. J 21. 652
- 129 Napheys, George C., & Son, Philadelphia, Pa.—Refined leaf lard. K 20. 652
- 130 Chalmers, James, & Sons, Williamsville, N. Y.—Gelatine. K 22. 652
- 131 Wilcox, W. J., & Co., New York.—Refined leaf-lard. K 21. 652
- 132 Stein, Hersh, & Co., Chicago, Ill.—Egg albumen, blood albumen, casein and dried blood. J 22. 652
- 133 Brown, William H., Peabody, Mass.—Prepared sizing, glue. K 20. 652
- 134 Franklin Glue Works, Pittsburg, Pa.—Glue, neats-foot oil. K 20. 652
- 135 Upton, George, Boston, Mass.—Glue in sheets, broken, ground, and powdered. K 20. 652
- 136 Peter Cooper's Glue Factory, New York, N. Y.—Glue, gelatine, neats-foot oil. K 22. 652
- 137 Lister Brothers, Newark, N. J.—Glue, tallow, etc. C 25. 652
- 138 Woods & Carnahan, Cincinnati, Ohio.—Adamantine candles. J 22. 652
- 139 Meriam Packing Co., Boston, Mass. J 20.
a Hides, tallow, etc. 652
b Mess beef, concentrated roast beef, and canned turtle. 656
- 140 State of Oregon (collective exhibit), Portland, Oregon. E 22.
a Glue, condensed cider. 652
b Dried fruit. 656
c Farina, flour, and oatmeal. 657

The listing for products and animals exhibited in the Agricultural Hall of the 1876 Centennial Exposition lists 3 manufacturers of aquariums during this time:

Exhibit 123 – Douglass W. & B., Middletown, Conn.

Exhibit 124 – Murphy & Broom, Philadelphia, Pa.

Exhibit 126 – Taxis, E.W., Philadelphia, Pa.

Credit: https://archive.org/details/internationalexh00unit_2/page/16/mode/2up