

# AURELIUS O. CARPENTER

## ❧ Photographer of the Mendocino Frontier ❧



**“AURELIUS O. CARPENTER: PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE MENDOCINO FRONTIER”** is the first comprehensive exhibition on Aurelius Ormando Carpenter (1836–1919), one of the early and most talented photographers to set up shop in Mendocino County. Carpenter and his wife, Helen McCowen Carpenter (1838–1917), parents of famous artist, Grace Carpenter Hudson (1865–1937), operated a portrait photography studio from their home in Ukiah for some 40 years.

From the 1880s through the 1890s, Carpenter also traveled as an itinerant photographer throughout this rural, rugged region, hauling his cameras and supplies in a horse-drawn wagon. Setting up his tent studio in small, scattered settlements, he took portraits and recorded outdoor views. His adventurous spirit, work ethic, and artistic abilities have yielded a notable visual record of Mendocino County’s development in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His large panoramic views chronicle the coastal logging, tanbark, and shipping industries, as well as the inland region’s bounty of natural attractions and agricultural products. He also produced an important body of photographs on Pomo Indian individuals and communities.

In these endeavors, Carpenter was not unlike hundreds of

other California photographers working at the time. While much of Carpenter’s output has been preserved, the photographs of many others have not. Therefore, this exhibition not only allows an introduction to the talent of A. O. Carpenter, it also gives a representative documentation of period photography and early Northern California history.



Gualala Mill Company Locomotive No. 2, the “S. H. Harmon,” circa 1890s, by Aurelius O. Carpenter

### Exhibition Information

The “Aurelius O. Carpenter” exhibition includes:

- ◆ 94 digital prints scanned from vintage images (85 total frames, runs approximately 275 linear feet)
- ◆ Title panel, text panels, and labels
- ◆ Introductory DVD of Carpenter’s life and work
- ◆ Exhibition press kit and educational materials
- ◆ Companion catalogue of 120 pages is available through Grace Hudson Museum

Rental Fee: \$2,500 + shipping for an 8-week booking

Security: Moderate



California  
Exhibition  
Resources  
Alliance

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