

KS2

READING  
MUSEUM  
HANDS ON  
LEARNING



Dann - Lewis Photography Company

# Photography Shop

In 1856, Mrs Dann opened a shop at 35 Broad Street making her Reading's first female (professional) photographer which was impressive considering the time period!

Fox Talbot, an innovative photographer, famous for creating new techniques in producing several photographs from a single negative, had left the Reading less than a decade before Mrs Dann began her business.

Fanny had to open the business under husband's name to follow social conventions at the time. Francis Dann was, actually, a Great Western Railway worker, but the studio was registered as belonging to him, and his name appeared both over the door and in the local business directory.

## Reading Street List.

11

11 <i>The Clarence</i> , Chas. Roberts,	41 <i>Duke's Head</i> , Bailey, George
12 Vine, John, baker	45 Akhurst, George, draper
13 Sims, George, dining rooms	46 Dowsett, Brothers, family
14 <i>Royal Oak</i> , Roe, William	brewers, Agents to Bass,
15 & 16 Sims, H., draper, hosier	Allsop, and Guinness
and undertaker	48 Peckover, Edward, tailor
17 Shackel, Edward, grocer	49 Pidgeon, J., grocer
19 Bennett, William, oil and	50 Yard, William, auctioneer,
colour warehouse	valuer, and upholsterer
20 Martin, A., tailor and woollen	51 <i>The Peacock</i> , Ruffell, George
draper	<i>Reading Girls' School</i> , Leggatt
21 Spencer, John, locksmith and	Miss, schoolmistress
bellhanger	57 Dale, Joseph, watchmaker
22 Chaplin & Horne, carriers	58 Doe, James, dairyman and
Greaves, Edward Turner,	corn dealer
agent	59 Hoffman, C. W., solicitor com-
23 <i>Bull Inn</i> , Benjamin, Job	missioner of oaths. Agent
24 Day, Thomas, pork butcher	to the Eagle Life Insurance
25 Heading, H., tailor & woollen	60 Palmer, Alfred
draper	61 & 62 Phillips, C., ironmonger
26 Fisher, Ebenezer, Cookham	63 Paice, H. R., pastrycook and
shoe warehouse	confectioner
Reading Horse Bazaar, Tar-	64 Bradbury, James, saddler and
gett, Edward horse salesman	harness maker
27 <i>The Woolpack</i> , Bonser, James	65 & 66 Pye, John, chemist
28 Player, John, watchmaker	67 Wood, Thomas, photographer
29 <i>The Caledonian</i> Watmore,	69 Portsmouth, Job, house agent
G. W.	and valuer
30 Verlander, Alfred, appraiser	70 & 71 Thompson, Thomas,
and upholsterer	grocer and pork butcher
31 Marchant, C., baker, pastry-	72 Hemmings, W., confectioner
cook and confectioner	73 Birch, G. H., boot and shoe
32 Oakshott, E. G., corn mer-	maker
chant and mealman	74 <i>The Vine</i> , Whiteway, Thos.
33 Stevens, Sidney, grocer	75 & 76 Wilson, C. F. Australian
34 Fear, James, boot and shoe	Continental & English pro-
maker	duce stores
35 Dann, F., photographer	77 Newman, J. J., oil and lamp
38 Smart, John, perambulator	warehouse!
and furniture warehouse	78 Gardiner, S. H., watch and
39 Farrer, A., news agent	clock maker
40 Peckover, Henry, locksmith &	80 <i>Broad Street Brewery</i> ,
bellhanger	Parker, James, brewer

# Business

A large part of the business was dedicated to portraiture as continues to be the case with many photographers today.

Dann Photography also had engagements that included local scenes and landmarks, pictures of villages and important buildings as well as developing x-rays for the Hospital and regular visits to the Reading Police Station to photograph new prisoners.

By the end of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the business had developed a second studio at 744 Oxford Road.



# Fanny and Henry Lewis

When Mrs Dann's retired, the business was left to her grand-daughter, Fanny Child, who had grown up in the family business.

The business became known as the Dann-Lewis Photography Company when Fanny married Henry Lewis (famous for his 'magic lantern' shows).

The business finally moved to London Street, where it was run by Walter Lewis, Henry Lewis' son, until its closure after the Second World War.

The undersigned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

[Page 11]

No. of HOUSES		ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION	AGE	SEX	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WEEKS SICK	Remarks
57	32 Broad St	1	John Child	Head	48	M	Book-keeper	None	
			Mrs Child	Wife	45	F		None	
			John Child	Son	17	M	Book-keeper	None	
			Mary Ann Child	Daughter	15	F	Book-keeper	None	
58	33 Broad St	1	Henry Dann	Head	52	M	Photographer	None	
			Mrs Dann	Wife	48	F		None	
			John Dann	Son	17	M	Photographer	None	
			Mary Dann	Daughter	15	F	Photographer	None	
59	34 Broad St	1	John Dann	Head	55	M	Photographer	None	
			Mrs Dann	Wife	50	F		None	
			John Dann	Son	17	M	Photographer	None	
			Mary Dann	Daughter	15	F	Photographer	None	
60	35 Broad St	1	Francis H. Dann	Head	58	M	Photographer	None	
			Mrs Dann	Wife	55	F		None	
			John Dann	Son	17	M	Photographer	None	
			Mary Dann	Daughter	15	F	Photographer	None	
61	36 Broad St	1	Henry Dann	Head	60	M	Photographer	None	
			Mrs Dann	Wife	55	F		None	
			John Dann	Son	17	M	Photographer	None	
			Mary Dann	Daughter	15	F	Photographer	None	
62	37 Broad St	1	John Dann	Head	62	M	Photographer	None	
			Mrs Dann	Wife	58	F		None	
			John Dann	Son	17	M	Photographer	None	
			Mary Dann	Daughter	15	F	Photographer	None	
Total of Houses						10	Total of Males and Females		25

\* Draw the pen through each of the words as are inappropriate.

Eng - Sheet 11.

# Online Collection

The University of Reading houses a massive collection of Dann-Lewis photography which you can explore here:

[Dann-Lewis](#)

This is a great starting point to explore the history of Oxford Road in photographs!

