

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

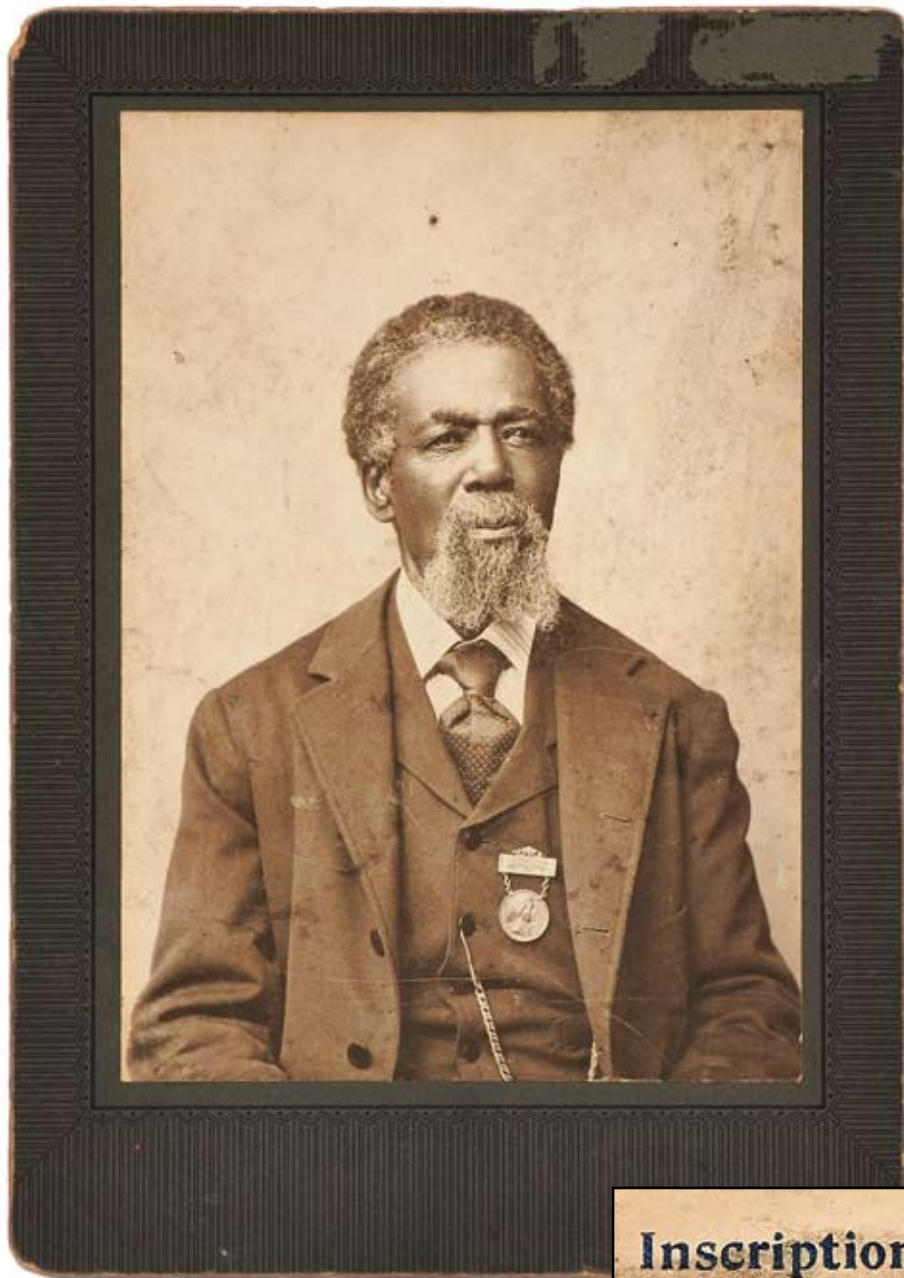
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Thomas Mundy Peterson

Original Cabinet Photograph of Thomas Mundy Peterson, the first Black man to legally vote in the United States

Perth Amboy, N.J.: W.R. Tobias, Portraits 1884

\$3800



Albumen photograph Image size 4" x 5½" on 5" x 7" stiff card backer. Photographer's stamp on verso. Printed label on the verso that reads: "Inscription on the Medal. Presented by citizens of Perth Amboy, N.J., to Thomas Peterson, the first colored voter in the United States under the provisions of the Fifteenth Amendment, at an election held in that city March 31st, 1870." Modest soiling on the image, corners of the card rounded, very good or better. A rare commemorative or souvenir portrait photograph. Peterson was a school custodian and active in Republican politics. Additionally he was the first African-American to hold elected office in that city, and the first to serve on a jury. When Peterson voted in a local election over a new city charter, he became the first African-American to vote legally under the 15th Amendment.

To honor the event, his fellow citizens arranged to have a gold medallion presented to him on Decoration Day (now Memorial Day), 1884. This cabinet card was apparently prepared as a souvenir of the event. The school where he worked is now named after him. Exceptionally uncommon, we've never seen another offered for sale. [\[BTC#399977\]](#)

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