



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

John W. Garrett Collection

NMAH.AC.0171
Robert S. Harding

1985

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	John W. Garrett Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0171
Date:	1850-1880.
Extent:	0.6 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Creator:	Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company Garrett, John W. (John Work), 1820-1884 Transportation, Division of, NMAH, SI.
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co. through Lawrence W. Sagle, Public Relations Representative, in 1997.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Transportation.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Robert Harding, 1985

Preferred Citation

John W. Garrett Collection, 1850-1880, Archives Center, National Museum of American History. Gift of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company.

Restrictions

This collection has been combined with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Collection (NMAH.AC.1086)

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical Note

Garrett, president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 1858-1884, was born in Baltimore, Maryland July 31, 1820. After working for his father's financially successful commission business, during which time he invested heavily in the B. & O. Railroad, he was elected a director in 1855 and president in 1858. Under his leadership the railroad made history during the Civil War by carrying out the first military rail transport. During peacetime the railroad prospered with Garrett as president. He died September 26, 1884.

Scope and Contents

Includes lists of rail accidents, production and distribution of locomotives, and engine repair costs; reports on locomotive power, cost and performance, and purchases of locomotives and cars; and correspondence relating to these and other matters, all 1850-1880. Most correspondence is to Garrett from railroad supervisory staff. Includes a history of the operation of the railroad during the Civil War and additional correspondence concerning Ohio River bridges, trestles, and tunnels.

Arrangement

Chronological arrangement.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Railroads
- Railroads -- Buildings and structures
- Repairing
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Types of Materials:

- Business records -- 19th century

Names:

- Transportation, Division of, NMAH, SI.

Geographic Names:

- Baltimore (Md.)
- Ohio River