



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Baxter D. Whitney Collection

NMAH.AC.0267

NMAH Staff

2003

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Baxter D. Whitney Collection
Date:	1870-1957.
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0267
Creator:	Whitney, Baxter D. (Collector) Winchendon Historical Society, Inc. (Donor)
Extent:	1 Cubic foot (3 vertical boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by the Winchendon Historical Society, Incorporated, April 1986.

Provenance

This collection was transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Engineering and Industry (now Division of Work and Industry), June 1987.

Processing Information

Author unknown.

Preferred Citation

Baxter D. Whitney Collection, 1870-1957, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Baxter D. Whitney began building a planing machine in Winchendon, Massachusetts in 1837. He continued to head the company which he founded to manufacture woodworking machines until 1900, when he relinquished the position to his son W. M. Whitney, who served as president of Baxter D. Whitney, Inc. until his death in 1953. Control of the firm then passed to a group of senior managers of the company and manufacturing operations were transferred

to the Newman Machine Co. in Greensboro, N.C., while a sales organization was maintained under the Whitney name in Winchendon.

The Whitney family, through marriage, was related to the Murdock family. While the Whitneys produced woodworking machines, Murdok's company manufactured woodenware products for a century. Eventually, the Whitneys managed E. Murdock and Co. for over twenty years. Please refer to collection number 268 for further information.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes many photographs and engravings of various types of Whitney wood working machines. These are mounted on stiff backings and include advertising and promotional materials for reproduction in trade journals and other publications. A historical summary, "The Baxter D. Whitney Story", is reprinted from the January 1957 issue of the Wood Worker and presents much information on the company's long record.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Woodworking machinery -- 1830-1960
advertising

Types of Materials:

Engravings
Photographs -- 1850-1900
Photographs -- 20th century

Container Listing

Historical and Biographical, undated

Box 1, Folder 1

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Advertising

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Advertising, undated

Box 1, Folder 2

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Barrel Stave Sawing Machines, 1880-1946

Box 1, Folder 3

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Metal Grinders, undated

Box 1, Folder 4

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Miscellaneous Machines, 1870-1955

Box 1, Folder 5

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Mortising Machines, 1890-1925

Box 1, Folder 6

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Planers, 1873-1955

Box 1, Folder 7

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Planers, undated

Box 2, Folder 1

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Plant Interior Views, undated

Box 2, Folder 2

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Sawing Machines, 1925-1945

Box 2, Folder 3

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Scrapers, 1920-1935

Box 2, Folder 4

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Shapers

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Shapers, 1900-1925

Box 2, Folder 5

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Tenoners, 1880-1930

Box 2, Folder 6

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Wood Heel Shaper, 1919-1930

Box 2, Folder 7

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Planers, 1920-1955

Box 3, Folder 1

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Miscellaneous Machines, 1925-1930

Box 3, Folder 2

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Advertising: Planers, 1911-1914

Box 3, Folder 3

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Advertising: Barrel Stave Saw, 1910-1913

Box 3, Folder 4

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Advertising: Miscellaneous, 1910-1914

Box 3, Folder 5-6

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