



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Lehigh Valley Railroad Records

NMAH.AC.1046

Archives Center staff

2021

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

archivescenter@si.edu

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical/Historical note.....	2
Scope and Contents note.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Correspondence, 1887-1936.....	4
Series 2: Reports, 1887-1934.....	5
Series 3: Photographs and Prints, 1860-1940.....	7
Series 4: Plat and Profile Books, 1870-1892.....	8
Series 5: Miscellaneous, 1886-1918-04-02.....	10

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Lehigh Valley Railroad Records
Date:	1860-1940
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1046
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry
Creator:	Lehigh Valley Railroad Company
Extent:	3.25 Cubic feet (7 boxes, 1 map-folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Papers and photographs documenting the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Original provenance unknown.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred to the Archives Center by the Division of Work and Industry, National Museum of American History.

Related Archival Materials

Materials at the Archives Center

Coxe Brothers Collection (NMAH.AC.1002)

Girard Estate Records (NMAH.AC.1011)

Lehigh Valley Coal Company Records (NMAH.AC.1106)

Materials at Other Organizations

Lehigh Valley Railroad (LVRR) Company Records Collection MG-274, 1849-1962, undated

The bulk of the records are 703 volumes of minutes, reports, journals, ledgers, cash books, company history, records of lands owned by the LVRR, and other records pertaining to everyday operations. Major series include: Minutes of the Board of Directors, 1850-1962 (which, among other things, contain information on accidents); Annual Reports, 1852-1975; Trustee Files, [ca. 1900-1982]; Cash Books, 1855-1952; Ledger, 1853-1955; and Real Estate Department Records, 1878-1951. (For records documenting personnel see Robert Dructor's publication: Guide to Genealogical Sources at the Pennsylvania State Archives, 2nd ed.) Records of Subsidiary Companies, consisting of 1,421 volumes, are organized by transportation companies, 1851-1950, and non-transportation, 1844-1947, then arranged alphabetically by company name. For each company there are minutes and/or financial accounts. Also included are three cubic

feet (over five-hundred items) of photographic negatives taken by staff photographers. Subjects include construction of the Claremont Terminal, Jersey City, New Jersey, 1917-1923; ruins of the Morris Canal near Washington, New Jersey; the 1902 Lehigh River flood near Easton; and construction of an unidentified engine and freight-house, probably in Buffalo, 1915.

Processing Information

Processed by Mark Seggal (volunteer) and Franklin Robinson Jr., archivist; supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist, 2010.

Preferred Citation

Lehigh Valley Railroad Records, 1882-1936, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection open for research on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical Note

Originally known as the Delaware, Lehigh, Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad, the Lehigh Valley Railroad (LVRR) competed for the lucrative anthracite coal transport trade in northeastern Pennsylvania. It dominated the industry in eastern Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, becoming known as the "Route of the Black Diamond." The Delaware, Lehigh, Schuylkill and Susquehanna Railroad was first suggested by prominent members of Lehigh and Northampton Counties, and the bill was carried through the legislature by Dr. Jesse Samuel, then a representative from Lehigh County. In August 1847, the necessary certificate to the Governor was signed for the purpose of obtaining a charter of incorporation. The name of the company was changed to Lehigh Valley Railroad Company by an act of assembly on January 7, 1853. Although the railroad did carry passengers, it depended mainly on the transportation of coal as its source of profit. The demise of the coal industry and the rise of auto and air transportation in the 1950s led to its financial ruin and a takeover by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1960. The records were acquired over the course of several years from the main offices of the LVRR.

Source

Historical note courtesy the Lehigh Valley Railroad (LVRR) Company Records Collection MG-274, Pennsylvania State Archives

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of papers and photographs relating to the infrastructure of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, including correspondence, blueprints, inspection reports, plat and profile books, and photographs of tracks and bridges.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Railroad bridges
- Railroad companies -- Pennsylvania
- Railroad tracks
- Railroads -- Buildings and structures
- Railroads -- Maintenance and repair
- Railroads -- Pennsylvania

Types of Materials:

- Blueprints
- Correspondence
- Payrolls
- Photographs -- 1920-1940
- Reports

Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1887-1936

Box 1, Folder 1	Chief Engineer letter file, Bridge W.P. 186 over Susquehanna river at Coxton, Pennsylvania, 1899-1926
Box 1, Folder 2	Chief Engineer letter file, Bridge W.P. 186 over Susquehanna river at Coxton, Pennsylvania, post 1926
Box 1, Folder 3	Chief Engineer letter file, Barton's Bridge, Flemington Junction, 1892-1897
Box 1, Folder 4	Chief Engineer letter file, Barton's Bridge, Flemington Junction, 1893-1897
Box 1, Folder 5	Chief Engineer letter file, Spring Street Bridge, Sayre, Pennsylvania, 1895-1896
Box 1, Folder 6	Chief Engineer letter file, Bridges at State Street, Perth Amboy, New Jersey, 1887-1898; 1901
Box 1, Folder 7	Chief Engineer letter file, correspondence, 1887-1936

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Reports, 1887-1934

Box 2, Folder 1	Easton and Amboy Railroad, Bridge No. 20, 1899
Box 2, Folder 2	New Market, New Jersey, Bridge No. 28, 1898
Box 2, Folder 3	Overbound brook Crossing, Bridge, No. 32A, 1891
Box 2, Folder 4	West of Kennedy Station, Bridge No. 73, 1892
Box 2, Folder 5	Delaware River Bridge, No. 76, 1893
Box 2, Folder 6	Bucks Creek, 265, 266, 267, 1889
Box 2, Folder 7	Buffalo Division, 379A, 1899
Box 2, Folder 8	Susquehanna River at Port Bowkley Bridge, B179, 1891
Box 2, Folder 9	Over Laurel Run, Wyoming Division, C164, 1898
Box 2, Folder 10	Wyoming Division, C178, undated
Box 2, Folder 11	DI & W Crossing near Pittston, C178A, 1891
Box 2, Folder 12	Taughannock Creek, I.315A, undated
Box 2, Folder 13	Bridge over Sheldrake Creek at Van Liews, New York, 1898
Box 2, Folder 14	Grand Junction, New York, I.345, undated
Box 2, Folder 15	Bridge over Jordan Creek, J93, 1900
Box 2, Folder 16	High Bridge, Viaduct, L361A, 1892
Box 2, Folder 17	Bridge over Erie Canal feeder at Weedsport, New York, L36SC, 1889
Box 2, Folder 18	Bridge M135 Mahanoy and Hazelton Division, 1900
Box 2, Folder 19	Bridge M138, Hudsondale, Pennsylvania, 1899
Box 2, Folder 20	Hudsondale, Pennsylvania, 137D, 1899
Box 2, Folder 21	Switchback, Pennsylvania, M146.5, 1928
Box 2, Folder 22	Bridge ML over creek 0.3 miles east of Mahony City, Pennsylvania, 1914
Box 2, Folder 23	Overhead highway bridge at Kohinoor Junction, Pennsylvania, 1922

Box 2, Folder 24	Bridges built for Depew and Tonawanda Railroad, 1896
Box 2, Folder 25	Ellicott Avenue Bridge, N.I. 438, 1896
Box 2, Folder 26	West Shore Crossing, N.I. 439, 1896
Box 2, Folder 27	Sheridan Drive, New York, N.I. 444.43, 1930
Box 2, Folder 28	Getzville Road, Amherst, Erie County, New York, 1930
Box 2, Folder 29	Tonawanda Junction, N.I.445, 1917
Box 2, Folder 30	Ellicott Creek, N.I. 448A, 1896
Box 2, Folder 31	Henrietta, New York, R384, 1934
Box 2, Folder 32	Over Red Creek, R385, 1911
Box 2, Folder 33	Over Red Creek, R387, 1911
Box 2, Folder 34	Over new york State Barge Canal, R389, 1917
Box 2, Folder 35	Erie Canal feeder bridge, R391A, 1896
Box 2, Folder 36	Over Honeoye Creek, R.S.381, 1911
Box 2, Folder 37	Honeoye Falls Bridge, R.S. 382, 1895
Box 7, Folder 1	Susquehanna River Bridge, specimens cut from rolled iron sections, 1891
Box 7, Folder 2	Auburn Division Bridges, shipping invoices, 1896-1899
Box 7, Folder 3	Bridge 51, Flemington Junction bridge report, 1897
Box 7, Folder 4	Miscellaneous bridge reports, 1887-1899
Box 7, Folder 5	Sketch, Leigh Valley Tiff Farm Terminal, Buffalo, New York, undated
Box 7, Folder 6	Waverly Bridge article, Even Times, Sayre, Pennsylvania, 1923-03-01

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Photographs and Prints, 1860-1940

Box 4 Photographs and prints, 1926-1940

Box 3 Photographs and prints, 1860-1930

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Plat and Profile Books, 1870-1892

Box 5, Item 1	Profile of Northern Division, Ithaca Branch, undated
Box 5, Item 2	Profile of the G & S, undated
Box 5, Item 3	Plat and profile book, Greenville and Hudson Railway, circa 1896
Box 5, Item 4	Plat and profile Book No. 4/Progress profile. Van Exxen Junction to east Waverly (Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, lease, 1891-1892)
Box 5, Item 5	Plat and profile Book. Loyalsock Railroad Extension, W-b&HLRR, W B&HL. Connection West side connection, undated
Box 5, Item 6	Plat and profile book for Robert Sayre, second vice president, Southern Division, 1890-1892
Box 5, Item 7	Plat and Profile Book No. 2/Progress Profile East of Lodi falls to Odessa. Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, 1891-1892
Box 5, Item 8	Plat and Profile progress profile, Cayuga Branch, G&SRR to Junction with Ithaca, Auburn and Western railway, undated
Box 5, Item 9	Plat and Profile book. Schuylkill and Lehigh Valley Railroad to Schuylkill Junction, LVRR, undated
Box 5, Item 10	Plat and Profile/Progress Profile, Austin Breaker Branch, Mainline Jerusalem-Penobscot Fairview, 1891
Box 5, Item 11	Plat and Profile/Progress Profile, JC&W Railway, JCN&WRy, W&NYBRR in vicinity of Rahway River, Elizabeth River and Newark Bay, 1891-1892
Box 5, Item 12	Plat and Profile Book with progress profile, for Robert Sayre, second vice president Caledonia to Buffalo, 1891
Box 5, Item 13	Plat and Profile/Progress Profile, Schuylkill and Lehigh Valley to Schuylkill Junction/Lizard Creek Junction, Lehigh Valley Railroad, 1889-1890
Box 5, Item 14	Plat and Profile/Progress Profile, Newark and Roselle Railway, Jersey City, Newark and Western railway, circa 1890
Box 6, Item 1	[Sill] Contracts, 1870
Box 6, Item 2	Table for showing letters to be used for numbering bridges on branches (6" x 30") blueprint), 1916; 1932
Box 6, Item 3	Grade profile of the M & H Division LVRR blueprint, 1902, 1912-1913

Box 6, Item 4 progress profile, West Rush to Cheektowaga, 1891-05-1892-05

Box 6, Item 5 The Lehigh Valley Railway Progress Profile of Sections 1-43, 1890

Box 6, Item 6 The Lehigh Valley Railway Progress Profile of Sections 44-93, 1890

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Miscellaneous, 1886-1918-04-02

Series 5: Calculations

Series 6: Bridge Data

Box 2, Folder 38	Slatington Pennsylvania Bridge, stress and strain calculations, 1886
Box 2, Folder 39	Mountain cut-off construction costs, 1887-1892
Box 2, Folder 40	American Bridge Company, erection pay roll, 1901-05-1901-09
Map-folder 1	Topography map, New York, Dryden Quadrangle, 1904
Map-folder 1	Lehigh Valley Railroad, table of safe spans for rail bridges, 1914-04-01 3 Blueprints
Map-folder 1	Leigh Valley Railroad, car float section, 1918-04-02 1 Blueprint
Map-folder 1	Leigh Valley Railroad, car float section, 1910-12-23 1 Blueprint

[Return to Table of Contents](#)