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National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Robert Dearborn Panama Canal Glass Negatives

NMAH.AC.1111

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2007

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Robert Dearborn Panama Canal Glass Negatives
Date:	circa 1904-1914
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1111
Extent:	3.5 Cubic feet (21 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	A collection of glass negatives documenting the building and construction of the Panama Canal.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by Wilfred Lahey, 1994.

Provenance

The donor, Wilfred Lahey, purchased these negatives at the sale of Mr. Dearborn's estate in 1976. He donated them to the National Museum of American History, Department of Social and Cultural History, Division of Photographic History in 1994. They were transferred to the Archives Center in 2007.

Related Materials

William Currie Photograph Album (AC)
A. R. Van Tassell Photograph Albums
Katherine Kingsford Panama Canal Photograph Album
John Frances Little Panama Canal Scrapbook.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Craig A. Orr, archivist, August 17, 2007; Stacey Kniatt (intern) 2010; supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Robert Dearborn Panama Canal Glass Negatives, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Researchers must handle unprotected glass negatives with gloves.

Conditions Governing Use

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 / Historical

Robert Ward Dearborn was born on August 12, 1894 in New Hampton, New Hampshire to Josiah R. Dearborn and Mary Ethel (Dow) Dearborn. Dearborn's occupation is listed as a lumberman on his World War I draft registration. On May 28, 1921 he married Martina I. Ordway. Later he was employed by the State Highway Department. Dearborn died July 1, 1976, in New Hampton, New Hampshire. These glass plates were sold as part of his estate in 1976.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of glass negatives depicting the building of the Panama Canal and other scenes of Panama and the island of Tobago. The negatives are individually numbered, probably arranged by the Department of Social and Cultural History.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into one series.

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 5	Steam shovel at work, front view
Box 1, Folder 6	Panama Railroad, old French locomotive
Box 1, Folder 7	Panama Canal, old French excavator
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Box 1, Folder 10	Panama City, harbor market
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