Guide to the Robert Dearborn
Panama Canal Glass Negatives

NMAH.AC.1111
Craig A. Orr
2007
Table of Contents

Collection Overview ........................................................................................................ 1
Administrative Information .............................................................................................. 1
Biographical / Historical............................................................................................... 2
Scope and Contents ........................................................................................................ 2
Arrangement .................................................................................................................... 2
Container Listing .......................................................................................................... 3
Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Robert Dearborn Panama Canal Glass Negatives
Identifier: NMAH.AC.1111
Date: circa 1904-1914
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 Kniaatt (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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 5</th>
<th>Steam shovel at work, front view</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
<td>Panama Railroad, old French locomotive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
<td>Panama Canal, old French excavator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
<td>Panama Canal, steam shovel loading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
<td>Panama, a Chinese store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
<td>Panama City, harbor market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 11</td>
<td>Interior of Machine Ship &quot;Baltra&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 12</td>
<td>Empire Bridge from canal bottom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 13</td>
<td>Panama Railroad, transmitter line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 14</td>
<td>Culebra Cut before water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 15</td>
<td>Side view of Bridge 57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 16</td>
<td>Bridge 57.5 with water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 17</td>
<td>Panama Railroad embankment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 18</td>
<td>Boat on canal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 19</td>
<td>Saboya, Pearl Islands from church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 20</td>
<td>Cucaracha Slide from west bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 21</td>
<td>[Beats] Cruses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 22</td>
<td>Center wall looking towards [Sak Getar]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 23</td>
<td>Balboa heights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 24</td>
<td>Street in Arrayan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 25</td>
<td>Street scene, [Queen Regina]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 26</td>
<td>Building with rotunda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 27</td>
<td>Ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 28</td>
<td>Archaeology in Porto Bello</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 3, Folder 29  Dynamite store house, blasting
Box 3, Folder 30  Porto Bello general view
Box 3, Folder 31  Old Spanish Landing Place, archaeology
Box 3, Folder 32  Island of Tobago, typical street scene
Box 3, Folder 33  Chimera Falls
Box 3, Folder 34  Griguia Region, a dynamite box village
Box 4, Folder 35  Pontoon bridge
Box 4, Folder 36  Hoisting wreck, Panama Railroad
Box 4, Folder 37  Engine House, Panama Railroad
Box 4, Folder 38  Wreck, Panama Railroad
Box 4, Folder 39  Hoisting wreck, Panama Railroad
Box 4, Folder 40  Hoisting wreck, Panama Railroad
Box 4, Folder 41  Central
Box 4, Folder 42  Bay of Porto Bello
Box 4, Folder 43  Excursion to Pearl Island
Box 4, Folder 44  Pearl Island, general view
Box 4, Folder 45  [CubFra]
Box 4, Folder 46  no description
Box 4, Folder 47  Drudge
Box 4, Folder 48  Empire Bridge from the bottom
Box 5, Folder 49  Sluicing and dredging operations, Culebra
Box 5, Folder 50  Panama Railroad embankment with train crossing
Box 5, Folder 51  Bridge 57.5 at Paraiso
Box 5, Folder 52  Panama Railroad drydock
Box 5, Folder 53  Point house of Panama Railroad
Box 5, Folder 54  Pontoon bridge
Box 5, Folder 55  Wood shop, Balboa, interior view
Box 5, Folder 56  Machine shop, Balboa, interior view
Box 5, Folder 57  Culebra Cut showing slides looking north
Box 5, Folder 58  Old Bridge, Porto Bello, archaeology
Box 5, Folder 59  Machine shop crane, interior view
Box 5, Folder 60  View of Balboa machine shop
Box 6, Folder 61  Locks during construction
Box 6, Folder 62  Some retired canal diggers
Box 6, Folder 63  Cristobal returning
Box 6, Folder 64  Tobago Island, general view
Box 6, Folder 65  Large view of interior, domestic scene, Juan Munde
Box 6, Folder 66  Scene of Culebra
Box 6, Folder 67  Dredge Lake Miraflores
Box 6, Folder 68  Sugar harvest
Box 6, Folder 69  Sugar harvest
Box 6, Folder 70  Balboa transit
Box 6, Folder 71  Interior of [Cuanto H], Porto Bello
Box 6, Folder 72  Pack arrivals at Natura Gorgoria
Box 6, Folder 73  A village lane in Tobago Island
Box 7, Folder 74  Birdseye view of permanent buildings
Box 7, Folder 75  Field with fences; power lines
Box 7, Folder 76  Excavator, archaeology, "old French machinery"
Box 7, Folder 77  [Elifree] Bridge
Box 7, Folder 78  General view mountains and water
Box 7, Folder 79  Excavator, archaeology, old field excavator
Box 7, Folder 80  Archaeology, watch tower, Fort Lorenzo
Box 7, Folder 81  Excavator, archaeology, old French machinery
Box 7, Folder 82  Excavator, archaeology, old French machinery
Box 7, Folder 83  "Differ Dredge", view of ten yard differ on car
Box 7, Folder 84  Sluicing back of Gold Hill
Box 7, Folder 85  [View of Charles] River
Box 7, Folder 86  ["AM. Boat passing cable E"]
Box 8, Folder 87  Birdseye view locks, Pedro Miguel
Box 8, Folder 88  A river scene, Bocas del [Gat]
Box 8, Folder 89  Tobago Island, general view
Box 8, Folder 90  Steam shovel terracing
Box 8, Folder 91  Differ Dredge
Box 8, Folder 92  Emergency dam at [Gaturo]
Box 8, Folder 93  River bank looking south, detail of number 87
Box 8, Folder 94  [Gaturo] spillway
Box 8, Folder 95  Watch tower, archaeology
Box 8, Folder 96  La Boca, birdseye view
Box 8, Folder 97  Balboa Heights, trans. site and vicinity
Box 8, Folder 98  Birdseye view of hand digging, Cucaracha Slide
Box 9, Folder 99  East view of Culebra Cut at Gold Hill
Box 9, Folder 100  Archaeology, old [broilers]
Box 9, Folder 101  Washerwoman, washing clothes
Box 9, Folder 102  Geology, view of valley
Box 9, Folder 103  Steam shovel, overturned shovel
Box 9, Folder 104  Overturned steam shovel
Box 9, Folder 105  [Fort Srenyo], archaeology
Box 9, Folder 106  Suction dredge, at Cucaracha
Box 9, Folder 107  Suction dredge, sea giving suction dredge
Box 9, Folder 108  Chamber: [sick] chambers, looks at Pedro Miguel (Panama Canal)
Box 9, Folder 109  General, [sides, Gatun]
Box 9, Folder 110  General, Gatun Cicks
Box 10, Folder 111  Sightseeing barge
Box 10, Folder 112  Differ Dredge
Box 10, Folder 113  Old Differ Dredge
Box 10, Folder 114  Arches of Custom House, Porto Bello
Box 10, Folder 115  Sluicing back of Gold Hill
Box 10, Folder 116  Suction dredge
Box 10, Folder 117  Submarine in locks
Box 10, Folder 118  Spillway turbines
Box 10, Folder 119  Mouth of the Chagres
Box 10, Folder 120  Hydro-Electric station
Box 10, Folder 121  Shot of canal
Box 10, Folder 122  Shot of locks
Box 10, Folder 123  California World's Exposition, San Francisco Ferry
Box 11, Folder 124  Track shifter
Box 11, Folder 125  Pedro Miguel Locks
Box 11, Folder 126  "Arcon" in locks at Miraflores
Box 11, Folder 127  Cucaracha Slide
Box 11, Folder 128  Group of men holding poles
Box 11, Folder 129  Locks at Gatun
Box 11, Folder 130  Shot of building, Panama, archaeology
Box 11, Folder 131  Shot of church, Panama, archaeology
Box 11, Folder 132  Culebra Grove Street scene
Box 11, Folder 133  Slaughtering cattle, Panama City
Box 11, Folder 134  Railroad embankment, Panama Railroad
Box 11, Folder 135  Gambia, [water filtering]
Box 11, Folder 136  View of Chagres River from Gambia Dike
Box 12, Folder 137  Sadder Dredge
Box 12, Folder 138  View of Culeha Cut
Box 12, Folder 139  Corral
Box 12, Folder 140  Close view of house sliding into cut
Box 12, Folder 141  Small view of buzzards, Panama
Box 12, Folder 142  Entrance to President's residence
Box 12, Folder 143  Scavengers, buzzards
Box 12, Folder 144  Overturned steam shovel
Box 12, Folder 145  Culebra Cut looking north
Box 12, Folder 146  Old Panama, archaeology, general view
Box 12, Folder 147  Culebra Cut
Box 12, Folder 148  Hole where powder house blew up, Panama City
Box 13, Folder 149  View from Bridge 57.5
Box 13, Folder 150  Dry Dock, Balboa
Box 13, Folder 151  [Old French Vichy]
Box 13, Folder 152  Pedro Miguel Lock
Box 13, Folder 153  Bullfighters in arena
Box 13, Folder 154  Excavating for dry dock, Balboa
Box 13, Folder 155  Culebra Cut
Box 13, Folder 156  Sea through seawall break, Old Panama
Box 13, Folder 157  Train back from repairs
Box 13, Folder 158  Church, Old Panama
Box 13, Folder 159  Interior of old church, Old Panama
Box 13, Folder 160  Tower, Old Panama
Box 13, Folder 161  Ten yard Differ Dredge
Box 14, Folder 162  Archaeology, seawall, Old Panama
Box 14, Folder 163  Archaeology, Old Bridge, Old Panama
Box 14, Folder 164  Zug, canal bottom at Gambia
Box 14, Folder 165  Panama City, Harbor Market
Box 14, Folder 166  [Eng.] (birdseye)
Box 14, Folder 167  [Eng.] "North"
Box 14, Folder 168  Panama City, Panama Harbor
Box 14, Folder 169  Panama City, guard at Chiriou Prison
Box 14, Folder 170  Culebra Cut before water
Box 14, Folder 171  Old Panama
Box 14, Folder 172  Culebra
Box 15, Folder 173  Culebra Cut looking south before water was let in
Box 15, Folder 174  Culebra Cut back
Box 15, Folder 175  Primitive Simplicity (Chorrera, Panama, woman and child under hut)
Box 15, Folder 176  [Ancin] returning cut looking north
Box 15, Folder 177  Culebra cut looking south
Box 15, Folder 178  East bank of Gold Hill showing faults
Box 15, Folder 179  Geology of cut
Box 15, Folder 180  Culebra general view
Box 15, Folder 181  Cirizal, ladder dredge
Box 15, Folder 182  Cristobal returning passage through Cucharacha slide, west bank
Box 15, Folder 183  Sluicing out side
Box 15, Folder 184  President's residence
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16, 185</td>
<td>Panama city buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 186</td>
<td>Culebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 187</td>
<td>Culebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 188</td>
<td>Culebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 189</td>
<td>Culebra Cut looking point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 190</td>
<td>[Brat] Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 191</td>
<td>Panama City, right hand view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 192</td>
<td>no description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 193</td>
<td>Differ Dredge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 194</td>
<td>Culebra Cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16, 195</td>
<td>Cucaracha, Culebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 196</td>
<td>Amajav, Panama, school house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 197</td>
<td>Birdseye view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 198</td>
<td>no description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 199</td>
<td>Gold Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 200</td>
<td>East Bank, Culebra Cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 201</td>
<td>Culebra, looking south</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 202</td>
<td>Panama, public market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 203</td>
<td>Culebra Cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 204</td>
<td>Gates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 205</td>
<td>Blastery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17, 206</td>
<td>Panama, Harbor Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18, 207</td>
<td>A proud papa, Panama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18, 208</td>
<td>School children, Tobago, Panama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18, 209</td>
<td>no description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18, 210</td>
<td>Bral, going east through Pacarabo Strait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 18, Folder 211</td>
<td>Panama City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 18, Folder 212</td>
<td>no description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 18, Folder 213</td>
<td>Birdseye view of locks and Lake Miraflores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 18, Folder 214</td>
<td>Dynamite fishing in Pacific Panama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 18, Folder 215</td>
<td>Sea wall of Old Panama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 18, Folder 216</td>
<td>Harbor scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 18, Folder 217</td>
<td>Street scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 18, Folder 218</td>
<td>Police of Panama City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 219</td>
<td>Old Panama, Old Spanish Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 220</td>
<td>Bull fight, killing the bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 221</td>
<td>Old Panama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 222</td>
<td>Panama City, Harbor Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 223</td>
<td>Panama City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 224</td>
<td>Old Panama, church interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 225</td>
<td>Old Panama, sea wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 226</td>
<td>Old Panama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 227</td>
<td>Panama, ruins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 228</td>
<td>Old Panama, tower interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 229</td>
<td>Old Panama, ruins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 230</td>
<td>Old Panama, tower interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 19, Folder 231</td>
<td>View of canal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 20, Folder 232</td>
<td>Old Panama, interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 20, Folder 233</td>
<td>Panama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 20, Folder 234</td>
<td>View of canal bottom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 20, Folder 235</td>
<td>Old Panama, view of ruins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 20, Folder 236</td>
<td>Old Panama, bridge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 20, Folder 237  Old Panama, ruins (interior)
Box 20, Folder 238  Differ Dredge
Box 20, Folder 239  Old Panama, ruins
Box 20, Folder 240  Panama City, cemetery
Box 20, Folder 241  Panama City
Box 20, Folder 242  Old Panama, Old Spanish Bridge
Box 20, Folder 243  Old Panama, sea wall
Box 20, Folder 244  Culebra
Box 21, Folder 245  Panama, Stefeis Shrine
Box 21, Folder 246  Panama Canal
Box 21, Folder 247  Panama, spillway
Box 21, Folder 248  Panama
Box 21, Folder 249  Panama City, street scene
Box 21, Folder 250  Panama, building
Box 21, Folder 251  Panama, Harbor Market
Box 21, Folder 252  [View of machinery]
Box 21, Folder 253  Culebra
Box 21, Folder 254  Old Panama, Old Spanish Bridge
Box 21, Folder 255  Old Panama, view of river
Box 21, Folder 256  Panama, Chorrera Falls
Box 21, Folder 257  Panama bull