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 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
Box 1, Folder 8  Panama Canal, steam shovel loading
Box 1, Folder 9  Panama, a Chinese store
Box 1, Folder 10 Panama City, harbor market
Box 2, Folder 11 Interior of Machine Ship "Baltra"
Box 2, Folder 12 Empire Bridge from canal bottom
Box 2, Folder 13 Panama Railroad, transmitter line
Box 2, Folder 14 Culebra Cut before water
Box 2, Folder 15 Side view of Bridge 57.5
Box 2, Folder 16 Bridge 57.5 with water
Box 2, Folder 17 Panama Railroad embankment
Box 2, Folder 18 Boat on canal
Box 2, Folder 19 Saboya, Pearl Islands from church
Box 2, Folder 20 Cucaracha Slide from west bank
Box 2, Folder 21 [Beats] Cruses
Box 2, Folder 22 Center wall looking towards [Sak Getar]
Box 2, Folder 23 Balboa heights
Box 3, Folder 24 Street in Arrayan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 25</th>
<th>Street scene, [Queen Regina]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 29</td>
<td>Dynamite store house, blasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 30</td>
<td>Porto Bello general view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 31</td>
<td>Old Spanish Landing Place, archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 32</td>
<td>Island of Tobago, typical street scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 33</td>
<td>Chimera Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 34</td>
<td>Griguia Region, a dynamite box village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 35</td>
<td>Pontoon bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 36</td>
<td>Hoisting wreck, Panama Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 37</td>
<td>Engine House, Panama Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 38</td>
<td>Wreck, Panama Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 39</td>
<td>Hoisting wreck, Panama Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 40</td>
<td>Hoisting wreck, Panama Railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 41</td>
<td>Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 42</td>
<td>Bay of Porto Bello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 43</td>
<td>Excursion to Pearl Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 44</td>
<td>Pearl Island, general view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 45</td>
<td>[CubFra]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 46</td>
<td>no description</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 6, Folder 68</th>
<th>Sugar harvest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 69</td>
<td>Sugar harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 70</td>
<td>Balboa transit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 71</td>
<td>Interior of [Cuanto H], Porto Bello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 72</td>
<td>Pack arrivals at Natura Gorgoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 6, Folder 73</td>
<td>A village lane in Tobago Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 74</td>
<td>Birdseye view of permanent buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 75</td>
<td>Field with fences; power lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 76</td>
<td>Excavator, archaeology, &quot;old French machinery&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 77</td>
<td>[Elifree] Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 78</td>
<td>General view mountains and water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 79</td>
<td>Excavator, archaeology, old field excavator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 80</td>
<td>Archaeology, watch tower, Fort Lorenzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 81</td>
<td>Excavator, archaeology, old French machinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 82</td>
<td>Excavator, archaeology, old French machinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 83</td>
<td>&quot;Differ Dredge&quot;, view of ten yard differ on car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 84</td>
<td>Sluicing back of Gold Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 85</td>
<td>[View of Charles] River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 86</td>
<td>[&quot;AM. Boat passing cable E&quot;]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 87</td>
<td>Birdseye view locks, Pedro Miguel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 88</td>
<td>A river scene, Bocas del [Gat]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 89</td>
<td>Tobago Island, general view</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Chiriouei 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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 15, Folder 176</th>
<th>[Ancin] returning cut looking north</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 15, Folder 177</td>
<td>Culebra cut looking south</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15, Folder 178</td>
<td>East bank of Gold Hill showing faults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15, Folder 179</td>
<td>Geology of cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15, Folder 180</td>
<td>Culebra general view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15, Folder 181</td>
<td>Cirizal, ladder dredge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15, Folder 182</td>
<td>Cristobal returning passage through Cucaracha slide, west bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15, Folder 183</td>
<td>Sluicing out side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 15, Folder 184</td>
<td>President's residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 16, Folder 185</td>
<td>Panama city buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 16, Folder 186</td>
<td>Culebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 16, Folder 187</td>
<td>Culebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 16, Folder 188</td>
<td>Culebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 16, Folder 189</td>
<td>Culebra Cut looking point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 16, Folder 190</td>
<td>[Brat] Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 16, Folder 191</td>
<td>Panama City, right hand view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 16, Folder 192</td>
<td>no description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 16, Folder 193</td>
<td>Differ Dredge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 16, Folder 194</td>
<td>Culebra Cut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 16, Folder 195</td>
<td>Cucaracha, Culebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 17, Folder 196</td>
<td>Amajav, Panama, school house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 17, Folder 197  Birdseye view
Box 17, Folder 198  no description
Box 17, Folder 199  Gold Hill
Box 17, Folder 200  East Bank, Culebra Cut
Box 17, Folder 201  Culebra, looking south
Box 17, Folder 202  Panama, public market
Box 17, Folder 203  Culebra Cut
Box 17, Folder 204  Gates
Box 17, Folder 205  Blastery
Box 17, Folder 206  Panama, Harbor Market
Box 18, Folder 207  A proud papa, Panama
Box 18, Folder 208  School children, Tobago, Panama
Box 18, Folder 209  no description
Box 18, Folder 210  Bral, going east through Pacarabo Strait
Box 18, Folder 211  Panama City
Box 18, Folder 212  no description
Box 18, Folder 213  Birdseye view of locks and Lake Miraflores
Box 18, Folder 214  Dynamite fishing in Pacific Panama
Box 18, Folder 215  Sea wall of Old Panama
Box 18, Folder 216  Harbor scene
Box 18, Folder 217  Street scene
Box 18, Folder 218  Police of Panama City
Box 19, Folder 219  Old Panama, Old Spanish Bridge
Box 19, Folder 220  Bull fight, killing the bull
Box 19, Folder 221  Old Panama
Box 19, Folder 222  Panama City, Harbor Market
Box 19, Folder 223  Panama City
Box 19, Folder 224  Old Panama, church interior
Box 19, Folder 225  Old Panama, sea wall
Box 19, Folder 226  Old Panama
Box 19, Folder 227  Panama, ruins
Box 19, Folder 228  Old Panama, tower interior
Box 19, Folder 229  Old Panama, ruins
Box 19, Folder 230  Old Panama, tower interior
Box 19, Folder 231  View of canal
Box 20, Folder 232  Old Panama, interior
Box 20, Folder 233  Panama
Box 20, Folder 234  View of canal bottom
Box 20, Folder 235  Old Panama, view of ruins
Box 20, Folder 236  Old Panama, bridge
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