Guide to the Charles B. Chaney Jr.
Railroad Photographic Collection

NMAH.AC.1167
Vanessa Broussard-Simmons
2017
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Charles B. Chaney Jr. Railroad Photographic Collection
Identifier: NMAH.AC.1167
Date: 1972
1850 - 1947
undated
Extent: 21 Cubic feet (92 boxes)
Creator: Chaney, Charles B.
Language: English
Summary: Approximately 20,000 negatives of railroad related subjects with an emphasis on the eastern lines, especially the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Besides locomotives, other subjects include freight trains, passenger cars, bridges and tracks, stations, yards, tunnels, shops and engine houses, and train wrecks.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was originally collected for the Division of Engineering and Industries (now the Division of Work and Industry) in 1948.

Provenance


Other Finding Aids

An inventory for the Charles B. Chaney railroad photographs is available.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, 2013.

The original guide to the Charles B. Chaney Jr. Railroad Photographic Collection was authored by the Division of Transportation in 1991. Revised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist, May 2013.
Preferred Citation


Restrictions

The collection is open for research use.

Gloves must be worn when handling unprotected photographs and negatives. The negatives are stored at offsite facilities. Special arrangements are required to these view materials. Contact the Archives Center for information at 202-633-3270.

Conditions Governing Use

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

Biographical / Historical

Charles B. Chaney Jr. was born February 7, 1875 in Baltimore, Maryland. He was the oldest of seven children born to Charles B. and Mary E. Chaney. At an early age he developed an interest in locomotives while playing in and around local railroad yards. His lifelong passion for locomotives resulted in photographing and collecting materials related to the subject. As a young man Chaney moved to New York, where he began a career as a draftsman in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Charles B. Chaney Jr. retired in 1942 and returned to Baltimore, where he died on April 5, 1948.

Scope and Contents

An extensive and detailed guide to this collection was created by the Division of Transportation, National Museum of American History in 1991 and published by the Smithsonian Institution which is available upon request in the Archives Center. The guide provides a name or number of the locomotive or railroad scene, builder, type, date built, negative number and a brief description or caption for each negative. The collection was also scanned to video disc.

The collection contains approximately 20,000 negatives of railroad-related subjects, with the vast majority of the images being various views of locomotives. Some of the photographs were taken by Mr. Chaney, although a large number are copy negatives made from existing photographs. Many are copies of builders’ photographs. The emphasis is on the eastern lines, especially the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Besides locomotives, other subjects include freight trains, passenger cars, bridges and tracks, stations, yards, tunnels, shops and engine houses, and train wrecks. The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1: Negatives, circa 1850-1947, undated, consists primarily of film negatives which are copies from old prints dating from 1850-1900, and the remaining are those taken by Mr. Chaney between 1910-1947. The negatives vary greatly as to composition and quality. There are also one hundred glass plate negatives found among these materials. The negatives are arranged by number and are contained in sixty-eight boxes currently stored in an offsite facility.
Series 2: Microfilm, 1972, consists of thirty two reels of microfilm housed in six boxes. The microfilm reels were created by the Museum in May 1972 and contain approximately 16,156 images from series one. They are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the railroad line. An index was created for these materials by the Museum.

Series 3: Nitrate Negatives 1850-1947, undated, consists of 11,185 images similar to those in series one. These negatives are contained in eighteen boxes and are stored at an offsite facility. The negatives are arranged by number.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three series.

**Series 1:** Negatives, circa 1850-1947, undated

**Series 2:** Microfilm, 1972

**Series 3:** Nitrate Negatives, 1850-1947, undated

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:
- Black-and-white negatives
- Microfilms
## Container Listing

Series 1: Black and White Negatives, circa 1850-1947, undated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Negative number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>7-717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>718-1359</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>1360-1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>1970-2449</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>2450-2749</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 6</td>
<td>2750-3148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Image(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7</td>
<td>3150-3639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8</td>
<td>3640-3969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Image(s)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Box 10</td>
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<td>5760-6099</td>
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<td>Box 16</td>
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<td>Box 17</td>
<td>6790-7119</td>
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Box 19  Negative number 7740-8310
Box 20  Negative number 8311-8919
Box 21  Negative number 8920-9459
Box 22  Negative number 9460-9866
Box 23;  Negative number 9870-10149
       Box 24
Box 24  Negative number 10150-10529
       Image(s)
Box 25  Negative number 10530-10919
Box 26  Negative number 10927-11469
Box 27  Negative number 11470-11739
Box 28  Negative number 11740-12249
       Image(s)
Box 29  Negative number 12250-12649
Box 30  Negative number 12650-12899
Box 31  Negative number 12900-13258
       Image(s)
Box 32  Negative number 13262-13549
       Image(s)
Box 33  Negative number 13550-13789
       Image(s)
Box 34  Negative number 13790-14019
       Image(s)
Box 35  Negative number 14020-14389
Box 36  Negative number 14390-15066
Box 37  Negative number 15067-15639
Box 38  Negative number 15640-16039  Image(s)
Box 39  Negative number 16040-16299
Box 40  Negative number 16300-16963
Box 41  Negative number 16964-17394
Box 42  Negative number 17401-17779  Image(s)
Box 43  Negative number 17780-18163  Image(s)
Box 44  Negative number 18165-18489
Box 45  Negative number 18490-18919B  Image(s)
Box 46  Negative number 18920-19419
Box 47  Negative number 19420-19949
Box 48  Negative number 19950-20289
Box 49  Negative number 20291-20676  Image(s)
Box 50  Negative number 20677-21199
Box 51  Negative number 21200-21509
Box 52  Negative number 21510-21789
Box 53  Negative number 21790-22050
Box 54  Negative number 22051-22350
Box 55  Negative number 22351-22663
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</table>

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Series 2: Microfilm, 1972

Box 69  Microfilm reel number 1, A-B, 1900-1940
Box 69  Microfilm reel number 2, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 1900-1940
Box 69  Microfilm reel number 3, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 1900-1940
Box 69  Microfilm reel number 4, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 1900-1940
Box 69  Microfilm reel number 5, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 1900-1940
Box 69  Microfilm reel number 6, Baltimore and Ohio - C.N.E, 1900-1940
Box 69  Microfilm reel number 7, C, 1900-1940
Box 70  Microfilm reel number 8, C, 1900-1940
Box 70  Microfilm reel number 9, C-D, 1900-1940
Box 70  Microfilm reel number 10, D, 1900-1940
Box 70  Microfilm reel number 11, D-F, 1900-1940
Box 70  Microfilm reel number 12, F, 1900-1940
Box 70  Microfilm reel number 13, F-I, 1900-1940
Box 71  Microfilm reel number 14, I-L, 1900-1940
Box 2;  Microfilm reel number 14, 1900-1940
Box 70
Box 71  Microfilm reel number 15, L-M, 1900-1940
Box 71  Microfilm reel number 16, M-N, 1900-1940
Box 71  Microfilm reel number 17, N, 1900-1940
Box 71  Microfilm reel number 18, N, 1900-1940
Box 71  Microfilm reel number 19, N-R, 1900-1940
Box 71 | Microfilm reel number 20, P&R-L.I., 1900-1940
Box 71 | Microfilm reel number 21, L-N, 1900-1940
Box 72 | Microfilm reel number 22, N, 1900-1940
Box 72 | Microfilm reel number 23, N-P, 1900-1940
Box 72 | Microfilm reel number 24, Pennsylvania Railroad, 1900-1940
Box 72 | Microfilm reel number 25, Pennsylvania Railroad, 1900-1940
Box 72 | Microfilm reel number 26, Pennsylvania Railroad, 1900-1940
Box 72 | Microfilm reel number 27, Pennsylvania Railroad, 1900-1940
Box 72 | Microfilm reel number 28, Pennsylvania, 1900-1940
Box 73 | Microfilm reel number 29, Pennsylvania Railroad, 1900-1940
Box 73 | Microfilm reel number 30, R-T, 1900-1940
Box 73 | Microfilm reel number 31, T-W, 1900-1940
Box 73 | Microfilm reel number 32, W-Y, 1900-1940
Box 74 | Index, 1989

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Series 3: Nitrate Negatives, 1850-1947, undated

Box 1  Negative number 7-2099
Box 2  Negative number 2100-3399
Box 3  Negative number 3400-4599
Box 4  Negative number 4600-5749
Box 5  Negative number 5750-6899
Box 6  Negative number 6900-8839
Box 7  Negative number 8840-10447
Box 8  Negative number 10450-12299
Box 9  Negative number 12300-13549
Box 10 Negative number 13550-14749
Box 11 Negative number 14750-16769
Box 12 Negative number 16770-18199
Box 13 Negative number 18200-19949
Box 13 Negative number 18200-19949
Box 14 Negative number 19950-21499
Box 15 Negative number 21500-22599
Box 16 Negative number 22600-23999
Box 17 Negative number 24000-25599
Box 18 Negative number 25601-27955