



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

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
Date:	1972 1850-1947 undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1167
Creator:	Chaney, Charles B. (Collector)
Extent:	21 Cubic feet (92 boxes)
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 materials were originally collected for the Division of Engineering and Industries (now the Division of Work and Industry) in 1948.

Provenance

Transferred from the Division of Work and Industry, Engineering and Industries Collections (now Division of Work and Industry), National Museum of American History, to the Archives Center, National Museum of American History in 2009.

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

Charles B. Chaney Jr. Railroad Photographic Collection, 1850-1947; 1972, undated, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but is stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 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.

Accruals

.50 cubic feet of material consisting primarily of pencil and watercolor drawings by Chaney was added to the collection in 2022.

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 (now the Division of Work and Industry, 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 four series.

Series 1: Negatives, circa 1850-1947, undated

>Series 2: Microfilm, 1972

Series 3: Nitrate Negatives, 1850-1947, undated

Series 4: 2022 Addenda,

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

Language: English.

Box 1	Negative number 7-717
Box 2	Negative number 718-1359 Language: English.
Box 3	Negative number 1360-1968
Box 4	Negative number 1970-2449
Box 5	Negative number 2450-2749
Box 6	Negative number 2750-3148
Box 7	Negative number 3150-3639
Box 8	Negative number 3640-3969
Box 9	Negative number 3970-4310
Box 10	Negative number 4311-4669
Box 11	Negative number 4670-4999
Box 12	Negative number 5000-5399
Box 13	Negative number 5400-5759
Box 14	Negative number 5760-6099
Box 15	Negative number 6100-6439
Box 16	Negative number 6440-6789
Box 17	Negative number 6790-7119
Box 18	Negative number 7120-7739
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; Box 24	Negative number 9870-10149
Box 24	Negative number 10150-10529
Box 25	Negative number 10530-10919
Box 26	Negative number 10927-11469
Box 27	Negative number 11470-11739
Box 28	Negative number 11740-12249
Box 29	Negative number 12250-12649
Box 30	Negative number 12650-12899
Box 31	Negative number 12900-13258 Language: English.
Box 32	Negative number 13262-13549 Language: English.
Box 33	Negative number 13550-13789
Box 34	Negative number 13790-14019 Language: English.
Box 35	Negative number 14020-14389 Language: English.
Box 36	Negative number 14390-15066 Language: English.
Box 37	Negative number 15067-15639 Language: English.
Box 38	Negative number 15640-16039 Language: English.
Box 39	Negative number 16040-16299

Language: English.

Box 40 Negative number 16300-16963
Language: English.

Box 41 Negative number 16964-17394
Language: English.

Box 42 [Negative number 17401-17779](#)
Language: English.

Box 43 [Negative number 17780-18163](#)
Language: English.

Box 44 Negative number 18165-18489
Language: English.

Box 45 [Negative number 18490-18919B](#)
Language: English.

Box 46 Negative number 18920-19419
Language: English.

Box 47 Negative number 19420-19949
Language: English.

Box 48 Negative number 19950-20289
Language: English.

Box 49 [Negative number 20291-20676](#)
Language: English.

Box 50 Negative number 20677-21199
Language: English.

Box 51 Negative number 21200-21509
Language: English.

Box 52 Negative number 21510-21789
Language: English.

Box 53 Negative number 21790-22050
Language: English.

Box 54 Negative number 22051-22350
Language: English.

Box 55 [Negative number 22351-22663](#)

Language: English.

Box 56 Negative number 22664-22942
Language: English.

Box 57 Negative number 22943-23220
Language: English.

Box 58 [Negative number 23221-23721](#)
Language: English.

Box 59 [Negative number 23722-24049](#)
Language: English.

Box 60 Negative number 24050-24325
Language: English.

Box 61 [Negative number 24326-24649](#)
Language: English.

Box 62 Negative number 24650-24999
Language: English.

Box 63 [Negative number 25000-25499](#)
Language: English.

Box 64 Negative number 25502-25789
Language: English.

Box 65 [Negative number 25790-26179](#)
Language: English.

Box 66 Negative number 26180-26499
Language: English.

Box 67 Negative number 26500-26859
Language: English.

Box 68 Negative number 26860-27976
Language: English.

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Box 69	Microfilm reel number 7, C, 1900-1940 Language: English.
Box 70	Microfilm reel number 8, C, 1900-1940 Language: English.
Box 70	Microfilm reel number 9, C-D, 1900-1940 Language: English.
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; Box 70	Microfilm reel number 14, 1900-1940
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
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Box 72	Microfilm reel number 23, N-P, 1900-1940
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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
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