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Guide to the Lima Locomotive Works, Inc., Service Department Records

NMAH.AC.1180

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Lima Locomotive Works, Inc., Service Department Records
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1180
Date:	1919-1949
Creator:	Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton Corporation Lima Railroad, Inc. (Creator)
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry (Collector)
Extent:	3 Cubic feet (17 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Service Department Records document the activity of the service and sales department of Lima Locomotive Works. Lima Locomotive Works manufactured Shay Locomotives in Lima, Ohio, from 1879 to 1980 when production ended. This collection contains cards describing the purchasing and selling of Shay Locomotives, maintenance of the locomotives, and sales calls made by the company.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Unknown.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Work and Industry, October 2009.

Processing Information

Processed by Rebecca Farris (intern) and Jennifer Burger (intern), December, 2009; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist.

Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

Founded in 1879, Lima Locomotive Works manufactured locomotives in Lima, Ohio. James Alley contracted the Lima Locomotive Works (then Lima Machine Works) to build the locomotive designed by Ephraim Shay. A few years later, the first Shay Geared Steam Locomotive was off the production line and on the rails. The Shay Geared Steam Locomotive became an especially popular mode of transporting lumber not only in the United States, but world wide. What made it different was the unusual cylinder arrangement. Two vertical cylinders drove a crankshaft, which in turn drove a pair of geared trucks through a system of universal joints and sliding shafts. By the 1940s, companies were seeking out a faster mode of rail transportation, and the Lima Locomotive Works ceased production of the Shay Geared Steam Locomotive and began its Diesel Locomotive line.

In 1947, General Machinery Corporation and Lima merged to form the Lima-Hamilton Corporation. By this time, the corporation focused solely on the Diesel Locomotives, but still faltered. The Lima-Hamilton Corporation merged with Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1950 to form Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton (BLH). Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton discontinued the production of the Lima-Hamilton's Diesel Locomotive, and only produced Baldwin's Diesel. Unable to keep up with its competitors, BLH stopped all locomotive production in 1956, and in 1980, BLH finally closed its operations.

Scope and Contents

The Lima Locomotive Works, Inc., Service Department Records document the activity of the service and sales department of Lima Locomotive Works. The records consist of 5" x 7" cards.

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Arrangement

The collection is one series with sixteen subseries.

Series 1, Service Department Records, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.1, Locomotive Number, undated

Subseries 1.2, Town Cards, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.3, Shay Locomotives in the United States, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.4, Shay Locomotives in Canada, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.5, Shay Locomotives in Foreign Countries, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.6, Direct Locomotives in the United States, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.7, United States Dead Files, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.8, Foreign Dead Files, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.9, Locomotive by United States Location, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.10, Locomotive by Canadian Location, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.11, Locomotive by Foreign Location, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.12, Inactive Shay Locomotive Owners, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.13, Visit Records, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.14, Dead Shay Ownership Cards, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.15, Road Repairs in the United States, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.16, Road Repairs in Canada, 1919-1949

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Locomotives
Railroad companies

Types of Materials:

Business records -- 20th century
Card files

Names:

National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry

Places:

Lima (Ohio)
Ohio

Container Listing

Series 1: Service Department Records, 1919-1949

Subseries 1.1: Locomotive Number, undated

Box 1	#1-#900
Box 2	#901-#2100
Box 3	#2101-#3200
Box 4	#3201-#8700; #9047-#9056; #9107-#9111; #20002

Subseries 1.2: Town Cards, 1919-1949

Box 4	A-G
Box 5	H-Z

Subseries 1.3: Shay Locomotives in the United States, 1919-1949

Box 6	Alabama to Washington
Box 7	West Virginia to Washington

Subseries 1.4: Shay Locomotives in Canada, 1919-1949

Box 7	Alberta
Box 7	British Columbia
Box 7	Manitoba
Box 7	Nova Scotia
Box 7	Ontario
Box 7	Quebec

Subseries 1.5: Shay Locomotives in Foreign Countries, 1919-1949

Box 7	Argentina
Box 7	Bolivia
Box 7	Brazil
Box 7	Chile
Box 7	Ecuador
Box 7	Peru
Box 7	Uruguay
Box 7	Australia
Box 7	Borneo
Box 7	Central America
Box 7	China
Box 7	Cuba
Box 7	England
Box 7	Hawaii
Box 7	Japan
Box 7	Mexico
Box 7	Philippines
Box 7	Puerto Rico

Subseries 1.6: Direct Locomotives in the United States, 1919-1949

Box 7	California to Pennsylvania
Box 7	Poland
Box 8	South Carolina to Wisconsin

Subseries 1.7: United States Dead Files, 1919-1949

Box 8	Arkansas
Box 8	Arizona
Box 8	Australia
Box 8	California
Box 8	Colorado
Box 8	Florida
Box 8	Georgia
Box 8	Idaho
Box 8	Illinois
Box 8	Indiana
Box 8	Iowa
Box 8	Kansas
Box 8	Kentucky
Box 8	Louisiana
Box 8	Maryland
Box 8	Massachusetts
Box 8	Michigan
Box 9	Minnesota
Box 9	Mississippi
Box 9	Missouri
Box 9	Montana
Box 9	Nevada
Box 9	New Hampshire
Box 9	New Mexico

Box 9	New York
Box 9	North Carolina
Box 9	Ohio
Box 9	Oklahoma
Box 9	Oregon
Box 9	North Dakota
Box 9	Pennsylvania
Box 9	South Carolina
Box 9	South Dakota
Box 9	Texas
Box 9	Utah
Box 9	Virginia
Box 9	Vermont
Box 10	Washington
Box 10	West Virginia
Box 10	Wisconsin

Subseries 1.8: Foreign Dead Files, 1919-1949

Box 10	Australia
Box 10	Canada
Box 10	Chile
Box 10	Cuba
Box 10	Mexico
Box 10	Nova Scotia
Box 10	Peru

Box 10	Philippines
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Box 10	Puerto Rico
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Subseries 1.9: Locomotive by United States Location, 1919-1949

Box 10	Alabama
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Box 10	Arizona
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Box 10	Arkansas
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Box 10	California
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Box 10	Colorado
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Box 10	Florida
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Box 10	Georgia
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Box 10	Hawaii
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Box 10	Idaho
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Box 10	Illinois
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Box 10	Indiana
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Box 10	Iowa
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Box 10	Kentucky
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Box 10	Louisiana
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Box 10	Maryland
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Box 10	Massachusetts
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Box 10	Michigan
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Box 10	Minnesota
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Box 11	Mississippi
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Box 11	Montana
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Box 11	Nevada
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Box 11	New Hampshire
Box 11	New Jersey
Box 11	New Mexico
Box 11	New York
Box 11	North Carolina
Box 11	Ohio
Box 11	Oklahoma
Box 11	Oregon
Box 11	Pennsylvania
Box 11	South Carolina
Box 11	South Dakota
Box 11	Tennessee
Box 11	Texas
Box 11	Utah
Box 11	Vermont
Box 11	Virginia
Box 11	West Virginia
Box 11	Wisconsin
Box 11	Washington

Subseries 1.10: Locomotive by Canadian Location, 1919-1949

Box 11	British Columbia
Box 11	Nova Scotia
Box 11	Quebec

Subseries 1.11: Locomotive by Foreign Location, 1919-1949

Box 11	Argentina
Box 11	Austria
Box 11	Bolivia
Box 11	Chile
Box 11	Central America
Box 11	China
Box 11	Christmas Island
Box 11	Cuba
Box 11	Ecuador
Box 11	Japan
Box 12	Mexico
Box 12	Peru
Box 12	Philippines
Box 12	Puerto Rico
Box 12	Tasmania
Box 12	Uruguay

Subseries 1.12: Inactive Shay Locomotive Owners, 1919-1949

Box 12	Alabama
Box 12	Arizona
Box 12	Arkansas
Box 12	California
Box 12	Florida
Box 12	Georgia

Box 12	Idaho
Box 12	Illinois
Box 12	Indiana
Box 12	Iowa
Box 12	Kansas
Box 12	Louisiana
Box 12	Maine
Box 12	Massachusetts
Box 12	Minnesota
Box 12	Missouri
Box 12	Nebraska
Box 12	Nevada
Box 12	New Hampshire
Box 12	New Mexico
Box 12	New York
Box 12	North Carolina
Box 12	Ohio
Box 12	Oklahoma
Box 12	Oregon
Box 12	Pennsylvania
Box 12	South Carolina
Box 12	South Dakota
Box 12	Tennessee
Box 12	Texas

Box 12	Utah
Box 12	Virginia
Box 12	Washington
Box 12	West Virginia
Box 12	Wisconsin
Box 12	Wyoming

Subseries 1.13: Visit Records, 1919-1949

Box 12	A
Box 13	B-J
Box 14	K-T
Box 15	U-Z

Subseries 1.14: Dead Shay Ownership Cards, 1919-1949

Box 15	A-K
Box 16	L-Z

Subseries 1.15: Road Repairs in the United States, 1919-1949

Box 16	Alabama
Box 16	Arkansas
Box 16	California
Box 16	Colorado
Box 16	Connecticut
Box 16	Florida
Box 16	Georgia
Box 16	Illinois

Box 16	Indiana
Box 16	Iowa
Box 16	Kansas
Box 16	Kentucky
Box 16	Louisiana
Box 16	Maryland
Box 16	Massachusetts
Box 16	Michigan
Box 17	Minnesota
Box 17	Miscellaneous
Box 17	Mississippi
Box 17	Missouri
Box 17	Nebraska
Box 17	New Hampshire
Box 17	New Jersey
Box 17	New Mexico
Box 17	North Dakota
Box 17	Ohio
Box 17	Oklahoma
Box 17	Pennsylvania
Box 17	South Carolina
Box 17	South Dakota
Box 17	Tennessee
Box 17	Texas

Box 17 Virginia

Box 17 Washington

Box 17 West Virginia

Box 17 Wisconsin

Subseries 1.16: Road Repairs in Canada, 1919-1949

Box 17 Ontario

Box 17 Toronto

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