



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Hezekiah Bissell Papers

NMAH.AC.1445

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2019

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Hezekiah Bissell Papers
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1445
<b>Date:</b>	1920-1928
<b>Creator:</b>	Bissell, Hezekiah
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Cubic feet (1 box)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Collection documents the reminiscences of Hezekiah Bissell, a railroad engineer who worked in the western United Statesstates with the Union Pacific Railroad, and in Peru.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Originally donated to the National Museum of American History (then called the National Museum of History and Technology) by Bissell's granddaughter, Geraldine Carroll.

### Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Work Industry, 2017.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Miles Lawlor; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist, August 2019.

### Preferred Citation

Hezekiah Bissell Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Hezekiah Bissell (February 27 1835 - June 23 1928) was a railroad engineer and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Born in East Windsor Connecticut, Bissell studied at Yale University before enlisting in the Army during the American Civil War. After his discharge, Bissell served as one of the lead engineers in the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. He later surveyed and located rail lines for the

Adirondack Railroad in Upstate New York and a rail line in Peru. Bissell served as the Chief Engineer for the Boston & Maine (B&M) Railroad, a position he held for 31 years until his retirement in 1909.

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## Content Description

The collection contains writings by Bissell, including fragmented reminiscences describing his experiences as an railroad engineer with the Boston & Maine (B&M) Railroad, Union Pacific Railroad, and in Peru. Also included are a journal article honoring Bissell after his death, a map of northeastern Utah, and genealogical information about the Bissell family.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series.

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

- Railroads -- 19th century -- Peru
- Railroads -- Employees
- Railroads -- History

### Types of Materials:

- Genealogies
- Memoirs
- Writings -- 20th century

### Names:

- Boston and Maine Railroad

### Places:

- Utah -- maps

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## Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	News Clippings about Bissell, 1924
Box 1, Folder 2	Bissell Obituary, 1928
Box 1, Folder 3	Bissell Family Genealogy, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Reminiscences on the Construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Map of Northwestern Utah, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Reminiscences of Railroad Construction in Peru, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Reminiscences of Construction of the Adirondack Railroad, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Reminiscences on the Boston & Maine (B&M) Railroad (fragments), undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Letter on the Life of John Hooker Bissell, circa 1920