Guide to the Hezekiah Bissell Papers

NMAH.AC.1445
Miles Lawlor
2019
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Collection Overview

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

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
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

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.

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.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series.

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
- Utah -- maps
- Writings -- 20th century

Names:
- Boston and Maine Railroad
## Container Listing

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