



Smithsonian

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

## Joseph Trueman Thompson Papers

NMAH.AC.1564

Vanessa Broussard-Simmons

2024

Archives Center, National Museum of American History  
P.O. Box 37012  
Suite 1100, MRC 601  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012  
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270  
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453  
archivescenter@si.edu  
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Joseph Trueman Thompson Papers
<b>Date:</b>	1923-1945, undated
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.1564
<b>Creator:</b>	Thompson, J. Trueman (Joseph Trueman), 1891-1977 (Civil engineer)
<b>Source:</b>	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Cubic foot (3 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Papers documenting the professional activities of civil engineer, Joseph Trueman Thompson, primarily relating to his work on United States highways.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Joseph Trueman Thompson in 1963.

### Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Work and Industry in February 2022.

### Related Materials

#### **Materials in the Archives Center, National Museum of American History**

Clyde E. Learned Papers, 1919-1949, NMAH.AC.0226

Industry on Parade Film Collection, 1950-1959, NMAH.AC.0507

American Petroleum Institute Photograph and Film Collection, NMAH.AC.0711

Henry Grattan Tyrrell and Mary Maude Knox Tyrrell Papers, NMAH.AC.0948

Lloyd F. Rader Papers, 1925-1980, NMAH.AC.0952

Llewellyn N. Edwards Papers, NMAH.AC.0959

Nathan W. Morgan Papers, NMAH.AC.0965

The Foundation Company Records, NMAH.AC.0974

Modjeski and Masters Company Records, NMAH.AC.0976

Lawrence Talma Smith Papers, NMAH.AC.0988

Raymond E. Wilson Covered Bridge Collection, NMAH.AC.0999

Division of Work and Industry Lantern Slide Collection, NMAH.AC.1013

Raymond Schwind Collection, NMAH.AC.1069  
Donald M. Burmister Papers, 1927-1974, NMAH.AC.1068  
Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Records, NMAH.AC.1074  
Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway Photographs, NMAH.AC.1075  
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Records, NMAH.AC.1086  
Mechanical and Civil Engineering Stereograph Cards, NMAH.AC.1090  
Washington, DC Bridges Collection, NMAH.AC.1095  
Bobcat Company Records, 1940s-2009, NMAH.AC.1129  
Robert Covington Stereograph Portfolio, 1989-2008, NMAH.AC.1201  
D. Ward King Road Grader Collection, 1903-2000, NMAH.AC.1332  
Robert W. Kearns Papers, 1963-1992, NMAH.AC.1406  
General Motors Research Laboratory Collection, NMAH.AC.1538  
Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Bridges Reference Collection, NMAH.AC.1577

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist, 2024.

### Preferred Citation

Joseph Trueman Thompson Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Joseph Trueman Thompson, a civil engineer, was born March 28, 1891, in Baltimore, Maryland to Joseph Camillus Thompson Sr. (6 March 1861 - 12 January 1943) and Francis E. Slingluff (March 1870 - unknown). He graduated from Baltimore City College in 1910 and attended Johns Hopkins University where he completed his studies in 1917. Thompson married Sarah Madison Brockenbrough on July 7, 1917, and to the union one daughter, Elizabeth Madison Thompson (17 August 1922 - 3 September 1995), was born. He served as an officer in the Army Corps of Engineers before joining the faculty of Johns Hopkins University's Civil Engineering Department in 1919. During his tenure with the university, he also worked with the United States Government serving as a War Department adviser and chairman of the National Highway Traffic Advisory Committee. Thompson retired from Johns Hopkins University in 1958 but continued to do research on highways, a field he had become regarded as an expert and had written numerous publications on. He died in 1977 in Baltimore, Maryland at the age of eighty-five.

## Content Description

Papers primarily consisting of black and white photographs documenting highway impact tests and impact tests on beam and bridge members. In addition, there is a list of Thompson's publications and two copies of *Public Roads*, a journal of highway research published by the United States Department of Agriculture, dating from 1924 and 1928.

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## Arrangement

Materials are arranged in two series.

Series 1: Photographs, 1923-1945, undated

Series 2: Other Materials, 1924-1928, undated

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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:

- Bridges
- Civil engineers
- Highways
- Materials -- Testing
- Roads
- Traffic

### Types of Materials:

- Negatives
- Photographs
- Publications

### Names:

National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Photographs, 1923-1945, undated

#### *Box 1*

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#### Box 2, Folder 1

Miscellaneous highway tests, number one, 1925-1945, undated

## Series 2: Other Materials, 1924-1928, undated

*Box 3*

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