



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

William B. Osgood Field glass plate negatives

1895-1896

MssCol 19062

Compiled by Heather Halliday, 2015

Summary

Creator: Field, William B. Osgood

Title: William B. Osgood Field glass plate negatives

Date: 1895-1896

Size: 2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)

Source: Donated by Alaska & Polar Regions Collections and Archives, 2013

Abstract: William B. Osgood Field (1870-1949) was an engineer, collector, philanthropist, and prominent society figure in New York City and Lenox, Massachusetts. The William B. Osgood Field glass plate negatives date from 1895 to 1896 and consist solely of 6 boxes of 4" x 5" glass plate photographic negatives taken in the Hudson Valley and upper Manhattan.

Preferred citation: William B. Osgood Field glass plate negatives, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Heather Halliday, 2015

Related Materials:

William B. Osgood Field papers. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator History

William Bradhurst Osgood Field (1870-1949) and his family were prominent members of society in New York City and Lenox, Massachusetts during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Field was an engineer and businessman who served in the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Division during World War I. His interests also defined him as an avid book collector, gentleman farmer, philanthropist, and sportsman. Field sat on the boards of many charitable and commercial organizations, and was a member of over twenty clubs and societies, notably serving as president of the Grolier Club.

Custodial History

The William B. Osgood Field glass plate negatives were separated from the Alaska & Polar Regions Collections and Archives' William Osgood Field, Jr. collection when it was discovered that based on the date range, these negatives were made by or for his father, William B. Osgood Field. Additionally, the location of the images is New York, whereas William Osgood Field, Jr. worked in Alaska.

Scope and Content Note

The William B. Osgood Field glass plate negatives, dated 1895 to 1896, consist of sixty 4" x 5" glass plate negatives contained in six boxes, either created by or owned by William B. Osgood Field. The negatives depict structures such as railroad trestles, railroad stations, industrial buildings, houses, and bridges in Hudson Valley towns including Rosendale, Poughkeepsie, Tivoli, Palatine Bridge, Dobbs Ferry, and Hastings. Mott Haven and Harlem in New York City are included as well. A few negatives depict people who are often unidentified. The collection is a single group, not organized by location, subject, or chronologically, so researchers wishing to see images of Rosendale, New York, for example, will need to check all six boxes. Glass plate negatives are fragile. The quality of the images varies.

Key Terms

Subjects

Bridges -- 1890-1920

Buildings

Railroads -- 1890-1990

Geographic Names

Bronx (New York, N.Y.)

Dobbs Ferry (N.Y.) -- Buildings, structures, etc. -- Pictorial works

Harlem River (N.Y.)

Hudson Valley (N.Y. and N.J.)

Mott Haven (New York, N.Y.)

Palatine Bridge (N.Y.)

Poughkeepsie (N.Y. : Town)

Rosendale (N.Y. : Town) -- Buildings, structures, etc. -- Pictorial works

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Glass plate negatives