

Photograph Groups in HSCC Archives (PG)

03/21/2017

UPPER(ARCHIVES.OBJECTID)=[PG] AND !EMPTY(ARCHIVES.OBJECTID)

Object ID	PG#1
Date	<1910-1932>
Collection	Edgar B. Leet Photo Collection
Scope & Content	This collection contains thirty-five of Leet's hand-colored photographs ranging in size from 3" x 5" to 10" x 14". There are also four photographs of Edgar B. Leet in the collection. The finding aid includes Leet's letter to his commanding officer Quinn, dated April, 1910, and written on Leet's letterhead.

Edgar Burdett Leet was born in Newberry, Vermont in 1871 or 1872. He was the son of Charles Leet. He was living in Keene by 1907 and was working as a stenographer, bookkeeper, and illustrator. He mustered into the army on May 24, 1901 at the age of about 29, but left the command of M.O. Quinn on April 7, 1910. In 1913 he began to advertise photographic tinting and show card lettering. It is believed that he was the first person in the Keene area to commercially hand color photographs. He resided at 36 Marlboro Street in Keene. By the mid 1920s the city directories listed Leet as an accountant and hand colored photographer. 1932 was the last year Leet appeared in the directory. He presumably died at about that time.

The collection contains numerous examples of Leet's work. There are several photos taken in natural settings including hunting, fishing, and hiking. Several of the photos were taken in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and the Connecticut Lakes Region of New Hampshire--although not all are identified. More locally, there are views of Stone Pond in Marlborough as well as views of other areas around Marlborough.

While the hand-colored photos are the most striking aspect of the collection special note should be made of some of the subjects. Firstly is D.J. Hart. He manufactured boxes from about 1886 to 1920 in the section of Marlborough called Lowerville. The business was continued by his son Forrest Hart until about 1936. The exact relationship between Leet and the Hart family is unknown, but the collection contains a photo of both men, the box company's lumber mill, and the family cabin on the Connecticut Lakes. Additional photos show the Harts in various outdoor activities including collecting insects.

One item of interest is a drawing done by Leet of a postage stamp which was part of a school project for the donor of the collection.

Photos of local interest are mostly taken in Marlborough including Stone Pond, Birch Avenue, and the Glenn.

Object ID	PG#2
Date	<1962-1990>
Collection	Marjorie Whalen Smith Photo Collection
Scope & Content	The collection consists of 500 photographs, with negatives, of historic sites and buildings in twenty-five towns abd villages in the Monadnock Region of southwestern New Hampshire. The photos were taken by Marjorie Whalen Smith as part of a series of articles she published in the Keene Sentinel. Marjorie Whalen Smith, native New Englander, who lived in Keene and Sullivan for more than 30 years. During that time she wrote several hundred articles on houses, antiques, and social life mostly in the 18th and 19th centuries. Several of her articles also appeared in such publications as New Hampshire Profiles. In 1976 Mrs. Smith received the Granite State Award from the University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees in recognition of her writings.

Researchers may also wish to consult Records Group 158 which is a collection of her articles and Wright 917.7429.S64 1968, (3 v. set) "Historic Homes of Cheshire County New Hampshire" which was a collection of the more prominent homes in the county. Both resources contain some of her publications.

The collection is organized by town. Each folder contains photographs of specific houses which have assigned unique numbers corresponding to their location in the photograph records.. In most cases a copy of Mrs. Smith's article related to the house accompanies the photo in order to identify the house. However, in some cases, the article has not been located, and those photos have been separated. Specific villages within a township (ie. East Alstead, West Swanzey) have their own folders.

Object ID	PG#3
Date	1905
Collection	Annie Gilchrist Glass Plate Negatives
Scope & Content	Photographs of scenes in the Munsonville and Granite Lake area near Nelson, NH, taken in 1905 by Annie Gilchrist. There are also a few views taken in the town of Gilsum, NH.
Object ID	PG#4
Date	<1953-1967>
Collection	Howard E. Wheelock Covered Bridge Collection
Scope & Content	The collection consists of color slides of covered bridges and newsletters from 1953-April 1967 containing articles on covered bridges.
Object ID	PG#5
Date	<1900-1940>
Collection	Charles T. Johnson Printed Photographs
Scope & Content	The collection consists of printed black and white photographs taken primarily in and around Jaffrey, NH by Charles T. Johnson from the early 1900s - 1930s. Also included is a photocopy of an undated page [from a Keene Directory?] showing an ad for C.T. Johnson's photography business in Jaffrey.
Object ID	PG#6
Date	<late 19th - early 20th c.>
Collection	Mary Emerson Robbe Glass Negatives and Prints
Scope & Content	The collection consists of glass plate negatives and photographic prints taken by Mary Emerson Robbe in and around Dublin, NH at the end of the 19th century and early in the 20th.
Object ID	PG#7
Date	<1900-1927>
Collection	Bion Whitehouse Glass Plate Negative and Photographic Print Collection
Scope & Content	The collection consists of 1,126 glass plate negatives, 1,126 black and white prints produced for a series of calendars, and 747 black and white prints produced from the negatives in 1987. The photographs were taken primarily between 1905 and 1927. Subject matter includes exterior views of homes, businesses, streets and countryside in the Monadnock Region of southwestern New Hampshire, with an emphasis on the city of Keene, as well as group shots of nurses, soldiers, school children, and families, and photographs recording disastrous events such as fires and a train wreck. There are also some interior views of homes and businesses. The collection also contains the mock-up and galley proofs for a publication entitled "Central Square and Beyond" by David Proper (1992), the

mock-ups for a calendar series featuring Whitehouse prints, a catalog of a Whitehouse exhibit at the Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery at Keene State College in 1987, and a photo album of post-card size prints of Bion's son Darwin Whitehouse.

The second set of 747 prints were produced from the glass plate originals in 1987 by photographer T.M. McCarthy for the Thorne-Sagendorph exhibit. Portions of the collection have been published and exhibited on various occasions.

The Whitehouse photos portray the details of life in a small growing region of southwestern New Hampshire in the early twentieth century. We see shops and shopkeepers, modes of transportation, fields, farms, streets, interiors of homes, furniture, costume, factories, and the ravages of storms and disasters. Old buildings and elm-lined streets, long since vanished from the local landscape, are preserved, as are many landmarks, including early images of what is now Keene State College, various public schools, the train station, etc. There are portraits of prominent individuals as well as clusters of school children, nurses, and ladies playing lawn games. The photographic prints produced in 1987 are generally of excellent quality and are a popular resource for educators and historians.

Object ID	PG#8
Date	late 19th century
Collection	J.A. French Photographs
Scope & Content	This extensive collection consists of personal and business papers, as well as photographs, tintypes, stereoviews (lantern slides), collographs, and cyanotypes produced by J.A. French in the latter half of the 19th century. Among the notable items is a rare photograph of a waterspout off Cape Cod in 1896 (photograph #225). The collection also contains articles, scrapbooks, and a diary from a trip taken in 1889. The subject matter is diverse, ranging from boudoir portraits to commercial photographs of businesses, to scenery, and encompassing Cape Cod and the Islands, the Monadnock Region of southwestern New Hampshire, the White Mountains, Niagara Falls, Boston, and other locations as far south as Virginia.
