Collection Summary

Title: Robert A. Hadley Collection
Span Dates: 1908-2006
Bulk Dates: circa 1930-1959
Creator: Hadley, Robert A.
Extent: 10 archival binders
Language: English
Repository: Center for Railroad Photography & Art, Madison, WI
Abstract: 6,618 Black-and-white and color negatives from Robert A. Hadley’s personal collection. Bulk items are images created by Robert A. Hadley, but also include work from other artists that he collected throughout his lifetime. The collection focuses on United States and Canadian railroads spanning from the 1910s through the early 2000s.

Selected Search Terms

Country:
Canada
Germany
United Kingdom
United States

State/Province:
Alabama, Manitoba
Alberta, Maryland
Arizona, Massachusetts
Arkansas, Michigan
Bavaria, Minnesota
British Columbia, Mississippi
California, Missouri
Colorado, Montana
D.C., Nebraska
Delaware, Nevada
Florida, New Brunswick
Georgia, New Hampshire
Illinois, New Jersey
Indiana, New Mexico
Iowa, New York
Kansas, North Carolina
Kentucky, North Dakota
Louisiana, Ohio
Maine, Oklahoma
Ontario  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Quebec  
Saskatchewan  
South Carolina  
South Dakota  
Tennessee  
Texas  

United States  
Utah  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
West Virginia  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming  

**Railroad Name:**  
Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railway  
Akron, Canton, and Youngstown Railroad  
Alaska Railroad  
Alton Railroad  
Amtrak  
Ann Arbor Railroad  
Arcadia & Betsie River Railroad  
Arkansas and Missouri Railroad  
Army USA  
AT&L Railroad  
Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway  
Atlantic and Gulf Railroad  
Atlantic Coast Line Railroad  
Atlas Model Railroad Company  
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad  
Bangor and Aroostook Railroad  
Bay Line Railroad  
Belt Railway Company of Chicago  
Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad  
Black Hills Central Railroad  
BNSF Railway  
Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad  
Boston and Albany Railroad  
Boston and Maine Railroad  
Brandon Railroad  
British Columbia Railway  
Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad  

Aberdeen, South Carolina  
Alaska  
Arkansas  
Army  
Atlantic  
Atchison  
American  
Belmont  
Baltimore  
Bangor  
Bay  
Belt  
Bessemer  
Black  
BNSF  
Boone  
Boston  
Brandon  
British  
Buffalo  
Aberdeen  
Arkansas  
Army  
Atlantic  
Atchison  
American  
Belmont  
Baltimore  
Bangor  
Bay  
Belt  
Bessemer  
Black  
BNSF  
Boone  
Boston  
Brandon  
British  
Buffalo  
Washington  
West Virginia  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming  

**Railroad Name:**  
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Alaska Railroad  
Alton Railroad  
Amtrak  
Ann Arbor Railroad  
Arcadia & Betsie River Railroad  
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Army USA  
AT&L Railroad  
Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway  
Atlantic and Gulf Railroad  
Atlantic Coast Line Railroad  
Atlas Model Railroad Company  
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Bangor and Aroostook Railroad  
Bay Line Railroad  
Belt Railway Company of Chicago  
Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad  
Black Hills Central Railroad  
BNSF Railway  
Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad  
Boston and Albany Railroad  
Boston and Maine Railroad  
Brandon Railroad  
British Columbia Railway  
Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad  

Robert A. Hadley Collection
Railroad
Chicago, Madison and Northern 'Railway
Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad
Chicago, Missouri and Western Railway
Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee Railroad (The North Shore Line)
Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad
Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway
Cincinnati Union Terminal
Clinchfield Railroad
Colorado and Southern Railway
Colorado and Wyoming Railway
Columbus and Greenville Railway
Conrail
Coudersport and Port Allegany Railroad
Council Bluffs Railway
Crown Willamette Paper Company
CSX Transportation
Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad
Dakota & Iowa Railroad
Dardanelle and Russellville Railroad
De Queen and Eastern Railroad
Delaware and Hudson Railway
Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad
Delray Connecting
Denver and Rio Grande Railroad
Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad
Denver and Salt Lake Railway
Deseret Power Railroad (Deseret Western Railway)
Deseret Western Railway
Detroit Terminal Railroad
Detroit, Toledo and Ironton Railroad
Detroit & Mackinac Railway
Detroit and Edison
Detroit and Mackinac Railway
Detroit and Toledo Shore Line Railroad
Detroit, Caro & Sandusky Railway
Detroit, Toledo and Ironton Railroad
Dodge City, Ford and Bucklin Railroad
Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway
Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad
East Broad Top Railroad
East Jordan and Southern Railroad
Electro-Motive Division Leasing
Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway
Erie and Michigan Railroad
Erie Railroad
Essex Terminal Railway
Family Lines System
Farmrail Corporation
Ferrocarriles Nacionales de Mexico
First Union Rail
Florida East Coast Railway
Fonda, Johnstown and Gloversville Railroad
Ford Plant Railroad
Fort Smith Railroad
Fort Worth and Western Railroad
Fremont & Elkhorn Valley Railroad
Robert A. Hadley Collection
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gateway Western Railway</td>
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<tr>
<td>GATX Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Electric Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Motors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genesee &amp; Wyoming Railroad</td>
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<td>Glover Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Northern Railway</td>
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<td>Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad</td>
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<td>Helm Leasing Company</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illinois Central Railroad</td>
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<td>Kiamichi Railroad</td>
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<td>Manitou and Pike's Peak Railway</td>
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<td>Mine Railroad</td>
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<td>Mississippian Railway</td>
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<td>Motive Power Industries</td>
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<td>Mountain Diesel Transportation</td>
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<td>New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad</td>
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<tr>
<td>New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad</td>
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<td>New York, Ontario and Western</td>
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</tbody>
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Railway
Newport Beach Limited
Nickel Plate Railroad (New York, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad)
Norfolk and Western Railway
Norfolk Southern Railway
North American Tank Line
North Carolina and Virginia Railroad
North Shore Line
Northern Ohio and Western Railway
Northern Pacific Railway
Northwestern Pacific Railroad
Oakway Railroad
Pacific Electric Railway
Penn Central
Pennsylvania Railroad
Pere Marquette Railway
Philadelphia Baldwin Locomotive Works
Pittsburgh and West Virginia Railroad
Pittsburgh, Chartiers and Youghiogheny Railway
Pontiac, Oxford and Northern Railroad
Port Huron and Detroit Railroad
Portland Terminal Railroad
Railcar America
Railcar Maintenance Company
Railserve, Inc.
Reading Railroad
Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad
Rio Grande Western Railway
Rutland Line
Rutland Railroad
Santa Fe Railway
Seaboard Air Line Railway
Seaboard Coast Line Railroad
Sidney and Lowe Railroad
Sisseton Milbank Railroad
Solvay Process Company
Soo Line Railroad
South Carolina Central Railroad
South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad
South Shore Line
Southeast Kansas Railroad Company
Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority
Southern Pacific Railroad
Southern Railway
Sperry Rail Service
Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railway
St. Clair Tunnel
St. Clair Tunnel Company
St. Louis and Ohio River Railroad
St. Louis Southwestern Railway
St. Louis-San Francisco Railway
Stone Mountain Scenic Railroad
Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis
Texas and Pacific Railway
Texas Northeastern Division Mid-Michigan Railroad Incorporated
Texas Northeastern Railroad
Texas State Railroad
Toledo Terminal Railroad
Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway
Trona Railway
TTX Corporation
Tuckerton Railroad
Tulsa Port of Catoosa
Union Pacific Railroad

Robert A. Hadley Collection
Union Railroad Pittsburgh
United Grain Corporation
United States Air Force
United States Army
Utah Railway
Via Rail Canada
Virginia and Truckee Railroad
Virginian Railway
Wabash Railroad

Walt Disney World Railroad
Watco Companies
Western Maryland Railroad
Western Pacific Railroad
Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway
Wisconsin and Calumet Railroad
Wyandotte Terminal Railroad
Wyoming Colorado Railroad

**Administrative Information**

**Provenance**
The collection was leant to the Center for Railroad Photography and Art by the Apex Foundation in May 2016. The loan agreement called for the digitization of negatives, and the subsequent return of digital copies to the Apex Foundation, at which point the collection would be officially donated to the Center for Railroad Photography and Art. The original agreement had a one-year timeline to complete this work, and was amended in order to extend that timeline to the end of 2017.

**Processing History**
The collection was leant to the Center in May 2016. Processing began in July 2016 and was completed October 2017. Copies of the digital files were sent to the Apex Foundation in November 2017, at which point deed of gift documents were signed and the Center took ownership.

**Additional Notes**
Selected photographs are publicly available on the Center’s website, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and Instagram.

Robert Hadley also took photographs of selections from various publications, and kept the negatives of these in his collection.

Also of note is that while Robert Hadley was typically careful with his information recording practices, there are photographs that may have slightly inaccurate data. Those that were taken near Michigan and the upper Midwest have been overall correct, while some others have had erroneous information attached as they move farther from the area he resided in.

Several negatives were not photographed by Robert Hadley. It is common for
photographers to trade photographs from their own personal collections. Robert Hadley also took photographs of images from books and other print resources that were created by other artists. Additional photographers include:

John C. Benson
Al Chione
George Cockle
Bill Deaton
Otto P. Dobnick
Dick Dorn
Donald Duke
G.L. Dunscomb
Ross Grenard
Ralph E. Hallock
Robert R. Harmen
Lewis Harris
Scott Hartley
Jim Hawkins
Kurt Heiden
Ronald C. Hill

Stan Kistler
Gordon L. Lydekson
William J. Miller
William H. Mills
Olson
Steve Patterson
Jack Pfeifer
Howard Pincus
Mike Repp
Philip A. Ronfor
Mike Runey
D.S. Richter
Barry E. Silver
F.C. Smith
Norm Taylor
Ray Whittake

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Access and Restrictions
For educational use only, please contact the Center for other usage requests.

Biographical Note
Robert A. Hadley was born on May 10, 1912 to Florence and Frank Hadley in Bancroft, Michigan. Growing up in a railroad family, he had the opportunity to experience train culture firsthand. Robert’s grandfather worked for years as a crossing watchman for Grand Trunk Western, and when he was 16, Robert was allowed to work alongside at the GTW depot. He would complete odd jobs around the depot, and this work instilled in him a deep love for railroading that he would never outgrow.

While he was still a teenager, Robert began working as a theater usher. This job led him to a new position that involved lettering advertisements and signs for the theater which, in turn, fostered an interest in art. Unbeknownst to him at the time, Robert’s love for both the railroad and art would later converge and become an integral aspect of his life in the coming years. By the time that Robert married Frances Eyre in 1934, Robert began to apply his artistic abilities to a new passion: photography. He was so involved in his photography work that he built his own darkroom, enlarger, and even prepared his own chemicals. This obsession became his job as he joined the Army in 1941, and he became a reconnaissance photographer for the Army Air Corps.
Once his stint in the military was completed, Robert moved into commercial photography, and began work for the Ferguson Corporation (later known as Massey-Ferguson), a farm implement manufacturer. Soon, his love for the railroad resurfaced, and he would combine his two loves into one overarching hobby: shooting trains.

His work is characterized by more than just the typical wedge “roster shots.” Robert liked to show where these trains were coming from and where they were going to. His photographs depict trains traveling through stunning landscapes, passing historic buildings, and his subject’s environment in order to convey a grander view of the landscape. While trains were the stars of his photographs, Hadley seemed to believe that their backdrop was just as important. He traveled across the United States and Canada, and even ventured to Europe to capture these amazing images over multiple decades.

Robert was also very active in a variety of groups, including the GTW Historical Society, Steam Railroading Institute in Owosso, Michigan, and even helped found the Michigan Railroad Club, whose excursions he photographed and included in his collections. Though Robert Hadley passed away on June 25, 2006 at the impressive age of 94 (amazingly, he was shooting up until this time), the images that he captured will be sure to not only preserve his legacy, but also provide an invaluable look at the history of railroading in North America.

Scope and Content Note
This collection focuses on United States and Canadian Railroads, with both black-and-white and color negatives. The date ranges from 1908-2006, with the majority of the images falling between the early 1930s through the late 1950s.

Arrangement of the Collection
This collection is arranged by Robert A. Hadley’s original order, which included negatives within sleeves further nested within larger sleeves. These sleeves were all numbered, indicating the numerical order of negative sleeves within folder sleeves. The collection is housed in archival plastic sleeves within archival binders.

Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Binder</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hadley-02</td>
<td>001-159</td>
<td>1925-2006, United States. Black-and-white</td>
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<td>Page</td>
<td>Contents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hadley-09</td>
<td>001-155</td>
<td>1918-1959, United States and Canada. Black-and-white and color negatives.</td>
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