

Robert A. Hadley Collection

Finding Aid to the Collection at the Center for Railroad Photography & Art

CRP&A | CENTER FOR RAILROAD
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

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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

Burlington Northern and Santa Fe
Railway
Burlington Northern Railroad
California State Railroad Museum
Calumet & Hecla Railroad
Canadian National Railway
Canadian Pacific Railway
Carolina Piedmont Railroad
Central of Georgia Railway
Central Oklahoma Railfan Club
Central Railroad of New Jersey
Central Transportation
Central Vermont Railway
Chaparral Railroad
Charleston and Western Carolina
Railway
Chesapeake and Ohio Railway
Chesapeake Western Railway
Chicago and Eastern Illinois
Railroad
Chicago and Illinois Midland
Railway
Chicago and North Western
Railway
Chicago Central and Pacific
Railroad
Chicago Great Western Railway
Chicago, Burlington and Quincy
Railroad
Chicago, Kalamazoo and Saginaw

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

Gateway Western Railway	Manistee and North-Eastern Railroad
GATX Corporation	Manistique and Lake Superior Railroad
General Electric Company	Manitou and Pike's Peak Railway
General Motors	Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad
Genesee & Wyoming Railroad	Maryland Rail Commuter
Georgetown Loop Railroad	Merchants Despatch Transportation Corporation
Georgia and Florida Railroad	Mid-Michigan Railroad Northeast Kansas and Missouri Division
Georgia Central Railway	Midland Valley Railroad
Glover Group	Midwest Central Railroad
Grand Trunk Railway	Mine Railroad
Grand Trunk Western	Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway
Great Northern Railway	Minneapolis, Northfield and Southern Railway
Green Bay and Western Railroad	Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railroad
Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad	Mississippian Railway
Helm Leasing Company	Missouri Pacific Railroad
Illinois and Midland Railroad	Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad
Illinois Central Railroad	Mobile and Ohio Railroad
Illinois Railway Museum	Monon Railroad
Illinois Terminal Railroad	Monongahela Connecting Railroad
Intermountain Power Project	Motive Power Industries
Interstate Railroad	Mountain Diesel Transportation
Iowa Interstate Railroad	Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway
Johnston's Terminal Muskogee	National Transportation Safety Board
Kansas City Southern Railway	Nelson and Albemarle Railroad
Kansas City Terminal Railway	New York Central Railroad
Kennecott Mining Company	New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad
Kentucky and Tennessee Railway	New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad
Kiamichi Railroad	New York, Ontario and Western
Laurinburg and Southern Railroad	
Leadville, Colorado and Southern Railroad	
Lehigh Valley Railroad	
London and North Eastern Railway	
Long Island Railroad	
LORAM Maintenance of Way	
Louisiana and Arkansas Railway	
Louisville and Nashville Railroad	
Mahoning Valley Railway	
Maine Central Railroad	

Railway	Seaboard Coast Line Railroad
Newport Beach Limited	Sidney and Lowe Railroad
Nickel Plate Railroad (New York, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad)	Sisseton Milbank Railroad
Norfolk and Western Railway	Solvay Process Company
Norfolk Southern Railway	Soo Line Railroad
North American Tank Line	South Carolina Central Railroad
North Carolina and Virginia Railroad	South Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad
North Shore Line	South Shore Line
Northern Ohio and Western Railway	Southeast Kansas Railroad Company
Northern Pacific Railway	Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority
Northwestern Pacific Railroad	Southern Pacific Railroad
Oakway Railroad	Southern Railway
Pacific Electric Railway	Sperry Rail Service
Penn Central	Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railway
Pennsylvania Railroad	St. Clair Tunnel
Pere Marquette Railway	St. Clair Tunnel Company
Philadelphia Baldwin Locomotive Works	St. Louis and Ohio River Railroad
Pittsburgh and West Virginia Railway	St. Louis Southwestern Railway
Pittsburgh, Chartiers and Youghiogheny Railway	St. Louis-San Francisco Railway
Pontiac, Oxford and Northern Railroad	Stone Mountain Scenic Railroad
Port Huron and Detroit Railroad	Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis
Portland Terminal Railroad	Texas and Pacific Railway
Railcar America	Texas Northeastern Division Mid- Michigan Railroad Incorporated
Railcar Maintenance Company	Texas Northeastern Railroad
Railsolve, Inc.	Texas State Railroad
Reading Railroad	Toledo Terminal Railroad
Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad	Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway
Rio Grande Western Railway	Trona Railway
Rutland Line	TTX Corporation
Rutland Railroad	Tuckerton Railroad
Santa Fe Railway	Tulsa Port of Catoosa
Seaboard Air Line Railway	Union Pacific Railroad

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 lent 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 lent 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

Copyright Status

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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

<i>Binder</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Contents</i>
Hadley-01	001-137	1932-1991, United States, Canada and United Kingdom. Black-and-white and color negatives.
Hadley-02	001-159	1925-2006, United States. Black-and-white

<i>Binder</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Contents</i>
		and color negatives.
Hadley-03	001-150	1930-1992, United States, United Kingdom. Black-and-white and color negatives.
Hadley-04	001-150	1931-1994, United States and Canada. Black-and-white negatives.
Hadley-05	001-150	1908-1975, United States. Black-and-white negatives.
Hadley-06	001-151	1916-1959, United States. Black-and-white negatives.
Hadley-07	001-154	1916-1999, United States, Canada, and Germany. Black-and-white and color negatives.
Hadley-08	001-154	1931-2000, United States. Black-and-white and color negatives.
Hadley-09	001-155	1918-1959, United States and Canada. Black-and-white and color negatives.
Hadley-10	001-203	1923-1966, United States and Canada. Black-and-white negatives.