

Glass-Plate Negative Collection Attributed to C. Robert Hatheway

Windsor Historical Society

Creator: Charles Robert Hatheway (attributed), 1866-1957

Dates: 1890-1900

Extent: 79 glass-plate negatives; 3.5 linear feet

Accession #: 2008.41

Biographical Note

Charles Robert Hatheway, also known as C. Robert Hatheway, was born in the Poquonock section of Windsor, CT on January 30, 1866 to Charles W. and Sarah A. (Barrett) Hatheway. In 1898 he married Emma K. Freeman, who later became a librarian in the Poquonock branch library. Together they had one son, Robert Knowlton Hatheway.

C. Robert Hatheway was a locally well-known artist working in watercolors, pastels, etchings, and photography, and often depicted Windsor scenes in his art. He was also very active in civic and church affairs, having served as secretary of the Windsor school board, deacon of the Poquonock Congregational Church, and from 1909-1910, he represented Windsor in the Connecticut State House of Representatives.

Hatheway died in 1957 and is buried at Elm Grove Cemetery in Windsor.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains seventy-nine gelatin dry plate negatives attributed to C. Robert Hatheway found in the basement of 1312 Poquonock Avenue, Windsor, CT in June 2008. The negatives include a collection of Poquonock images from the 1890s, a few photographs of Windsor Center in the 1890s, and a group of unidentified portraits. Photographs of the Shaker community in Enfield, CT, Old Newgate Prison in East Granby, CT, Forest Park in Springfield, MA, and Bushnell Park in Hartford, CT are also found in the collection.

Arrangement

Each series is arranged by negative size and then by subject.

Series I: Twenty-eight 6.5" x 8.5" glass-plate negatives ca. 1895

Series II. Fifty-one 5" x 7" glass-plate negatives ca. 1895

Box and Folder Lists

Series I. Glass-Plate Negatives 6.5" x 8.5"

Box 1: Negatives 1-10

- Buildings
- Landscapes

Box 2: Negatives 11-18

- Landscapes featuring a female subject

Box 3: Negatives 19-28

- Portraits
- Windsor and Poquonock views
- Campfire Image

Series II. Glass-Plate Negatives 5" x 7"

Box 4: Negatives 29-43

- Campfire Image
- Poquonock Views

Box 5: Negatives 44-54

- Poquonock Views
- Portraits

Box 6: Negatives 55-67

- Portraits
- Landscapes
- Shaker Station, Enfield, CT

Box 7: Negatives 68-79

- Old Newgate Prison, Granby, CT
- Forest Park, Springfield, CT
- Hartford, CT

Related Materials

Julius Rusavage Collection (2000.30)

Windsor Public Library Collection (1990.36)

Kendrick Collection (1993.60)

Family File – Hatheway

Photo File – Windsor, Town of – Poquonock

Photo File – Bridges, Poquonock

Photo File – Businesses, Barber Shops

Subject Terms

Endee, Albert Charles, 1907-2004

Hatheway, C. Robert (Charles Robert), 1866-1957

Rusavage, Julius Joseph, 1918-2005

East Granby (Conn.)—Pictorial works

Enfield (Conn.)—Pictorial works

Hartford (Conn.)—Pictorial works

Poquonock (Conn.)—Pictorial works

Springfield (Conn.)—Pictorial works

Windsor (Conn.)—Pictorial works
Bushnell Park (Hartford, Conn.)—Pictorial works
Forest Park (Springfield, Mass.)—Pictorial works
Newgate Prison (East Granby, Conn.)
Shakers—Connecticut--Enfield—Pictorial works

Objects History

Gelatin dry plate negatives were the first mass produced gelatin-emulsion negatives used in photography. The emulsion technology was invented in 1871 and gelatin dry plate negatives were first available in the United States in 1879. The plates were mass produced in factories, making them cheaper and easier for photographers to use than earlier wet collodion negatives. They made photography an affordable hobby for the middle class and greatly increased the number of amateur photographers in the United States by the turn of the 20th century.

The Eastman Kodak Company was a major manufacturer of dry plate negatives, including the Seeds and Stanley brands, but many smaller manufacturers also produced negatives. The plates were sold in standard sizes and were packaged by the dozen in cardboard boxes. They were used from 1880 through the 1920s when film negatives became readily available.

Custodial History

The photographs' composition and subject matter link them to C. Robert Hatheway (1866-1957), a Poquonock photographer and artist. Two of the campfire images found in the collection are nearly identical to one published in the art column of *The Dial* magazine, a 19th-century Windsor, CT periodical. Hatheway was the art editor for *The Dial* and he likely wrote the article corresponding to the campfire photographs (*The Dial*, Volume 1. Number 1.1896. page 10). However, the negatives are not signed, and there is no written proof of the attribution. It also has not been established that all the photographs were taken by the same photographer.

Prior to their donation to the Windsor Historical Society, the negatives were owned by Albert Endee (1907-2004), the previous owner of 1312 Poquonock Avenue, where the negatives were found. The negatives predate Mr. Endee's birth; his family believes he collected the negatives in the mid-20th century. Although Endee and Hatheway families were friends from Poquonock, the collection's custodial history prior to Albert Endee is undocumented.

Albert Endee and his friend Julius Rusavage (1918-2005) were photography enthusiasts known to share negatives from their personal collections with one another. Mr. Rusavage reprinted some of the negatives in this collection; thirteen of those prints were scanned by the Windsor Historical Society as part of the Julius Rusavage Collection (2000.30).

Collection processed and finding aid prepared by Erin Stevic, Curator, December 2008.
Finding aid edited by librarian Barbara Goodwin and librarian/archivist Michelle Tom in
2016.