

Guide to the Telephone Industry Photograph Collection, 1898-1924, 1961

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Telephone Industry Photograph Collection, 1898-1924, 1961

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2021.004

Author of Finding Aid:

Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Minichiello, Anthony, 1922-2018

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

2 boxes ; 0.67 linear feet

Abstract:

This collection of approximately 150 photographs relating to the New England telephone industry documents specific telephone poles in need of repair, replacement or other attention, often after storms or in areas with a rapid increase in telephone usage and requiring more line capacity. The backgrounds of the photographs include both built and natural landscapes between 1914 and 1924. There is also a scrapbook with photographs of company buildings (offices, storage depots) in cities and towns throughout the state for the same dates. A few additional images show workers in offices, including female operators, which date from 1898 to 1912, with one clipping from 1961.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Telephone Industry Photograph Collection was donated in 2021 by James Dimick in memory of his uncle, Anthony Minichiello, who collected the pictures.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Sandra L. Wheeler in August 2021. The finding aid was written by Sandra L. Wheeler beginning in August 2021 and finished in September 2022. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

The photographs came to the Society in labeled envelopes and albums. The items have been removed from envelopes and the albums have been disassembled, but the folders into which they have been placed are labeled as they were found. There were a variety of labels, and most, but not all, were dated. Some seem to refer to company service areas (“T.S. 113”) plus a town, others are only the name of the town, and a few are descriptive (“open line”). A few photographs were loose and unidentified.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The photographs are printed on paper. There are a few black and white negatives, and a few small color transparencies that require a lightbox to view.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish material from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Telephone Industry Photograph Collection, 2021.004, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Telephone service in New Hampshire began in 1878 with small local companies, which by 1899 had all become part of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. The New England segment of the corporation was known as the New England Telephone Company. Anthony Minichiello (1922-2018), a life-long resident of Concord, NH, worked at the company upon his discharge from the U.S. Army Air Force in 1945 until his retirement in 1984. Anthony was born about 1922 at Concord, NH, son of John and Rose (Blasi) Minichiello. Anthony married Pauline

Elvina Dimick on October 26, 1945 at Concord. She was the daughter of Henry and Mary (Barber) Dimick, born October 26, 1920 at Concord. Anthony and Pauline had one known child: Henry J. born about 1949.

Minichiello collected the photographs and after his death, his nephew donated them to the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

Except for a short history of the Telephone System developed by the Shakers in Canterbury, New Hampshire, this collection consists of black and white photographs, most 8x10 inches and with good resolution, related to the telephone industry in New Hampshire. The photographs were taken largely between 1898 and 1924, with one clipping from 1961. The purpose of the images was to document issues or potential issues with specific poles, which are identified by number and town and often also by street. Attention was paid to storm damage, poorly placed poles, and to urban areas that needed more pole and line capacity because of increasing connections. Many of the photographs are labeled not only with location information, but also with a description of the problem the image was intended to demonstrate.

The photographs show both rural and urban landscapes surrounding the poles. In addition, there are pages from an album with images of buildings housing company offices in many towns. There are a few photographs showing workers, both women at switchboards and men in offices and in the field (repairing and laying lines, etc.), which date from 1898 to 1912 and undated.

Box 1, folder 5 contains a letter describing a November 5, 1919 storm and resulting damage in Hooksett, NH. See also Box 2, folder 14 for more on the same storm in Haverhill and York.

There are a handful of black and white negatives, and about 20 small color transparencies of various telephone instrument models from the earliest to around 1970.

Arrangement:

The photographs in this collection have been arranged first by T.S. numbers (where present), then alphabetically by town name or subject heading.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Telephone System History, typescript, unknown author, undated
- Folder 2 TS 101, Portsmouth, undated
- Folder 3 TS 101, 102, Hampton – Portsmouth, 1920 March
- Folder 4 TS 104, Dover, 1920
- Folder 5 TS 109, Hackett Hill Road, Hooksett, 1919 November 5
- Folder 6 TS 112, Durham, Kingston, undated
- Folder 7 TS 112 Group A, Kingston, 1920 March
- Folder 8 TS 112 Group A, Kingston, Newton, 1920 March
- Folder 9 TS 112, Group C, Exeter, 1920 March
- Folder 10 TS 112, Group D, Dover, Newfields, Rollinsford, 1920 March

- Folder 11 TS 112C, Group B, Exeter, 1920 March
- Folder 12 TS 112, TS 201, various locations, 1917 February
Dover, Durham, Exeter, Kingston, Newmarket, Newton, Rockingham,
Unidentified
- Folder 13 TS 112, various locations, undated
Dover, Durham, Exeter, Kingston, Newfields, Newmarket, Rockingham,
York
- Folders 14-15 TS 113, Auburn, 1919 November 5

Box 2

- Folder 1 TS 121, Wilton, undated
- Folder 2 Laying line in water, undated
- Folder 3 Open wire, 1915 September 29
- Folder 4 Jaffrey, undated
- Folder 5 Lisbon, 1915, 1920, undated
- Folder 6 Portsmouth, undated
- Folder 7 Company buildings scrapbook, A-C, 1914-1918
Alstead, Barrington, Bedford, Canaan, Candia, Charlestown, Chichester,
Claremont, Concord
- Folder 8 Company buildings scrapbook, D-F, 1914-1918
Deerfield, Derry, Dover, Dublin, Durham, Enfield, Epping, Exeter,
Farmington, Fitzwilliam
- Folder 9 Company buildings scrapbook, G-J, 1914-1919
Goffstown, Greenfield, Greenville, Hampstead, Hampton, Hancock,
Hanover, Harrisville, Hinsdale, Jaffrey
- Folder 10 Company buildings scrapbook, K-M, 1914-1923
Keene, Kingston, Lebanon, Manchester, Marlborough, Merrimack,
Milford, Milton, Milton Mills
- Folder 11 Company buildings scrapbook, N-P, 1914-1919
Nashua, New Boston, Newmarket, Newport, Northwood, Penacook,
Peterborough, Pittsfield, Portsmouth
- Folder 12 Company buildings scrapbook, R-S, 1915-1924
Raymond, Rindge, Rochester, Rye, Salem, Somersworth, Spofford,
Sullivan, Sunapee, Suncook
- Folder 13 Company buildings scrapbook, T-Z, 1915-1918
Troy, Walpole, Winchester, Wolfeboro
- Folder 14 Service restored after storm, Haverhill, York, 1920 January
- Folder 15 Workers, Dover office, 1898-1912, 1961
- Folder 16 Workers, indoors, undated
- Folder 17 Unidentified locations, undated
- Folder 18 Color transparencies of telephone models, undated
- Folder 19 Black and white negatives, undated

Subject Terms

People:

Minichiello, Anthony, 1922-2018

Organizations:

New England Telephone and Telegraph Company

Subjects:

Landscapes

Photography

Roads

Storms

Technology

Telephone companies

Telephone lines

Telephone supplies industry

Locations:

Alstead, NH

Auburn, NH

Barrington, NH

Bedford, NH

Canaan, NH

Candia, NH

Charlestown, NH

Chichester, NH

Claremont, NH

Concord, NH

Deerfield, NH

Derry, NH

Dover, NH

Dublin, NH

Durham, NH

Enfield, NH

Epping, NH

Exeter, NH

Farmington, NH

Fitzwilliam, NH

Goffstown, NH

Greenfield, NH

Greenville, NH

Hampstead, NH

Hampton, NH

Hancock, NH

Hanover, NH

Harrisville, NH

Haverhill, NH

Hinsdale, NH

Hooksett, NH

Jaffrey, NH

Keene, NH
Kingston, NH
Lebanon, NH
Lisbon, NH
Manchester, NH
Marlborough, NH
Merrimack, NH
Milford, NH
Nashua, NH
New Boston, NH
Newfields, NH
Newmarket, NH
Newport, NH
Newton, NH
Northwood, NH
Penacook, NH
Peterborough, NH
Pittsfield, NH
Portsmouth, NH
Raymond, NH
Rindge, NH
Rochester, NH
Rollinsford, NH
Rye, NH
Salem, NH
Somersworth, NH
Spofford, NH
Sullivan, NH
Sunapee, NH
Suncook, NH
Troy, NH
Walpole, NH,
Wilton, NH
Winchester, NH
Wolfeboro, NH
York, ME

Occupations:

Telephone companies--Employees
Telephone operators