

A Guide to the Wise County Photograph Albums ca. 1890

Wise County Photograph Albums ca. 1890-1998
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A Collection in The Special Collections Department 11074
Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library
2001

History

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Title Statement

A Guide to the Wise County Photograph Albums ca. 1890
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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

Feb 18, 2004 PUBLIC "-//University of Virginia::Library::Special Collections Dept.//TEXT (US::ViU::viu01491::Wise County Photograph Albums, ca. 1890)//EN" "viu01491.xml" converted from EAD 1.0 to 2002 by v1to02.xsl (sy2003-10-15).
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Descriptive Summary

Accession number
11074

Language
English

Physical Characteristics
There are 2 bound volumes containin 96 sepia-tone albumen prints (19 x 24 cm).

Repository
Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Preferred Citation

Wise County Photograph Albums, ca. 1890, Accession #11074, Special Collections Dept., University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Scope and Content Information

This collection consists of two bound photograph albums containing 96 sepia-tone albumen prints (19 x 24 cm), ca. 1890, of scenes in Wise County, Virginia, primarily in the immediate vicinity of Big Stone Gap and Stonega. (The dating was partly established by the absence of automobiles or other motor vehicles.) The photographs may have been taken by a photographer or construction engineer for the Southern Railroad (then called the South Atlantic & Ohio), which was completed through Big Stone Gap in 1890. Many of the scenes are of railroads, yards and maintenance facilities, bridges and tunnels, as well as cuts and related geological features. More likely, given the fact that the captions were typed and the photographs professionally mounted and bound, and include the natural beauty, people and industries of the region in general, they may have been prepared as a "promotional video" to attract business and industry. Aside from the captions, which are given verbatim below, there is no identification of the subject matter or the photographer.

Included are a number of photographs of people, both individuals and groups, and including African-Americans. Given the premise above, the people depicted include both officials, workers, and their families, as well as various local business or social groups and organizations. A number of the photographs of people were taken in front of their homes, which affords the opportunity to also study the local architecture and the condition of the housing, as well as personal details such as dress.

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library