

FROM HARD COPY TO THE INTERNET

Greater Cincinnati ARMA

Presented by

Cindy Manz

From Hard Copy to the Internet

The Construction Photographic Collection:

- ▣ Documented each step/phase of construction
- ▣ Contains over 4000 photographs
- ▣ Covers time period of 1915-1932

From Hard Copy to the Internet

- ▣ The great flood of March 1913, was the region's greatest natural disaster, killing more than 360 people and causing more than \$100 million in damages (\$2 billion in today's economy). After the flood, the Dayton community vowed "never again." Out of that promise sprung the Miami Conservancy District (MCD). MCD built a system that provides flood protection for the region including five dry dams and about 55 miles of levee, protecting 10 cities along the Great Miami River from Piqua to Hamilton.

From Hard Copy to the Internet

▣ Photographic Collection Background:

During the construction of the MCD flood control system, a photographer was assigned to each of the dams, and the cities where channel improvements were made and levees built.

From Hard Copy to the Internet

In the field photographers:

- Used glass negatives
- Marked negatives with job number
- Noted date and
- Wrote descriptions

From Hard Copy to the Internet

- ▣ Examples of Job numbers:
- ▣ Job 1 – Germantown Dam on Twin Creek
- ▣ Job 2 – Englewood Dam on the Stillwater River
- ▣ Job 3 – Lockington Dam on Loramie Creek
- ▣ Job 4 – Taylorsville Dam on Great Miami River
- ▣ Job 5 - Huffman on Mad River
- ▣ Jobs 37 thru 40 – Troy
- ▣ Job 41 thru 46 - Dayton

From Hard Copy to the Internet

- ▣ At the end of the day photographers:
 - Reviewed glass negatives
 - Noted unique identifier on negatives
 - ▣ Job number + sequential number + date
 - Hand written descriptions were check and transcribed onto index cards
 - Negatives were developed
 - Prints filed by job number
 - Descriptions filed by sequential number

From Hard Copy to the Internet



From Hard Copy to the Internet

Fast forward to 1934

• indicates missing negative PHOTO INDEX 3 means glass negative

1

No.	Desk	Page							
300			326	12	133	350 C	1	4	
301			327	-	134	- D	-	5	
302			328	-	118	- E	-	6	
303			329	-	135	- F	-	7	
304			- A	-	136	351	-	69	
305			330	-	137	352	-	8	
306			- A	-	138	- A	2	42	
307			331	-	119	- B	-	43	
308			332	-	120	- C	-	44	
309			333	-	139	- D	-	45	
310			334	-	140	- E	-	46	
311			335	-	121	- F	-	47	
312			336	-	141	- G	-	48	
313	5	76	337	-	122	- H	-	49	
314	17	50	- A	-	142	- J	-	50	
315	7	94	338	6	1	353	1	9	
- A	-	95	339	-	2	354	-	70	
- B	-	96	- A	-	3	355	-	10	
- C	-	97	- B	-	4	356	-	11	
316			340	-	5	357	5	77	
- A	11	1	341	-	6	358	-	78	
- B	-	2	342	-	7	359	-	79	
- C	-	3	343	-	8	360	-	80	
317	16	29	344	-	9	361	3	1	
318	18	56	345	-	10	362	-	2	
- A	-	57	346	10	73	363	-	3	
- B	-	58	- A	-	74	364	-	4	
319g			- B	-	75	365	-	136	
320g			347	8	2	366	18	115	
321g			348	-	58	367	-	116	
322g			349	-	3	368	-	117	
323	8	1	350	1	1	369	-	118	
324	7	98	- A	-	2	370	-	119	
325	-	99	- B	-	3	371	-	120	

From Hard Copy to Internet

- ▣ Fast forward- 1960s-70s
 - Index cards retyped onto 8-1/2 x 11 sheets and put into a binder keeping the sequential photo number order.
 - Also created
 - ▣ Photograph Index
 - ▣ Table of Contents for “Views in the Miami Valley” Volumes 1 and 2
 - ▣ Photo Album Index
 - ▣ Job number list

From Hard Copy to the Internet

Description of NCD Construction Photographs

Page 23

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
311	Hamilton	11-26-17	Looking south along south "A" Street from a point just south of Main Street.
312	Hamilton	11-26-17	Looking north along south "A" Street from 50 feet south of Ross Street.
313	2-Englewood Dayton, Toledo and Chicago R.R.	2-13-18	bridge over Stillwater River near Big Bend between Ludlow Falls and Pleasant Hill.
314	42-Dayton Washington Street to Big Four R.R.	2-12-18	Miami River in improved conditions. Looking upstream at old Cincinnati Street Bridge at Miller's Ford. Bridge carried out in 1913 was replaced by light timber trusses which were carried out by ice jam just before this picture was taken. Old cableway tower used by Gephart & Kline to be seen in distance.
315	3-Lockington Section 9 - camp.	2-27-18	Looking southeast from brick farm house just below dam toward site of camp.
315a	3-Lockington Section 9 - Camp.	5-10-18	Camp road in foreground. First of camp cottages under construction.
315b	3-Lockington Section 9 - Camp.	6-18-18	Camp cottages under construction.
315c	3-Lockington Section 9 camp.	7-12-18	Camp cottages being constructed.
316	-	-	-
316a	5-Huffman	3-7-18	Views before construction. View of Mad River channel above the dam and a part of the basin from hillside at south end of dam.
316b	5-Huffman	3-7-18	View of south edge of basin from hillside at the south end of dam before construction.

From Hard Copy to the Internet

In 1975 the original nitrate and glass plate negatives were placed in the Wright State Archives.

In 1983 Wright State University received a federal grant for \$9,800 from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission of the National Archives.

The grant was used to restore and microfilm the nitrate and glass negatives.

From Hard Copy to the Internet

- ▣ By mid-1980s the Construction Photographic Collection consisted of:
 - Prints in photo albums by job #
 - Microfilm of prints by photo #
 - Description index by photo #
 - Photo Album Index
 - Job Number List

From Hard Copy to Internet

Time for some detective work.....



From Hard Copy to the Internet

Fast forward mid-1990s

- ▣ The Goal -
 - Provide users with easy access to historical information in one location
- ▣ The challenge -
 - Integrate the
 - ▣ Photographs
 - ▣ Album index
 - ▣ Descriptions

From Hard Copy to the Internet

- ▣ The Plan...2002
 - Scan the photographs
 - Have searchable descriptions
 - Integrate photographs, descriptions, albums
 - Make available in one location

From Hard Copy to the Internet

- ▣ Spring 2003
 - Description index scanned as OCR - Excel file
 - Photographs scanned

- ▣ While searching became easier – the process still does not meet needs of users

From Hard Copy to Internet

- ▣ Building a database
 - First attempt – export Excel file to Access
 - ▣ Results not exactly great
 - ▣ Inconsistency in Excel file layout
 - Second attempt
 - ▣ Created a test model database
 - ▣ Entered data for ~100 photographs
 - ▣ Tested search capabilities with satisfactory results
 - ▣ Hired temp to begin inputting data

From Hard Copy to Internet

- ▣ Slow going...

Between first week of June and third week of August
2003 only ~third of data entered

Lessons learned ..

Don't hire an employee's daughter as a temp

Make sure quality control is implemented

Learn to say No! to other projects

From Hard Copy to the Internet

- ▣ September 2003 – October 2004
 - Photograph Collection moved to back burner
 - ▣ Little to nothing done on populating database
 - ▣ RM assigned to special project
 - ▣ MCD moved back to newly renovated headquarters

- ▣ Will this goal ever be achieved?

From Hard Copy to the Internet

- ▣ Mid - 2005
 - Populating the photograph database begins anew – albeit slowly
 - By the end of 2005 another third of the data entered
 - Still had no real way to measure accuracy of data input

- ▣ The light at the end of the tunnel getting the tiniest bit brighter

From Hard Copy to Internet

- ▣ Fast forward to October 2008
 - Finally all the data is entered we now have ..
 - ▣ Job numbers
 - ▣ Locations
 - ▣ Descriptions
 - ▣ Dates
 - ▣ Album and Page numbers
 - Spell check and semi-QC done

All we need now is ... THE MERGER

From Hard Copy to the Internet

- ▣ December 6, 2008 – St. Nicholas delivers
- ▣ Approval for IT to write program merging the photographs with database – finally we're getting somewhere
- ▣ Next step quality check

From Hard Copy to the Internet

- ▣ January – April 2009
 - The data is checked for accuracy of descriptions, dates, job numbers, locations, album and page references.
 - Missing photos are noted
 - IT completes links for website

From Hard Copy to the Internet

- ▣ May 2009 – It's a Go!!!!
 - The Construction Photograph Collection now available on MCD website..
 - Check it out.....

www.miamiconservancy.org/resources