

MS 724 ANDREW JAMES BARCLAY PHOTOGRAPHS AND PAPERS

1877-1941. 1 box + 1 half box + 5 oversize boxes

PROVENANCE Gift of Ronald Barclay (387-2339), 2016

HISTORICAL INFORMATION Alexander J. Barclay was born on March 13, 1871 in Rome, New York. He was first employed by SP in May 1891 as a chainman and camp boss. After a series of other jobs with Southern Pacific, including inspector, draftsman, instrument man, and leveler, Barclay became an assistant engineer in 1897. He served under Chief Engineer William Hood in January 1905 during the construction of Fallon Railway and from 1909 to 1917 worked as the Assistant Engineer in charge of construction on the Central Pacific 2nd mainline track project. Between 1918 and 1923, when he was laid off by the SP railroad due to lack of construction projects, Mr. Barclay worked on various public and private projects such as building a pier at Manhattan Beach and a filtration tank for the City of Sacramento water system. In 1923, he was recalled to work for SP as a construction engineer. His last SP project was building the Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal between 1933 and 1940.

In addition to his career with Southern Pacific, Mr. Barclay was the Mayor of Auburn between 1913-1917, a member of several masonic bodies, and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Mr. Barclay died on May 25, 1950 in Alameda, California.

Filing Location: Statewide Museum Collections Center I2.208.Q7-Q8 ID 8297

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Series 1. Photographs

The majority of over 1,500 black-and-white photographs arranged into six albums, plus a few loose ones depict construction work on several projects for which Mr. Barclay was Southern Pacific's supervising field engineer. Many photos were taken and printed by professional photographers, either in private business local to the project or employed by Southern Pacific. Some apparently were taken by Mr. Barclay himself. Many of the latter are general scenic views not showing railroad activity.

The major construction projects included in the Barclay photographs are the second main track from Rocklin to Colfax, Colfax to Blue Canon, and Winsted to Lawton (1909-1916); Susanville-Lassen Branch (1916-1918); and the new Phoenix main line between Welton and Picacho, Arizona (1924-1926). Many secondary projects are also included.

These photographs are arranged in six photo albums made of coarse black sheets bound in board covers. Many photos were tightly glued to the black sheets and could not be removed. These photos remain attached to the sheets (with any excess sheet material trimmed and discarded). Photos attached by corner ears were removed and the sheets discarded.

All photos have been segregated in accordance with the album in which they were attached. There were six albums plus about 25 loose photos not attached in a specific album. The albums were generally arranged by subject matter with some overlap. All identifying writing on album sheets has been retained. Some photos do not have descriptive data.

A photocopy of each photo has been made to facilitate patron searches and browsing. Binders containing these photocopies are available in the Reference Room.

BOX LIST

Box 1 Photographs of construction scenes, W.A. Bechtel and J.H. Maxey subcontractors, in Arizona and San Francisco, circa 1920s

Box 2 Photographs include: Sacramento filtration plant, 1921 and Summit construction of 2nd track, 1924, quarries, bridges, Mr. Marsh's private car, photographs of Mr. Marsh, Santa Ynez River Bridge, Nevada, outfit cars, construction train "West of Reno", portrait of office forces in Reno and Auburn.

Box 3 Photographs of Arizona construction

Box 4 Central Pacific reconstruction, Rocklin to of 2nd set of tracks, Erickson & Petterson contractors, excellent photographs of the construction process and of the workers taken by photography studio Moore, Nevada City & Grass Valley.

Box 5 Photographs of the construction of the Central Pacific Railway, Klamath Falls to Alturas, Oregon, 1929-1929, some taken by Southern Pacific company photographer Homer Fish and others taken by W.H. Moulthrop, Office and Field Manager, SP Engineering Department. There are six photographs taken marking the grave sites of two unknown Native American fighters unearthed during construction.

Box 6 Construction photographs of second track, 1909-1912. Many photographs by C.M. Kurtz. Six by photography studio Moore, Nevada & Grass Valley. Personal photographs include one of Andrew S. Barclay, Andrew's father.

Box 7

Loose photograph subjects include A.J. Barclay, William Hood, SP tunnel No. 1, Wilmington drawbridge, Willamette Pacific tunnel #9.

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Series 2. Personal papers

This series includes a variety of documents from Mr. Barclay's life and career. Includes correspondence, a poem wrote by Barclay's SP gang, a patent claim, a payment record, his school record, and an article about the impact of the construction of the Los Angeles Union Depot on Chinatown. Of particular interest is a letter he received from the Los Angeles Chinatown in Chinese, together with an English translation thanking Mr. Barclay for successfully helping them receive payment Southern Pacific for payment to the Chinese residents for its destruction of Chinatown while constructing the L.A. Union Depot.

BOX LIST

Box 7

Folder 1 Biographical information, 1907, 1939

Folder 2 Claims for a patent request, undated

Folder 3 Correspondence about Ma Piao's employment, 1914-1916

Folder 4 Los Angeles Times, "Chinatown before Southern Pacific," December 3, 1933

Folder 5 Recommendation letter from SP Chief Engineer George W. Boschke, November 30, 1931

Folder 6 Record of Andrew S. Barclay's work for Southern Pacific, 1891-1941

Folder 7 School record, grammar school to Bates Academy in San Rafael, 1877-1891

Folder 8 Script by Dan Rich, "A perfect end of the rainbow is our new union station", May 13, 1939

Folder 9 Thank you letter from the Los Angeles Chinatown, plus translation, July 19, 1940

Folder 10 "To the boss from the gang", December 1938

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