

Archival Collection Finding Aid

Name/Title:	William F. Adams Collection
Subject(s)	logging photographs
Archival Collection #:	40
Accession #:	1990.43
Source:	Buddy J. Adams
Date Acquired:	5/12/1990
Span Dates:	c. 1880 - 1900
Processor(s):	Gerard M. Adams, Jeanne Larsen

Abstract:

This is a collection of logging photographs from the Grand Rapids area in the late 1800s.

History:

William F. Adams' parents, William R. and Nettie, moved to Mecosta, MI from the Horsehead Lake region of northern New York. William R. also worked in logging camps, losing 3 fingers in a shingle mill. William F. married Margaret Eleanor Smith (1885-????), of Newaygo and the both worked in logging camps before retiring to a farm 3 miles north of Mecosta. Maragaret Adams was still alive at the time this collection was processed, aged 105, and living in Orlando, FL. Photos were passed on to Henry Franklin Adams, (1907-????), Buddy Junior Adams (1940-????), and to the Public Museum through Gerard Matthew Adams. Henry F. Adams spent much of his youth in logging camps, by that time (1910s) a rapidly declining industry because of the depletion of the natural resource.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of 29 photographs associated with William Franklin Adams, 1883-1967. The photos depict various settings related to the lumber and logging industry in Western Michigan (specifically that occurring in the Grand River Valley around what was Slocum's Grove, a small logging site approximately 20 miles northwest of Grand Rapids). Visuals include a general store interior, sawmill interiors and exteriors, sawmill workers, logging camp scenes, cola/drying kilns, log stacks, horse-drawn wood trucks, and logging and mill crew group shots. In addition, the collection includes a Christmas photo of William F. Adams' parents, William Ralph and Nettie, dated 1925, taken at their farm in Mecosta, MI.

Series Descriptions:

No.	Series Name	Description
I.	Photographs	Logging camp scenes, 1880-1910. Consists of 29 photographs depicting various visuals of lumber processing, the majority of which are located at Slocum's Grove (now a ghost town).
II.	Negatives	3 envelopes consisting of negatives of the above 29 photographs. Negatives were made and retained by the Museum when reprints were made of the originals at donor's request.

Container List:

Container	Folder	Series	Description of Contents	Dates	Count
Box 1	1	Photographs	Men in cars	1880-1910	3
	2	Photographs	Logging camp	1880-1910	3
	3	Photographs	Planing mill	1880-1910	4
	4	Photographs	Miscellaneous	1880-1910	3

5	Photographs	Sawmill at Slocum	1880-1910	4
6	Photographs	Lumber yard at Slocum	1880-1910	4
7	Photographs	Coal kilns at Slocum	1880-1910	2
8	Photographs	Misc. Slocum	1880-1910	3
9	Photographs	General store/town Slocum	1880-1910	2
10	Photographs	Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Adams	1925	1
11	Negatives	Negatives of above	1880-1910	29