JOHN CHISLETT
PICTORIAL PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1900–CA. 1920

Collection Information
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Cataloging Information

Processed by
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 OVB Photographs box

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1900–ca. 1920

PROVENANCE: Swann Galleries, New York; Christie’s, New York, Stephen T. Rose, Indianapolis

RESTRICTIONS: None

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REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:


NOTES: This is an artificial collection.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The photographer, John Chislett was born 6 February 1856 in Dubuque, Iowa. His father, Frederick W. Chislett was born in England (1827–99) and came to America as a child with his family. Frederick spent his formative years in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he met and married Margaret Dwight Edwards. In 1853 they moved to Dubuque, Iowa where he operated a hardware business.

Frederick’s father, also named John Chislett was a noted architect and landscape designer in Pittsburgh. The elder John Chislett was hired by a group of prominent Indianapolis citizens to plan a new cemetery for the growing community. He selected Strawberry Hill, now known as Crown Hill, as the ideal site. He also recommended that his son Frederick be appointed Crown Hill’s first superintendent. Frederick and the family left Dubuque and arrived in Indianapolis on 31 December 1863.

The younger John Chislett began working at Crown Hill Cemetery in 1876 and eventually became the assistant superintendent. When his father died in 1899 he was appointed superintendent. His mother died in 1910 and he left Indianapolis sometime after her death and moved to Pittsburgh. Later in 1931 he moved to La Jolla, California where he died in 1938 at the age of 82. Chislett never married and is buried at Crown Hill with other members of his family.

Recognized as a noted pictorialist photographer, John Chislett was active in Indianapolis from the 1890s to 1918. His name is listed as an exhibitor in the Photographic Club exhibit catalogs for the Art Association of Indianapolis beginning in 1903. His name also appears in other exhibit catalogs, among them the Salon Club of America, an organization devoted to promoting regional pictorialist photography clubs. The latest exhibit catalog found where his name appears is the 1918 Fifth Annual Pittsburgh Salon of Photography. His photographs won numerous awards and were reproduced in photographic journals of the time. Today his photographs are in collections at the National Museum of American Art, the Addison Gallery of American Art, and the Hallmark Collection at the Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, Missouri.

Sources:


George Eastman House database: http://www.geh.org/


Smithsonian American Art Museum: http://americanart.si.edu
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is comprised of 22 pictorial photographs taken by Indiana photographer John Chislett. They were purchased by the Indiana Historical Society between 1991 and 1995.

Made during the late nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries, the photographs are in the impressionistic and soft focus pictorialist style popular among photographers of that time. Most of the photographs appear to be Indiana landscapes. One seascape photograph is identified on the verso as being taken in Maine in 1903. It is assumed the other seascapes are in the same vicinity.

The photographs are arranged in three series according to subject matter:

Series 1: Landscapes
Series 2: Seascapes
Series 3: Landscapes with People

Each photograph is listed in the Contents section of the collection guide with the title, process, size, and some dates as supplied by the dealers at the time of purchase. Information in square brackets [ ] was supplied by the processor.
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Landscapes

CONTENTS

Title: House and Shadows
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 9 ½ x 7 ½ in.

Title: Country House in Autumn
Process: Cyanotype,
Size: 7 x 9 ½ in.

Title: Covered Bridge
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 7 ¼ x 9 ¼ in.

Title: The Pond
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 7 x 9 ½ in.

Title: Sunlight Through Trees
Process: Platinum print, penciled notations on verso
Size: 7 ½ x 9 ½ in.
Date: ca. 1900

Title: Tree Study
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 9 ½ x 7 ½ in.
Date: 1910

Title: Trees and Reflections
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 9 x 7 1/8 in.
Date: ca. 1910

Title: Woods in Winter
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 7 ½ x 9 ½ in.
Title: *Snowy Scene* [view of canal]
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 7 ½ x 9 ½ in.

Title: *Winter Trees*
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 9 ½ x 7 ½ in.

Title: *Winter Tree*
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 9 ½ x 7 ¼ in.

Title: *Frozen Pond*
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 9 ½ x 7 in.

Title: *Cloud Study at Dusk*
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 5 x 9 ½ in.
Date: ca. 1900

**Series 2: Seascapes**

CONTENTS

Title: *Gott Island, Mt. Desert 1903* [on verso]
[Scene in Maine, tide is out with stranded boats]
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 7 ½ x 9 ½ in.
Date: 1903

Title: *Rowboats on Beach*
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 7 ½ x 9 in.

Title: *Harbor Scene*
Process: Platinum Print,
Size: 9 ½ x 7 ½ in.

Title: *Seascape*
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 7 ½ x 9 ½ in.
Date: ca. 1905
Title: Sea Grasses
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 7 ½ x 9 ½ in.

CONTAINER
OVB Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 18

Series 3: Landscapes with People

CONTENTS
Title: Apple Blossoms [woman and tree]
Process: Platinum Print
Size: 7 ¼ x 9 in.

Title: Young Man With a Hay Rake
Process: [Platinum Print]
Size: 7 ½ x 9 in.
[Initials J.R.C. on verso]

Title: The Reaper
Process: [Platinum Print]
Size: 7 ½ x 9 1/2 in.

Title: Woman Sweeping
Process: Platinum Print,
Size: 7 ¼ x 9 in.
Date: ca. 1902

CONTAINER
OVB Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 19

OVB Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 20

OVB Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 21

OVB Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 22
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0280).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.