

The Raymond E. Holland Regional & Industrial History Collection

Carol M. Front

From its invention in 1839, photography has provided the historian with a record of people, scenes, and events unlike any other. As a medium that has been accessible to both artists and the masses, photography has produced a body of work that is voluminous, offering insights into every aspect of life. As a result, it is not only the Matthew Bradys or William Raus whose work holds historical importance, but also that of the countless anonymous photographers who were drawn by their curiosity and interests to document their times.

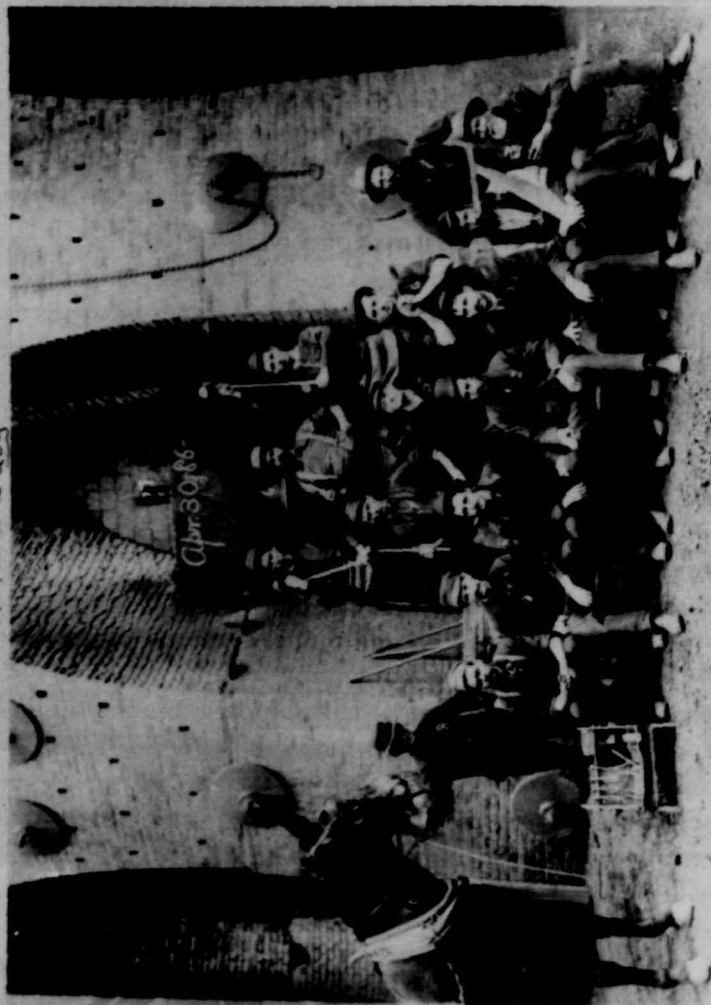
The Raymond E. Holland Regional & Industrial History Collection, one of the finest of its kind, is dedicated to preserving the historical photography of Pennsylvania. The collection's works, numbering in the thousands, are centered primarily around the industries and towns of the northeastern portion of the state. Among its holdings are large mounted photographs, stereoviews (more than 500 of Mauch Chunk alone), panoramas, cartes de visite, cabinet cards, real photo post cards, and photographic albums, from family collections to records maintained by industries and construction companies. Included are works of many photographers of note—Rau, Mather, Bunnell, Hoffman, and Hensel, to name a few—as well as the products of commercial studios and anonymous photographers.

Raymond Holland, the founder and CEO of Holiday Hair Corporation in Allentown, is an avid and insightful collector already noted for putting together a world-class collection of automotive art now housed in California. Unlike the automotive collection, which had its roots in Europe, this important archive affords Mr. Holland the opportunity to learn first-hand about the historical origins and rich heritage of Pennsylvania. His initial interest in regional history was sparked by visits to Mauch Chunk and, later, his research of the town's roots in the industrial revolution in Pennsylvania. A product of his passion for Pennsylvania history, the collection has grown into an important repository of primary source materials.

The current archives includes works from nearly every eastern Pennsylvania county, from Dauphin to Northampton, Chester to Luzerne, with especially large collections representing the Delaware Water Gap, Mauch Chunk, and Lehigh Valley regions, as well as surrounding Bucks, Berks, Carbon, and Schuylkill counties. The geographic borders of the collection, however, are not absolutely defined, and as a result there are also materials from locales in western Pennsylvania as well as New Jersey and New York.

The Holland Collection, whose total holdings exceed those of most local

#5 Furnace - of Glendon Iron Co
Glendon Penna.
17-Fido, a dog



3-B. Smith.
A. C. KIMPKER 4-F. Bruner.
17-Bawughren 5-B. Brasington
2-O. Gilbert 6-N. A. BUS.
OUT DOOR PHOTOGRAPHER. 7-J. Thomas 8-C. Conoley 10-R. Lippes 12-J. Mock 14-J. Eppner 16-MateWile.
11-H. Thomas 13-M. Walman 15-E. Palmer
127 S. FIFTH ST. ALLENTOWN, PA.

Figure 1: #5 Furnace of Glendon Iron Company, Northampton County, Easton, PA

Courtesy of Raymond E. Holland Collection

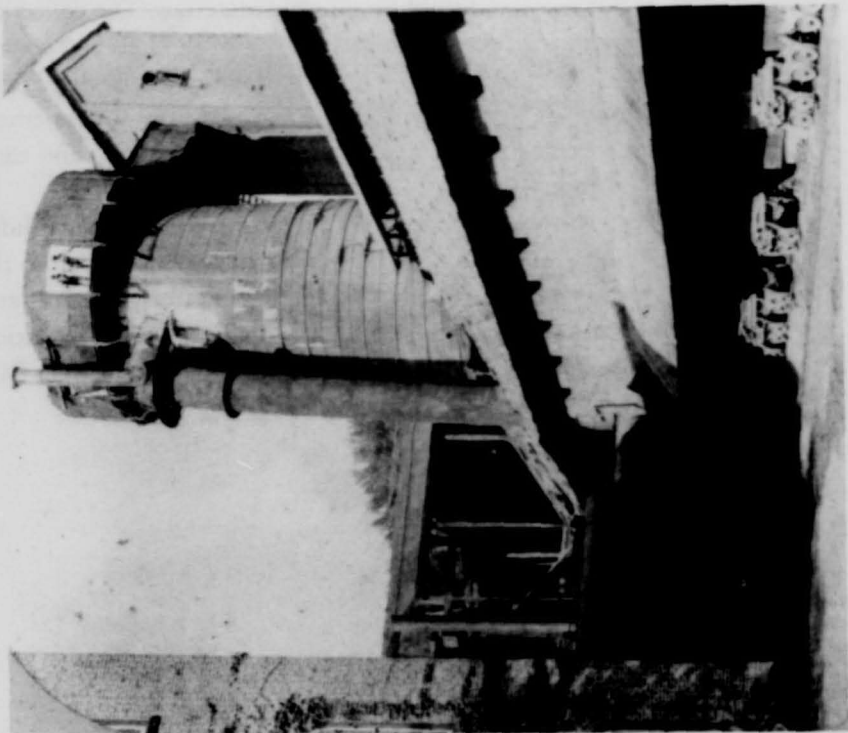


Figure 3: Unknown Photographer. Durham Furnace, Bucks County, Durham, PA, (Half of original stereo view).

Courtesy of Raymond E. Holland Collection

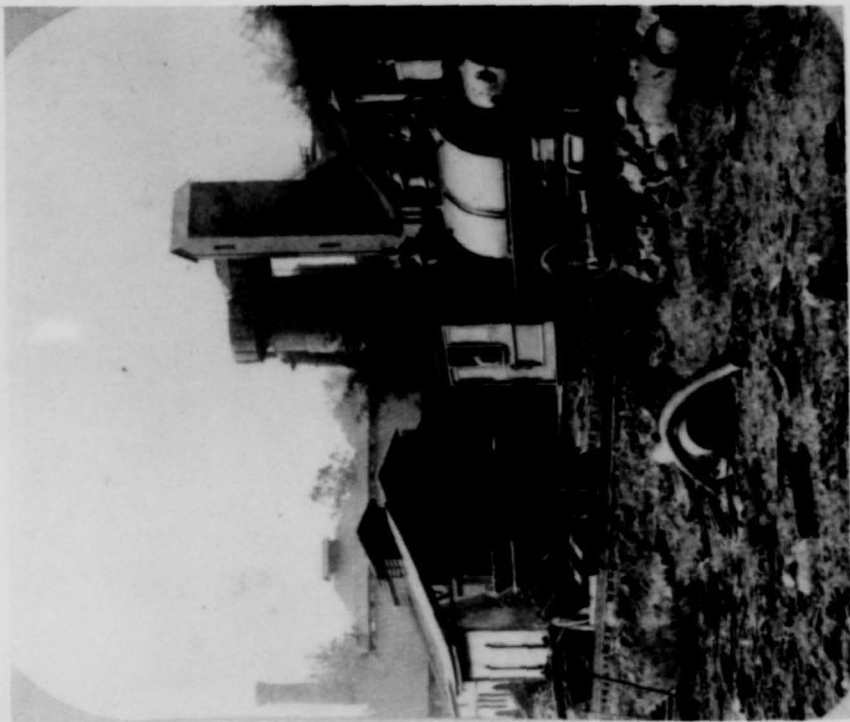


Figure 2: Unknown Photographer. Durham Furnace, Bucks County, Durham, PA, (Half of original stereo view).

historical societies, is not restricted to photographic materials. The collection also includes school maps; birds-eye views of Pennsylvania cities and towns, deeds, and numerous books, from histories and biographies to city directories and commercial publications. In addition, there is a vast array of ephemera documenting commerce, transportation, and other aspects of 19th and early 20th century life in the state's cities and small towns.

The Holland Collection, which was started in 1990, is housed at Holiday Hair's corporate headquarters in Allentown. While not currently open to the general public, it is readily available by appointment to writers, scholars, and serious students. Works are also available for exhibition. For more information contact Carol Front, Holland Regional & Industrial History Collection, P.O. Box 268, Allentown, PA 18105, (610) 820-4930.

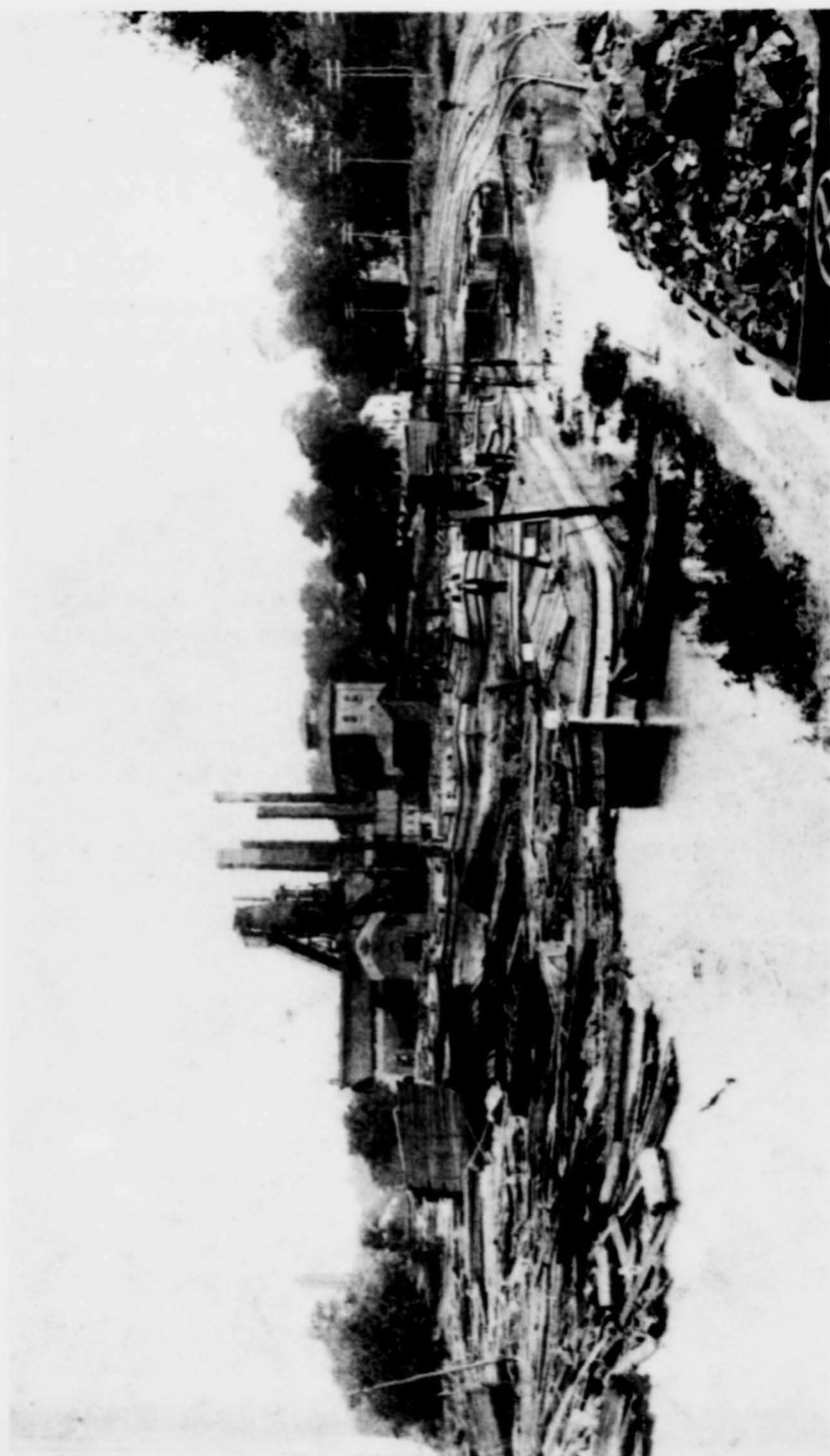


Figure 5: Chickasaw Furnace 1845, (Chickasaw Furnace) 1858