

OHRAB Grant Final Report

Institution/Organization Name: American Industrial Mining Company Museum

Project Title: Organization and Preservation of Archival Materials from the Atlas Car & Manufacturing

Company

Project Director:

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Summary of Project Activities and Accomplishments

The American Industrial Mining Company Museum (AIMCO) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, established in 2015 to support and conduct education information activities to increase public awareness of the contribution of mining and industrial equipment to the development of the United States. The goal of this project was to inventory, organize and preserve records, pictures, and catalogs (bulletins) from the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company. The Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company was founded in 1896 in Cleveland, Ohio and made significant contributions to the development of the steel industry, mining industry, and manufacturing in Ohio and throughout the United States, as well as around the globe. Preserving archives, such as these, are essential to document and preserve Ohio's industrial heritage.

Primary outcomes of the project included:

1. Development of an orientation for volunteers to prepare them for handling archival materials.
2. Creation of an inventory for 12.25 cf of Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company catalogs (bulletins), factory equipment builders' photographs, and a handwritten/typed locomotive construction number list, dating from 1907 to 1987.
3. Physical preservation of the records and materials in Hollinger Metal Edge acid-free archival boxes, organization of the archives of the Atlas Car & Manufacturing as a special collection on a lateral metal shelving unit in the library of the American Industrial Mining Company Museum.
4. Provision of a mechanism for public access to the archived materials via the AIMCO website: www.americanindustrialmining.com

Titles, series titles, dates and cubic footage/number of images scanned, of records addressed by your project.

Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company manufactured industrial equipment for: steel mills, coal mining, ceramic industry, powder mills, power generation, hard rock mining, smelters, railroads, industrial locomotives, forklifts, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, nuclear, quarries and exports. Records archived by this project were:

1. Atlas Car & Manufacturing Catalogs (Bulletins) 1910 – 1979
2. Construction Number List (serial numbers) (1907 – 1987)

Total cubic footage processed was: 12.25 cf

Copies of catalog entities and other finding aids (these might include screen shots, links, and before and after photos), if applicable

Prior to the receipt of this grant, the archives of the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company were stored in plastic tubs and were not catalogued, making it difficult to access the historical information contained in these records. Now, the records have been preserved in archival boxes and arranged on shelving as a special collection (see Appendix A for before and after photos). Catalog entries were made in Past Perfect software to identify the special collection of the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company (see Appendix B for screen shot of catalog entries).

In the original grant proposal, AIMCO had planned to create a schedule for public access to the collection in the AIMCO library. This would require the public to physically be onsite at the AIMCO Museum Library to access the archived materials. The finding aid that was produced, however, went far beyond our original goals and provides a searchable database that no longer requires an individual to physically review the materials onsite. This process expanded public access to the archives. Please refer to Appendix C for a screenshot of the searchable database that was created.

Narrative of self-assessment

Project goals were to inventory, organize and preserve records, pictures, and catalogs from the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company. Despite initial challenges due to a change in federal guidelines, which required the organization to obtain a unique entity identifier number (UEI), the project was able to meet its goals within the timeline for the grant. Obstacles were encountered, however, in organizing the catalogs (bulletins) of the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company. Many of the catalogs were not dated, making it difficult to place them in their original order. Research was conducted to compare records of construction number lists with catalogs/bulletins to determine the approximate chronological order.

Rather than grouping the photo albums from the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company as a basic collection entry, AIMCO took the opportunity to expand the process through creation of a separate excel file to document details of the individual photos. Each photo had 14 cells of data information including photo number, equipment description, customer, city, state/province, country shipped to, construction number, shop order number, catalog equipment number, subject, date, person entering data, and photography company. A total of 56,000 data points were created in this process, which creates a significant searchable data base for this company. This was

challenging since some of the early pictures were not dated and/or had no caption. These pictures were cross referenced with the construction number list to obtain sufficient information for an archive entry. A database, using Excel, was then developed to catalog each entry. This process more than tripled the expected hours initially calculated to complete the project, but will provide a more usable, searchable collection. The dedication of the volunteers was instrumental in the success of this project. A screenshot of the inventory spread sheet is provided in Appendix C. The initial goal was to enter this inventory, when completed, into Past Perfect Software. A basic entry was created in Past Perfect Software to record the collection (see Appendix D for screen shot). The expanded, searchable data base on Excel provides in depth historical industrial and mining information which far exceeds the original goals of this project.

Evaluation of the Project's Impact

Although the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company had a significant impact on the industrial development of Ohio, a general internet search resulted in very limited information regarding this company. Archiving the records of this company will preserve an important component of the industrial development of Ohio.

Selected materials from the archives of the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company are featured on the American Industrial Mining Company (AIMCO) website, <http://www.americanindustrialmining.com/atlas-car-and-manufacturing-company>. This will increase access for historical research for the public and historians. Since posting the material on the website, inquiries have been received, from as far away as Australia, to access some of the materials.

Another major impact of this project was that AIMCO was able to identify significant historical information related to five locomotives built by Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company that are currently in AIMCO's collection. This process further supports the importance of the preservation of these locomotives.

The process of archiving materials from the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company resulted in uncovering a wealth of historical information regarding the impact of this company on the industrial development, not only of the state of Ohio, but globally as well.

How AIMCO will build upon the success of the project through additional initiatives

Documentation of the archives of the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company represents the initial step in preservation of the industrial history of this company. The next step will involve digitization of the photo collection. This process will be facilitated by the expanded inventory that was created from this project. AIMCO will collaborate with industrial museums, such as National Museum of Industrial History (Bethlehem, Pa), Rivers of Steel Carrie Furnace (Pittsburgh, Pa), Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark (Birmingham, AL), Ohio History Connection (Columbus, Oh), Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park (Lithgow, Australia), National Iron & Steel Museum (Coatesville, Pa), Baltimore Museum of Industry (Baltimore, Md), Society of Industrial Archeology, Museum of Science and Industry (Chicago, IL), Michigan Iron Industry Museum (Negaunee, Mi), Britannia Mine Museum (British Columbia, Canada), Uhrichsville Clay Museum (Uhrichsville, Oh), Smithsonian Institution National Museum of American History (Washington DC), Museum of the City of New York (New York, Ny), Hagley

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Museum (Wilmington, De), National Museum of the United States Navy (Washington DC), Jerome State Historic Park (Jerome, Az), Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation (Dearborn, Mi). This collaboration will provide a mechanism for these museums to access a detailed history of equipment that is currently on display or in service at these geographical locations.

Project Expenses

Some modifications were required from the original projected budget. Costs for shelving have increased substantially since the original budget was developed. Based on the original estimate, only one shelving unit was able to be ordered vs. two units.

When calculating the initial budget, AIMCO also did not include the additional hour required by the Project Director to conduct the orientation to handling of archival materials.

Additional volunteer hours for developing the extended database were not computed for the final report since this was not part of the original proposal and occurred secondary to the project.

A copy of the receipts for all supplies have been attached as a separate file to this report.

Supplies and equipment

Line item	Date	Vendor	Qty	Material Description	Cost
1	10/28/22	Hollinger Metal Edge	54	12.5 x 9.5x 1.5 AB Drop front box	\$612.90
2	10/28/22	Hollinger Metal Edge	5	12 pack polyester label holders	\$50.50
3	10/28/22	Hollinger Metal Edge	1	1 roll of label protectors 250/pk	\$24.24
4	10/28/22	Hollinger Metal Edge	1	Shipping	\$133.00
5	12/30/22	Vevor		Shelving unit including shipping	\$205.00
				Material Total Cost	\$1,025.64

Salary and wages

Individual	Position	Time	Total Salary
Pete Jedlicka	Project Director	21 hrs	\$599.54
			Total \$599.54

Matching Labor Salary

Individual	Position	Time	Total Salary
Volunteer #1	volunteer	36 hrs.	\$1032.04
Volunteer #2	volunteer	36 hrs.	\$1032.04
			Total \$2, 062.08

The tables above are based on the initial grant request and projected total cost of \$3,676.51. Actual project expenses listed in the tables for materials, labor and matching labor was \$3687.66. This represents a difference of \$11.15 over budget from the projected budget. AIMCO is assuming this cost.

*Note: Additional labor costs for processing the photo albums were not listed in the tables above since this was not included as a goal in the initial project proposal. This was added as the project unfolded. Each photo album required an average of 7 hrs. to process and enter each individual photograph in the database. A total of 40 photo albums were archived. Total actual hours for the volunteers, therefore, was 280. Although this exceeds the projected budget, AIMCO, thanks to the dedication of the volunteers, had assumed the over budget in labor costs.

Publicity and Crediting

The project was promoted by AIMCO through several different types of media. An entire page on the AIMCO website has been dedicated to the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company (<http://www.americanindustrialmining.com/atlas-car-and-manufacturing-company>). Announcement of the grant was included on this page, and a link to the Final Report will also be provided on this site. An announcement of the project was also made on the AIMCO Facebook page with the statement, "Supported in part by an award from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publication and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration." (see [AIMCO Facebook Page](#)) In addition to the above posts and material posted on social media, a press release was sent to the Newark Advocate to announce receipt of the grant. A copy of the release is provided in Appendix D.

Appendix A

Before/After Photos

Records/Catalogs Before Archiving



Records/Catalogs After Archiving



Appendix B

Screen Shot of Catalog Entry in Past Perfect Software

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Appendix C

Screen Shot of Searchable Database

	Description	Consignee	City	State / Province	Country	Construction Number	Shop Order Number	Equipment Cat Number	Model	Subject	Approx year of image	Entered by	Photography company
2834	yard capacity, (one of eighteen ordered). See back of photograph for technical information	Eastern Clay Products Company	Elfort	OH	USA		F4614			Granby mine car		Jedlicka 01-24-23	
2835	40 Ton capacity storage battery transfer flat car, standard gauge, designed to pull a trailer car. See back of photograph for technical information	Bethlehem Steel Company	Lackawanna	NY	USA	2538, 2539, 2540, 2541	F4675		Steel mill	S.B. Flat car	1945	Pete Jedlicka 01-24-23	
2836	1 Ton trolley locomotive for pulling kiln cars, 440 volt 3 phase traction motor. See back of photograph for technical information	Dominion Minerals, Inc.	Piney River	VA	USA		F5316			Trolley locomotive		Pete Jedlicka 01-24-23	
2837	Gable bottom dump side delivery car, 30 cubic foot capacity, 24 inch gauge. See back of photograph for technical	The Aviation Corporation Spencer Heater Division	Williamsport	PA	USA		F5731			Gable bottom dump car		Pete Jedlicka 01-24-23	
2838	40 Ton capacity storage battery transfer flat car, standard gauge, designed to pull a trailer car. See back of photograph for technical information	Bethlehem Steel Company	Lackawanna	NY	USA	2538, 2539, 2540, 2541	F4675		Steel mill	S.B. Flat car	1945	Pete Jedlicka 01-24-23	
2839	6 Ton gable side dump quarry car for loading lime kiln. See back of photograph for technical information	Kelly Island Lime and Transport Company	Marblehead	OH	USA		F5409			Gable bottom dump car		Pete Jedlicka 01-24-23	
2840	1-11/2 Ton Type J storage battery trammer locomotive, 18 inch gauge, in service with a trip of ore cars, photograph taken in 1946. See back of photograph for technical information	EL Paso Mines, Inc.	Cripple Creek	CO	USA	2554	F4780	No. P-2873	Type J	S.B. Locomotive	1946	Pete Jedlicka 01-24-23	

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Appendix D

Publicity

Copy of Press Release submitted to the Newark Advocate

Newark Advocate Press Release

From: American Industrial Mining Company Museum

Contact: Pete Jedlicka

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Phone: 614-571-7245

Buckeye Lake, Ohio: Grant Helps to Support Preservation of the History of Mining and Manufacturing in Ohio

The American Industrial Mining Company Museum (AIMCO) is a 501C3 nonprofit that supports and conducts education, information activities to increase public awareness of the contribution of mining and industrial equipment to the development of the United States. AIMCO announces a new project to organize and preserve historical records related to the Atlas Car & Manufacturing Company, a primary company in Ohio that manufactured mining and industrial equipment from 1886 through the 1980's. The company had an impact on the industrial and mining industries, not only in Ohio but throughout the United States. Preserving archives, such as these, are essential to document and preserve Ohio's industrial heritage. This project is supported in part by an award from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration. AIMCO is a member of the American Association for State and Local History and collaborates with the National Museum of Industrial History (a Smithsonian Affiliate. More information can be found on their website at <http://americanindustrialmining.com>

