

Ashokan Reservoir Collection

Repository: Olive Free Library 4033 NY-28A, West Shokan, NY 12494

Title: Ashokan Reservoir Collection

Date: 1861-1980

Extent: 7 cubic feet

Condition Governing Access: This Collection is available to the public for use. Copyright for all publications and newspapers remain with the publishers. Title 17 of the U.S code applies.

Language: English

Biographical History: The Ashokan Reservoir construction began in 1908 to provide drinking water for the residents of New York City, and was completed in 1915. It is said that 2,300 people were relocated, more than 500 buildings moved or demolished, and 2,600 graves were transferred to other cemeteries. Eleven hamlets were flooded or relocated: Ashton, Boiceville, Brodhead's Bridge, Brown's Station, Glenford, Olive, Olive Bridge, Olive City, Shokan, West Hurley, and West Shokan. A large workforce was required for such an endeavor and they were housed in segregated camps around the area.

Scope and Content: The Ashokan Reservoir Collection consists of photo albums, court testimony, loose photographs, postcards, maps, and annual reports.

Please note that not all dates are inclusive.

Arrangement: The materials are arranged chronologically.

Processing Information: Processed by Melissa McHugh November 2023

Series 1: Board of Water Supply Annual Report

Box 1:

Items: Bound Volumes of the Board of Water Supply's Annual Report
1906, 1909-1912, 1917-1925

Box 2:

Items: Bound Volumes of the Board of Water Supply's Annual Report
1928-1933, 1935-1938, 1948, Board of Water Supply Long Island Sources Vol.1,
Department of Water Supply 72 inch Riveted Steel Pipe Specs, undated.

Series 2: Court Cases Involving the Construction of The Ashokan Reservoir

Box 1:

Items: Court Testimony of Charles Berkey, James O'neill, James McGregor, William Cashin, Hal Truman Beans, Amadeus W. Crabau

Folder 1: Items pertaining to Ulster Delaware Bluestone

Folder 2: "A Tribute to the Engineers of the Board of Water Supply" and "Order Appointing Commissioners"

Box 2:

Court Testimony of Foster Winchell, Charles L Parmelee, John McManus, Ulster Delaware Railroad, Daniel Conroy, James O'neil, Joseph Turner, Addison Dederick, Gilbert Lockwood, James Lockwood, Clarence Row, and James M. Burger

Series 3: Maps, Photographs, and Ephemera

Box 1:

Items: Miscellaneous objects found during a drought on the Reservoir

Box 2:

Panoramic rolled images of the Ashokan Reservoir Construction 1911

Box 3:

Item 1: Photograph Album with Ashokan Reservoir Photographs

Item 2: Photograph Album with Ashokan Reservoir Photographs

Item 3-5: Binders with Ashokan Reservoir Photographs

Item 6: VHS "Deep Water"

Item 7: DVD "Deep Water"

Item 8: CD Ashokan Reservoir Construction Album

Item 9: Album with lists of burial removals
 Item 10: "In Gratitude: A Book of Thanks From New York City For Their Water" Nov. 2017
 Item 11: NYC BWS Civil Engineers Photo CD, 2 copies
 Item 12: Ashokan Reservoir Construction Panoramic Views CD
 Item 13: Ashokan Burial Removals CD
 Folder 1: "Reservoir Songs" February 8, 1907
 Folder 2: "City of New York Additional Water Supply Catskill Aqueduct Inauguration of Construction Near Peekskill, NY" June 20, 1907
 Folder 3: "Catskill Reign of Terror 1907-1917" Officers Carmody and Oakes
 Folder 4: Tribute Books for: Engineers, "Turning First Sod", and Merritt Smith 1907, 1922, 1929
 Folder 5: Sample Account Book Pages of the Cost of Building the Reservoir 1908
 Folder 6: Copies of Published Articles on the Ashokan Reservoir 1908, 1915, 1929, 1991, 1997, 1998
 Folder 7: Items Pertaining to the Removal of Bodies, Buildings, Typed 2 page History, by Arlene Tisch, Small map of Reservoir, and Orrie Lyons Identification card (Laborer) 1909, 1914, 1963
 Folder 8: "Alsen Cement: A Pictorial Book of the Construction" October 1911, 2 Copies
 Folder 9: "Catskill Water Supply, A General Description" January 1913, 3 Copies
 Folder 10: : Report of Board of Water Supply Oct. 12, 1917
 Folder 11: "Catskill Water Supply- A General Description" Oct. 1917
 Folder 12: "The Water Supply of the City of New York" June 1939, 2 Copies
 Folder 13: "The Delaware Water Supply For The City of New York" 1942
 Folder 14: Loose Photographs of Board of Water Supply Workers circa 1950's
 Folder 15: American Water Landmark Designation Oct. 13, 1977
 Folder 16: Sportsman Map 1999
 Folder 17: Loose Photographs of Ashokan Reservoir Construction, Undated
 Folder 18: Postcards and Souvenirs of The Ashokan Reservoir, Undated
 Folder 19: "The Catskill Water System of the City of New York", Undated
 Folder 20: "Ashokan, Account of the Main Dams and Dykes", Undated, 1 original and 2 copies

In Map Cabinet

Drawer 8: Board of Water Supply Maps
 Drawer 9: Board of Water Supply Maps

In Metal Cabinet

Shelf 1: Four Albums Containing a Mixture of Reservoir Construction and Local History