

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the George H. Bissell Papers

GEN MSS 788



by Lisa Conathan

2011

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 788

CREATOR: Bissell, George H. (George Henry), 1821-1884

TITLE: George H. Bissell papers

DATES: 1855-circa 1920 1855-1882

BULK DATES: 1855-1882

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7 Volumes (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of printed material, business records, and photographs that document the Bissell family and the foundations of the American petroleum industry in the 1850s. The collection is bound in seven volumes: two volumes of printed material relating to petroleum and other industries, three volumes of records of the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company and the Adirondack Pulp Mills that document the creation and early growth of the companies, and two Bissell family photograph albums.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bissell>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bissell>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Co. on the Chandler White and Philena Pennell Smith Acquisitions Fund and the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2008.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The George H. Bissell Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

George H. Bissell Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Collection are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Former call number: Uncat MSS 1166.

George H. Bissell, 1821-1884

George H. Bissell was co-founder of the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company, the first petroleum company in the United States, and of the Adirondack Pulp Mills, among many other business ventures.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of printed material, business records, and photographs that document the Bissell family and the foundations of the American petroleum industry in the 1850s. The collection is bound in seven volumes: two volumes of printed material relating to petroleum and other industries, three volumes of records of the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company and the Adirondack Pulp Mills that document the creation and early growth of the companies, and two Bissell family photograph albums.

Printed material in this collection is described in Orbis (Yale's online catalog) and the catalog records can be reviewed by searching for GEN MSS 788 in Call Number (Local).

Collection Contents

b. 1	Sammelband volume of pamphlets relating to petroleum and other industries Includes prospectuses relating to silver mining in Nevada, a marble quarry in Milford, Connecticut, a salt mine in Louisiana, and iron and timber in Pennsylvania.	1856-1866
b. 2	<i>Sketches of Representative Men, North and South</i>	1872
b. 3	Records of the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company	1855
b. 4	Records of the Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company	1855-1861
b. 5	Records of the Adirondack Pulp Mills	1881-1882
b. 6	George H. Bissell family photograph album	circa 1860-circa 1895
b. 7	Pelham St. George Bissell (son of George H. Bissell) and Helen Alsop French Bissell family photograph album	circa 1870-circa 1920

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Businessmen
Businessmen
Industrialists
Industrialists
Lumber trade
Petroleum industry and trade

Genres / Formats

Albumen prints
Photograph albums
Photographic prints

Names

Bissell, George H. (George Henry), 1821-1884

Corporate Bodies

Adirondack Pulp Mills
Pennsylvania Rock Oil Company