

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
David H. Steinberg Streetcar Manuscripts**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Title: The David H. Steinberg Streetcar Manuscripts Collection

Physical Characteristics: 1 storage box

Donated by: David H. Steinberg

Arrangement: Documents are arranged by document type.

Creator: David H. Steinberg

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Sarah Mundy, September 18, 2013

Introduction:

This collection was created and donated by David H. Steinberg. The collection consists of a 318 page manuscript titled “Traction in the Magic City: The Development of Local Public Transportation in Roanoke, Virginia”. The manuscript is a recorded history of trolleys in Roanoke, VA up until 1911. The collection also includes photocopies of trolleys, equipment rosters, and correspondence about donating the collection to the Virginia Room.

Biographical Note:

Rabbi David H. Steinberg created “Traction in the Magic City” to document the history of streetcars in Roanoke, VA. Rabbi Steinberg was born and raised in Chattanooga, TN. He worked as a teacher, then as the owner of Steinberg’s deli in Chattanooga before he became a train conductor for the Chattanooga Choo-Choo in 1972. His interest in trains and transportation led to the creation of this collection. Rabbi Steinberg was only able to document the streetcar history up until 1911 due to poor eyesight and lack of time to finish upon moving to Brooklyn, NY in 1983 to be with the Hasidic Jewish community. In 1984, he married his wife Chava and eventually had a daughter. In NY, he worked at 47th Street Photo until it went bankrupt. He went onto work at Edison Litho and Printing Corp.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of 1 box containing 12 folders. Included in the box are the original manuscript and photocopies of the typed 318 pages, photocopies of trolley photographs, and correspondence about the collection. The manuscript compilation was begun November 8, 1983. The donation was received at the Virginia Room on December 29, 1999.

Container List:

Box 1 of 1

“Traction in the Magic City”, Pgs 1-114 – Folder 1

“Traction in the Magic City”, Pgs 115-214 – Folder 2

“Traction in the Magic City”, Pgs 215-318, Photocopies of articles and photos –
Folder 3

Photocopies of streetcar photographs – Folder 4

Equipment rosters – Folder 5

Correspondence between David Steinberg, Virginia Room, and The Roanoke
Times – Folder 6

Original Manuscript – “Traction in the Magic City”

Book 1, Pgs 1-181 – Folder 7

Book 2, Pgs 182-278 – Folder 8

“Mill Mtn. Incline” – Folder 9

“Proposed But Not Built” – Folder 10

“Radford, VA” – Folder 11

Miscellany – Folder 12