



## Legacy Finding Aid for Manuscript and Photograph Collections

801 K Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

### What are Finding Aids?

Finding aids are narrative guides to archival collections created by the repository to describe the contents of the material. They often provide much more detailed information than can be found in individual catalog records. Contents of finding aids often include short biographies or histories, processing notes, information about the size, scope, and material types included in the collection, guidance on how to navigate the collection, and an index to box and folder contents.

### What are Legacy Finding Aids?

The following document is a legacy finding aid – a guide which has not been updated recently. Information may be outdated, such as the Historical Society’s contact information or exact box numbers for contents’ location within the collection. Legacy finding aids are a product of their times; language and terms may not reflect the Historical Society’s commitment to culturally sensitive and anti-racist language. This guide is provided in “as is” condition for immediate use by the public. This file will be replaced with an updated version when available.

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**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FINDING AID**

**Title:** SP 0086 L. C. Handy Photograph Collection,

**Levin Corbin Handy** (1855?-1932) was Matthew Brady's nephew . When he was only twelve, he began working in the Brady studio. His first job consisted of coating glass plate negatives with a light-sensitive emulsion. Within a few years, he had become a skilled camera operator. In 1871 Levin C. Handy's name first appears in a Washington, D.C. business directory listed as a photographer. The L.C. Handy Studio was located at 494 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC. In the 1880s he formed a partnership with Samuel C. Chester which lasted about four years. In 1883 Chester and Handy were mentioned in Mathew Brady's advertisements. In addition to portraiture, Handy provided photographic services to the Library of Congress and other Federal agencies. He also offered photoduplication services to Library patrons and between 1880 and 1896 he documented the construction of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building.



After Mathew Brady's death on January 15, 1896, his remaining photography files became the property of Levin C. Handy. Handy died in March 1932, leaving his own work and that of his famous uncle to his two daughters, Mrs. Alice H. Cox and Mrs. Mary H. Evans. In 1954 the Library of Congress purchased approximately 10,000 original, duplicate, and copy negatives from Handy's daughters.

(From Library of Congress website, <http://memory.loc.gov/pp/brhchtml/brhcback.html>.)

**Scope and Content:** The L. C. Handy Photograph Collection consists of 71 lantern slides of the Washington area. They include exteriors and interiors of buildings and copies of paintings and prints.

**Donor:** Unknown, 1983.032

**Size:** 0.2 cubic ft. (4 containers)

**Restrictions:** None

## SP 0086 L. C. Handy Photograph Collection

- HA 01 Old Dept of Agriculture
- HA 02 Arlington Cemetery
- HA 03 Flag-draped caskets in snow with guards
- HA 04 Civil War Unknown Soldiers Tomb
- HA 05 Arlington Mansion
- HA 06 Greenough Washington Statue on Capitol Grounds
- HA 07 Capitol—Senate Chambers
- HA 08 Capitol—Supreme Court Room
- HA 09 Capitol at night in snow(1907)
- HA 10 Print of Capitol dome under construction
- HA 11 Library of Congress interior, “Peace” mural by Melchers
- HA 12 Library of Congress Reading Room,
- HA 13 Unidentified room with conference table, fireplace
- HA 14 Statue of Freedom in Smithsonian Arts & Industry Building
- HA 15 Capitol Dome—Interior view
- HA 16 Capitol— Statuary Hall
- HA 17 Capitol— Statuary Hall
- HA 18 Canal at Georgetown
- HA 19 Corcoran Art Gallery—interior
- HA 20 Corcoran Art Gallery
- HA 21 General View from Capitol—Mall and downtown area, Old Post Office under construction
- HA 22 General View—mall and downtown area.
- HA 23 Government Printing Office.
- HA 24 Lafayette Park—Jackson Statue
- HA 25 Library of Congress, Exterior
- HA 26 Library of Congress, Great Hall
- HA 27 Library of Congress, Courtyard
- HA 28 Library of Congress, main hall entrance
- HA 29 Library of Congress, Main Reading Room
- HA 30 Library of Congress, reading room
- HA 31 Library of Congress, front stairs
- HA 32 Library of Congress— statues above reading room
- HA 33 Library of Congress statues above reading room
- HA 34 Library of Congress—book stacks with pneumatic tubes
- HA 35 Library of Congress Interior — Declaration of Independence in case
- HA 36 Library of Congress Interior—Evolution of the Book, Part 1
- HA 37 Library of Congress Interior—Evolution of the Book, Part 2

## SP 0086 L. C. Handy Photograph Collection

- HA 38 Library of Congress—mosaic of Minerva at upper stairway
- HA 39 Library of Congress—“Law” mantle in Congressional reading room
- HA 40 Library of Congress—south corridor, “Poetry”
- HA 41 Bancroft House, 1623 H Street, NW
- HA 42 Old Pension Office
- HA 43 Old Post Office
- HA 44 Potomac River Great Falls
- HA 45 John Rodgers House—Madison Place
- HA 46 General Post Office Building, 7-8<sup>th</sup>, E-F Streets, NW
- HA 47 Lincoln Monument in Springfield, Ill.
- HA 48 Smithsonian Castle
- HA 49 Old State Dept
- HA 50 West Terrace of U.S. Capitol
- HA 51 Patent Office Building
- HA 52 Treasury Dept
- HA 53 US Fish Commission Central Station, 1896
- HA 54 US Naval Observatory Grounds—Massachusetts Ave
- HA 55 Washington Armory 6th and B St. SW
- HA 56 Washington Monument
- HA 57 State Dining Room—White House
- HA 58 Painting above reading room entrance in Library of Congress
- 59-68 Unidentified
- HA 69 Portrait of Stephen Douglass
- HA 70 Unidentified
- HA 71 Arlington Cemetery

Note: Except for HA69, HA 57 through 71 are missing.