

*A Finding Aid to the **Frank Seymour Hersey Collection***

*Date Range: 1891-1939*

*Compiled by Arielle Nathanson,*

*October 2021*

**Summary**

**Creator:** Carole E. Leonard

**Title:** Frank Seymour Hersey Collection

**Dates:** 1891-1939

**Extent:** .42 linear feet, including: 1 Brownie Camera

**Abstract:** The papers of Frank Seymour Hersey, date from 1891 to 1939 and contain: photographic positives, glass plate photographic negatives, resources consulted by Hersey and his publications.

**Language:** English

**Administrative Information**

**Acquisition Information:** This collection was donated by Carole E. Leonard in 2021, in order to ensure their preservation.

**Accruals:** No further accruals are expected.

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection may only be accessed with the permission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum. Digitized versions of select materials are available through the Easton Historical Society and Museum's website at: [eastonmahistoricalociety.org](http://eastonmahistoricalociety.org)

**Conditions Governing Use:** The Frank Seymour Hersey Collection is owned by the Easton Historical Society and Museum. It may be used for research, study and scholarship purposes. Permission to quote, publish or copy these materials requires the permission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum, which can be contacted at: [eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com) or 508-238-7774.

**Preferred Citation:** Frank Seymour Hersey Collection, 1891-1939, Easton Historical Society and Museum, [item].

**Processing Note:** This collection was fully processed and a finding aid created by Arielle Nathanson. Select materials from this collection were digitized in 2021 and are accessible online. To request virtual access to non digitized materials, please contact the Easton Historical Society and Museum.

### **Biographical Note**

Frank Seymour Hersey (1884-1971) was born in Taunton to James P. and Alice E. Pearsall Hersey. Starting in 1912, Hersey became a member of various ornithological societies, with the American Ornithologists Union being the most significant. The next year he began working for Arthur C. Bent (1866-1954) as his assistant. Bent was an ornithologist overseeing the Smithsonian Institution's Life Histories of North American Birds project. Hersey was in charge of conducting research for the series and starting in 1914, went to: Alaska, northwest Siberia, Manitoba, Newfoundland, California and Louisiana. He gathered specimens, took photographs and compiled notes on the native bird species there. This project produced a 21 volume series published between 1919 and 1968. Hersey would go on to write articles for select ornithology and photography publications like *The Auk* and *Leiss*.

In 1918 Hersey was working as a clerk for the Lincoln-Williams Twist Drill Company in Taunton, and became their purchasing agent soon after. Exactly why he stopped pursuing a career in ornithology and photography is unknown.

Hersey still lived in Taunton in 1920, but by 1930 he had moved to Easton. He lived there with his mother Alice and his sister Emily. Hersey registered to serve in World War II and at that time was working for the S.W. Card Manufacturing Company in Mansfield. Information about his service is unknown due to a loss of the records.

In 1968 Hersey sold his Easton home to William J. and Carole E. Leonard who are currently living there.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of F. Seymour Hersey, date from 1891 to 1939 and contain: photographic positives, glass plate photographic negatives, resources consulted by F. Seymour Hersey and his publications. This collection is arranged into four series by type of material and is presented in alphabetical order. Subsequent organization of subseries and file levels are arranged chronologically or alphabetically, as will be specified below. Notable materials in this collection include: pictures taken by F. Seymour Hersey during his Alaskan exhibition and his magazine and reference articles.

**Series 1: Photographic Positives.** The materials in this series are undated, but can be estimated to date around 1912 to 1914. There are no subseries, due to the small content size, though images are arranged by the focal point of each photograph and ordered alphabetically. These pictures were taken during F. Seymour Hersey's Alaskan exhibition and feature various birds, nests and the native people.

**Series 2: Photographic Negatives.** The materials in this series are the negatives of the photographs from the above series, with additions. Therefore, the arrangement and content information is similar. The materials in this series are also undated, but can be estimated to date around 1912 to 1914. Subseries are arranged by the subject focus of each image and ordered alphabetically. These photographs were also taken by F. Seymour Hersey during his Alaskan exhibition, and features birds, nests and the native people. The bulk of the materials are photographs of birds.

**Series 3: Publications, Magazines and Resources.** The materials in this series date from 1891 to 1939. Subseries are arranged by document type or author, where applicable. File Groupings are arranged by publication title and ordered chronologically by date of publication. Notable materials include: Leiss magazines with articles by F. Seymour Hersey, The Auk magazine issues written entirely by him and an article on camera lenses in the Photography Almanac.

**Series 4: Miscellaneous.** The materials in this series date from 1918 to 1934. There are no subseries due its small content size. Materials are ordered chronologically. There are three items in this series in total. They include: F. Seymour Hersey's Brownie camera, his life membership certificate to the Cooper Ornithological Society and a certificate from the State Board of Agriculture proclaiming his honorary position as a Special Observer in Ornithology.

### **Arrangement**

The F. Seymour Hersey Collection is arranged into four series with multiple subseries and few file groupings. Each series is arranged by medium and ordered chronologically or alphabetically, as detailed above. Series 1 and 2 follow the same arrangement and order, as they are the positives and negatives of the same images. Series 3 is the only one that has folder groupings to allow for better researcher access to materials. This collection is small, and contained in one standard archival box. Each series has its own folder and subfolders, as will be explained in the container list below.

### **Related Materials**

Series 1 has been digitized in its entirety. Only select materials authored by Frank Seymour Hersey have been digitized from the other series. All virtual materials are available at the Easton Historical Society and Museum's webpage:

<https://www.eastonmahistoricalociety.org/#/>.

Researchers interested in this collection may also want to view the Arthur Cleveland Bent Papers from the Smithsonian Institution at:  
[https://siarchives.si.edu/collections/siris\\_arc\\_217278](https://siarchives.si.edu/collections/siris_arc_217278).

## **Container List**

### **Series 1: Photographic Positives, 1912-1914**

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Images of various birds, nests and native people

### **Series 2: Photographic Negatives, 1912-1914**

#### Subseries 2.1: Birds, 1912-1914

Box	Folder	Description
1	2	Various Alaskan birds

#### Subseries 2.2: People and Places, 1912-1914

Box	Folder	Description
1	3	Pictures of native people, ice houses and F. Seymour Hersey's team

#### Subseries 2.3: Miscellaneous or Unidentified Images, 1912-1914

Box	Folder	Description
1	4	Various negatives of birds, nests and native people

### **Series 3: Publications, Magazines and Resources, 1912-1914**

#### Subseries 3.1: The Division of Fisheries and Game Reports, 1920-1922

Box	Folder	Description
1	5	Three volumes of annual reports

#### Subseries 3.2: F. Seymour Hersey's 'The Auk' and various publications, 1916-1917

Box	Folder	Description
1	6	Reports written by F. Seymour Hersey

**Subseries 3.3: Leiss Magazine, 1936-1937**

Box	Folder	Description
1	7	Full magazines with select articles by F. Seymour Hersey

**Subseries 3.4: Mixed Reference Materials and Subscriptions, 1893-1894**

Box	Folder	Description
1	8	The American Magazine of Natural Science
1	9	The Oologist
1	10	The Ornithologist and Botanist
1	11	The Osprey
1	12	Miscellaneous Magazines, Guides and Publications

**Series 4: Miscellaneous, 1918-1934**

Box	Folder	Description
1	13	Contains one artifact and two certificates