

# Finding Aid

**Title:** Linn Family photograph collection  
**Dates:** 1863-1930  
**Creator:** Linn Family  
**Extent:** 2.25 linear feet in 3 boxes (187 items)  
**Collection number:** Acc. 129  
**Language:** English  
**Repository:** Chattanooga Public Library. Chattanooga, Tennessee.



Chattanooga  
Public Library

Local History & Genealogy Department  
 Chattanooga Public Library  
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**Historical note:** In 1863, Robert Linn and his brother James Birney Linn opened a photography studio on Point Lookout and began taking photographs of the mountain, Umbrella Rock, and the Union officers and army. They took large photographs, stereoviews, carte de visite, and tintypes. By the 1870s, their stereoviews of the mountain were very popular and widely known as army personnel went home and took their images with them. Robert Linn also had an interest in improving photography. Robert died in 1872 and his son George Thomas Linn continued to take photographs.

**Scope and content:** Collection, chiefly photographic, of early Chattanooga photographers Robert M. Linn (?-1872), brother James Birney Linn (?-1922), and Robert's son, George Thomas Linn (1867-1941). Collection consists of 86 photographs of various views of the Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain area; Addition 1 is 85 stereoscopic pictures showing views of Lookout Mountain and vicinity taken by Robert Linn and James Birney Linn. Collection also includes a 1871 grant of Letters of Patent to Robert M. Linn for improvement in photographic filtering apparatus; a book of photographs of Lookout Mountain (9 views) by George Thomas Linn; notes of Robert and George Linn; letter from Hume Wilson to George Thomas Linn, dated Sept. 1, 1935.

**Arrangement:** Arranged as received from donor.

**Provenance:** Gift of Mrs. T. M. Buffington, St. Louis, Missouri, 1954.  
 Addition 1 gift of Robert Sparks Walker through Jane Carpenter, April 1949, and Nicklin Dobbs from the effects of Capt. Joseph F. Shipp, 1954.

**Access information:** Collection is open for access.

**Use information:** Copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

**Preferred citation:** [Identification of item], Linn Family photograph collection (Acc. 129). Chattanooga Public Library.

**Processing note:** Items have been rehoused in archival folders and boxes.

**Subject headings:** Photographers -- Tennessee -- Chattanooga  
 Stereoscopic views  
 Lookout Mountain (Tenn.) -- History -- Pictorial works  
 Chattanooga (Tenn.) -- History -- Pictorial works