

Connecticut Historical Society  
museum & library

Berlin Iron Bridge Co. records

A Guide to the collection at the Connecticut Historical Society

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Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut
<b>Creator :</b>	Berlin Iron Bridge Co.
<b>Title :</b>	Berlin Iron Bridge Co. records
<b>Dates :</b>	1871-1904
<b>Extent :</b>	2 linear feet (4 boxes)
<b>Location:</b>	Ms 67401
<b>Language:</b>	English

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Historical Sketch

The history of the Berlin Iron Bridge Company dates back to August 1870 when the company was founded as the Metallic Corrugated Shingle Company. It began issuing stock in July of 1871 and in January of 1873 the name of the company was changed to the Corrugated Metal Company. In March of 1877 Samuel Curtis Wilcox became president and treasurer. In January of 1883 the company changed its name for the final time to the Berlin Iron Bridge Company. In addition to bridges, the company built jail cells, roofs and machine shops.

Samuel Wilcox died in 1886 and vice-president and engineer Charles M. Jarvis became president. Burr K. Field took over as vice-president and treasurer until April of 1890 when Frank Langdon Wilcox (son of Samuel) became treasurer. On October 7th, 1899, the company's stockholders voted to dissolve the company and the Berlin Iron Bridge Company was sold to the American Bridge Company on May 12th, 1900. Following a lawsuit between the Berlin Iron Bridge Company and the American Iron Bridge Company in a dispute over contract payments, the Berlin Iron Bridge Company was formally dissolved on June 29th, 1905.

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## Scope and Content

This collection was initially divided into four categories: correspondence, financial papers, stock papers and documents pertaining to the sale of the company to the American Bridge Company. Those four categories have, for the most part, been retained. The bulk of the collection covers the period roughly between 1892 and 1902. The handful of earlier documents, having to do with the Corrugated Metal Company, date back to 1878 and there are also some documents from the period 1903-1905. Some entries in the stock ledger are from 1871.

The collection includes lengthy documentation of the Berlin Iron Company's tax dealings with the state of New York, its incorporation in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, bills of letting and estimate sheets, bridge contracts, stock increases, lawsuits, and the takeover of the company by the American Bridge Company, as well as the lawsuit between the two companies.

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## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

### Use Restrictions

Use of the material requires compliance with the Connecticut Historical Society's Research Center regulations.

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## Subject Headings

### Corporate Names

American Bridge Co.  
Corrugated Metal Co.

### Subjects

Articles of incorporation.  
Construction contracts.  
Iron and steel bridges.

## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

Item, Collection Title, Collection number (Box #, Folder #). Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut.

### Processing Details

Collection was processed by Robert Johnston in 2008.

EAD Finding Aid created June 2012.

### Accruals

The collection is closed.

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## Contents:

### I. Records

#### Box Volume

1 1 Secretary's Minutes, 1890-1905

#### Box Folder

1 1 Corrugated Metal Company Papers, 1878; 1882-1883

1 2 Administrative Papers, 1884-1890

1 3 General Correspondence, 1892-1896

1 4 General Correspondence, 1897-1899

1 5 General Correspondence, 1900

1 6 General Correspondence, 1901-1902; 1903; 1905

1 7 New York State Tax Papers, 1893-1895

1 8 New York State Tax Papers, 1896-1899

1 9 Pennsylvania Incorporation, 1893-1901

1 10 New Jersey Incorporation, 1894-1900

1 11 Oscar Reipsame Injury Papers, 1894-1901

1 12 Labor Statistics

1 13 Miscellaneous Documents

#### Box Folder

2 1 Claim Against J.S. Brown, 1896-1901

2 2 Brennan Lawsuit, 1899-1904

2 3 Mersick Lawsuit, 1900-1902

2	4	Bills, 1898
2	5	Bills, 1899
2	6	Bills, 1900
2	7	Miscellaneous Bills; Groton Bills
2	8	Phoenix Bank Documents, 1899-1905
2	9	Bills of Letting, 1900
2	10	Estimate Sheets, 1899
2	11	Estimate Sheets, January 1900
2	12	Estimate Sheets, February 1900
2	13	Estimate Sheets, March-April, September 1900
2	14	Unidentified Estimate Papers
2	15	Contracts #1125 - #1672
2	16	Contracts #1808 - #1955
2	17	Contracts #2043 - #2199
2	18	Contracts #2213 - #2787

**Box Volume**

2	1	Record/Day Book, 1898-1900
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**Box Folder**

3	1	Contracts #2910 - #3032
3	2	Contracts #3144 - #3331
3	3	Contracts #3559 - #3769
3	4	Contracts #4543 - #4840
3	5	Contracts #4853 - #5587
3	6	1887 Stock Increase Papers
3	7	1891 Stock Increase Papers
3	8	1891 Stock Increase Subscriptions
3	9	1891 Stock Increase Agreements
3	10	1895 Stock Increase Papers
3	11	1895 Stock Increase Subscription Receipts
3	12	1895 Stock Increase Agreements
3	13	Undated Stock Charts

**Box Volume**

3	1	Stock Ledger, 1871-1900
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**Box Folder**

4	1	Profit Estimates on Contracts Turned Over to American Bridge
4	2	Charts Related to Contracts Turned Over to American Bridge
4	3	Individual Contract Sheets
4	4	Payments, Materials and Merchandise Sheets
4	5	Agreements and Schedules for Contract Takeover
4	6	Miscellaneous Documents Relating to Takeover
4	7	American Bridge Takeover Documents, 1900-1902

4	8	American Bridge Takeover Correspondence, 1900
4	9	American Bridge Takeover Correspondence, 1901
4	10	American Bridge Takeover Correspondence, 1902-1903
4	11	Berlin Iron/American Bridge Settlement, 1900-1901
4	12	American Bridge Company Lawsuit Documents

**Box Volume**

4	1	American Bridge Cash Book
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