

# LOOK MAGAZINE GLENS FALLS “HOMETOWN U.S.A.” PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION: A Guide to the Collection

## OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library  
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,  
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** *Look Magazine.*
- Title:** *Look Magazine Glens Falls “Hometown U.S.A.” Photograph Collection.*
- Dates:** 1943-1944.
- Abstract:** The *Look Magazine Glens Falls “Hometown U.S.A.” Photograph Collection* contains over 5,000 photographs, mostly black and white prints, but including 359 color slides. These photographs provide a detailed portrait of the Glens Falls area in 1943-1944 during World War II, showing people, streets, buildings, schools, churches, industries, restaurants, hospital, recreation, parades, servicemen, and various wartime activities. While the emphasis clearly is on Glens Falls, some photographs of Queensbury, Lake George, and other surrounding communities are also included.
- Quantity:** 6 cubic feet (20 albums, 5 boxes, and 3 carousel slide trays)
- Identification:** Photographs

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

*Look* Magazine published a series of six articles in 1944, entitled "Hometown U.S.A.," designed to present Glens Falls as a patriotic model of the home front during World War II, particularly looking forward to America's transition from war to peace. The specific dates of the articles were April 4 and 18, June 27, and September 5 and 19, 1944. *Look* anticipated that these articles would provide other communities with ideas to stimulate their own postwar planning. The author of the series of articles was George F. Koether, associate editor of *Look*.

*Look* sent a team of photographers to Glens Falls for several months in 1943 and 1944 in preparation for these articles. The principal photographers were Harold Rhodenbaugh and Betty Truxell, and a person identified only as Sandberg also took a few photographs.

Two stories about the *Look* Magazine Glens Falls "Hometown U.S.A." photographs have been published by Don A. Metivier and may provide helpful background information; "How 'Hometown' happened," in his book *Saturday Morning* (Glens Falls, NY: *The Post-Star*, 1987), pp. 175-178; and "Wings/Glens/Glenn's Hometown Falls," in *Metivier On Saratoga, Glens Falls, Lake George, & the Adirondacks* (Champaign, IL: Sagamore Publishing Co., 1993), pp. 149-152. According to Metivier, the selection of Glens Falls as the site for the series of essays on a typical American town may have been the result of *Look's* need for color film, which was in short supply. To obtain film *Look* editors applied to the War Department for help. When the War Department provided the film, a grateful *Look* may well have chosen Glens Falls for the project because the city was the boyhood home of Secretary of War Robert Patterson.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS**

The *Look* Magazine Glens Falls "Hometown U.S.A." Photograph Collection contains over 5,000 photographs, providing a detailed community portrait of the Glens Falls area, showing people, streets, buildings, schools, churches, industries, restaurants, hospital, recreation, parades, servicemen, and various wartime activities. While the emphasis clearly is on Glens Falls, some photographs of Queensbury, Lake George, and other surrounding communities are also included.

Most of the more than 5,000 images are small black and white prints, 2½ inches square in size, probably contact prints. A small number of prints are of larger size. No negatives were included with the collection, but some negatives have been prepared from prints in the collection. 359 color slides are also included. The photographs have been placed in twenty loose-leaf albums.

Also included is a slide show and script, prepared by Don Metivier and Bruce Cole from the color slides. Additional material in the collection includes copies of the six articles published in *Look*, identification sheets for some of the photographs, and enlargements of a few of the photographs prepared by Crandall Library for its exhibits.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE RECORDS**

Photographs are arranged by an alphanumeric identification system. For the eighteen albums of black and white prints the identifications correspond to the general topic of the photographs (examples, M for Industry, P for Recreation, and S for Street Scenes). Within each category the photographs are listed numerically. An inventory is available for the prints, and approximately half of them are identified. Slides are in additional albums and have been assigned an identification number without regard for topic. Most of the slides have been identified. An inventory of the slides in the Metivier/Cole slide show is also available.

Articles published in *Look*, photographs for exhibits, negatives, identification sheets, and related material are in the five boxes.

Slides for the slide shows are in the three carousel trays.

## **RELATED COLLECTION**

Look Magazine Photograph Collection, 1937-1971. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Contains ca. 5,000,000 images. Only cataloged for years 1954-1971.

## INDEX TERMS

- Topics:** Business enterprises—New York (State)—Photographs.  
Buildings—New York (State)—Glens Falls—Photographs.  
Children—New York (State)—Glens Falls—Photographs.  
Community life—New York (State)—Glens Falls—Photographs.  
Hospitals—New York (State)—Glens Falls—Photographs.  
Housing—New York (State)—Glens Falls—Photographs.  
Industries—New York (State)—Photographs.  
Memorials—New York (State)—Glens Falls—Photographs.  
Parades—New York (State)—Glens Falls—Photographs.  
Patriotism—New York (State)—Photographs.  
Recreation—New York (State)—Photographs.  
Recycling (Waste, etc.)—New York (State)—Glens Falls (N.Y.)—  
Photographs  
Religious institutions—New York (State)—Glens Falls (N.Y.)—  
Photographs  
Rural schools—New York (State)—Queensbury—Photographs.  
Schools—New York (State)—Glens Falls—Photographs.  
Soldiers—New York (State)—Photographs.  
Streets—New York (State)—Glens Falls—Photographs.  
World War, 1939-1945—New York (State)—Photographs.  
Youth—New York (State)—Photographs.
- Places:** George, Lake (N.Y.:Lake)—Photographs.  
Glens Falls (N.Y.)—Buildings, structures, etc.—Photographs.  
Glens Falls (N.Y.)—Commerce—Photographs.  
Glens Falls (N.Y.)—Social life and customs—Photographs.  
Queensbury (N.Y.)—Photographs.
- Organizations:** *Look Magazine.*
- Important People:** Cole, Bruce.  
Koether, George F.  
Metivier, Don.  
Rhodenbaugh, Harold.  
Truxell, Betty.
- Form/Genre:** Photographs.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Preferred Citation:** *Look* Magazine Glens Falls "Hometown U.S.A." Photograph Collection, Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs, Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** The black and white prints were acquired by Crandall Public Library prior to October, 1958.  
Slides were donated by the family of Arthur P. Irving, probably in 1984 (see *Metivier On...*, p. 151 for details).

**Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Albert W. Fowler, 1997-1998.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS**

### **Series 1: Color Slides**

Album 1: Original slides (359 slides)

Album 2: Duplicate slides

Slide Tray 1: Slide show developed by Don Metivier and Bruce Cole (Part 1) – 74 slides

Slide Tray 2: Slide show developed by Don Metivier and Bruce Cole (Part 2) – 79 slides

Slide Tray 3: Shorter slide show, unidentified as Folklife Center tray, made from additional duplicate slides – 80 slides.

### **Series 2: Black and White Prints**

Album 1: A1 – AE7

Album 2: AF1 – AP125

Album 3: AS1 – AV201

Album 4: AQ1 – AR9

Album 5: B1 – D37

Album 6: E1 – EC93

Album 7: F1 – G327

Album 8: H1 – KMA11

Album 9: L2 – L467

Album 10: LA1 – Q48

Album 11: R1 – S245

Album 12: T1 – T240

Album 13: U1 – W44

Album 14: X1 – Z53

Album 15: I8 – XII36

Album 16: XIII1 – XXII37

Album 17: XXIII1 – XXXII36

Album 18: XXXIII1 – Misc.

### **Series 3: Exhibitions and Mounted Reproductions of *Look* Photographs**

Box 1: Fiftieth Anniversary Exhibit, 1994

Includes eight mounted reproductions of slides, with exhibit labels, notes and publicity information.

Boxes 2 and 3: "Documenting the Homefront – People of Glens Falls During World War II" (October 1996 to March 1998 in Folklife Center Gallery). 27 mounted black and white photographs, plus comments from the public and related information.

**Series 4: Documentary Material Concerning *Look* Magazine Glens Falls  
“Hometown U.S.A.” Photograph Collection.**

1 box plus loose-leaf notebook.

- Folder 1: Presentation script - slide show developed by Don Metivier and Bruce Cole.
- Folder 2: Script for Tray 1 of slide show developed by Metevier and Cole
- Folder 3: Script for Tray 2 of slide show developed by Metivier and Cole.
- Folder 4: Typed versions of script for slide show developed by Metevier and Cole.
- Folder 5: Early drafts of above.
- Folder 6: Identifications of people and places in slide show above.
- Folder 7: List of slides for second slide show developed by Metevier and Cole.
- Folder 8: Identifications of black and white photographs made in 1958.
- Folder 9: List of photographs.
- Folder 10: Cataloging worksheet for photographs (CLP 1192-CLP 1323)
- Folder 11: Newspaper articles concerning *Look* Magazine “Hometown U.S.A.” articles.
- Folder 12: Description of exhibition “Hometown – China, England, U.S.A.” (1944)
- Folder 13: Statistics concerning the photographs in the *Look* Magazine Glens Falls  
“Hometown U.S.A.” Photograph Collection.

Copy negatives made from the *Look* Magazine Glens Falls “Hometown U.S.A.”  
Photograph Collection.

Black and white prints made from the *Look* Magazine Glens Falls “Hometown U.S.A.”  
Photograph Collection.

Photocopies of black and white prints of the *Look* Magazine Glens Falls “Hometown  
U.S.A.” Photograph Collection.

Identifications made of photographs from the *Look* Magazine Glens Falls “Hometown  
U.S.A.” Photograph Collection. These are for photographs on exhibition at the  
Chapman Historical Museum, Glens Falls, 2002 (loose-leaf notebook).

**Series 5: *Look* Magazines from 1944**

(containing the six articles in the “Hometown U.S.A.” series)

April 4 (12 copies)

April 18 (6 copies)

June 27 (1 copy)

September 5 (2 copies)

September 19 (2 copies)

November 28 (2 copies)

Photocopies of the six articles listed above.

Also: "Hometown U.S.A. – Glens Falls N.Y., Looks back 50 Years Later. . ." *Post-Star*, May 22, 1994 (3 copies)

"LOOK at Glens Falls Today" – promotional material for Glens Falls, prepared by the Glens Falls Office of Economic Development, 2001.

**Additional material:** There is a loose-leaf volume of descriptive worksheets made for nearly two hundred of the black-and-white prints. These descriptions were prepared in 1990 by Bruce Cole and other library workers under his direction. The volumes of worksheets were prepared with the aim of including the LOOK photographs in the Crandall Public Library Photograph Collection, but in the late 1990s it was decided to keep the LOOK photographs in a separate collection. These descriptions contain CLP numbers 1191-1384, but the photographs are not listed according to this numerical system in the inventory of black-and-white prints.