



NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release
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Exhibit Opening on Historic Lumber Region Photographs at The State Museum of Pennsylvania

Harrisburg, Pa. – The State Museum of Pennsylvania will host a reception on Sunday, November 21, 2010, at 2 pm to celebrate the opening of its special exhibit **Wood on Glass: The Lumber Industry Photographs of William T. Clarke.**

The reception, which is free and open to the public with museum admission, is sponsored by the Keystone Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. The event will include a walk-through of the exhibit by Linda Ries, an archivist with the Pennsylvania State Archives and nationally-recognized photo historian.

Wood on Glass will consist of thirty photographs by little known and long forgotten photographer William T. Clarke (1859-1930), a Rochester, NY native who chronicled the lumber industry and its dramatic impact on North Central Pennsylvania during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Clarke's evocative legacy is showcased in **Wood on Glass** with custom prints made from collections of stunning glass plate negatives at the Pennsylvania State Archives and in private hands. A number of period lumber-related and domestic artifacts from The State Museum and the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum of Galeton will be featured to complement the photographs.

“With his glass plate negatives documenting Pennsylvania’s wood industry, William T. Clarke unwittingly created and bequeathed a precious legacy to following generations,” says

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archivist Linda Ries. “His images graphically illustrate the epic transformation of the Commonwealth’s forests and ways of life now long gone.”

Produced in-house by The State Museum, the **Wood on Glass** exhibit was co-curated by Ries with photo historians Ronald E. Ostman and Harry Littell who served as Scholars-in-Residence at the State Archives in 2005 to document Clarke’s photography. Since discovering a cache of Clarke’s original glass plate negatives in upstate New York, Ostman and Littell – whose work on Clarke has been featured in the magazine **Smithsonian** – have collaborated to draw attention to the photographer’s collections and are authoring a book to interpret the his vast visual legacy.

Wood on Glass will be on exhibit at The State Museum of Pennsylvania through May 1, 2011. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will provide a lecture series at The State Museum in conjunction with the exhibit on the following Sunday afternoons at 2 pm: January 30, 2011, “Old Growth Forests;” March 13, 2011, “Penn’s Woods,” and April 17, 2011, “TreeVitalize: Restoring Tree Cover in Pennsylvania Communities.” These programs will also be free and open to the public with museum admission.

Photos available

The State Museum of Pennsylvania, located at 300 North Street, is one of 25 historic sites and museums on the Pennsylvania Trails of History®, administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for children and Senior Citizens. Every third Saturday of the month is free to the public.

Members of the Pennsylvania Heritage Society (including State Museum affiliate members) receive free general admission (some programs require a separate fee). Please contact (717) 772-6997, Monday-Friday, 9 am – 4 pm to learn more about State Museum and Pennsylvania Heritage Society membership.

Individuals who need special assistance should call (717) 787-6778 or the Pennsylvania TDD relay service at (800) 654-5984. For more information on museum programs, planetarium shows, exhibitions and other events at The State Museum, click on www.statemuseumpa.org.