

Collection #  
P 0643

**CHAUNCEY ROSE  
DAGUERREOTYPE AND CARTES DE VISITE, CA. 1860S**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 glass plate box, 1 cased image box

**COLLECTION DATES:** Ca. 1860s

**PROVENANCE:** Chester Urban, Worcester, Massachusetts; 2017

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** Rose Polytechnic Institute: memorial volume embracing a history of the Institute, a sketch of the founder, together with a biographical dictionary and other matters of interest (T171 .R83 1909); Terre Haute & Richmond Railroad Company letter, 17 March 1851(SC 2738)

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2017.0365

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Chauncey Rose (24 December 1794 – 13 August 1877) was born in Wethersfield, Connecticut. He moved to the Midwest in 1817 for business opportunities and settled in Parke County, Indiana in 1819. He moved to Terre Haute in 1825.

He built the Prairie House in 1838, renaming it the Terre Haute House in 1855. He was one of the area's wealthiest citizens, owning a bank branch. He also helped convince the Army Corps of Engineers to have the Cumberland Road go through Terre Haute.

While searching for a water well location to serve his hotel, his workers struck oil, the first discovery of oil around Terre Haute. However, Rose did not want the oil, saying "If I'd have wanted oil. I'd have ordered oil!" Pumping the oil at that time would not be profitable, whereas the water helping his hotel venture would.

Rose would later invest in real estate to increase his wealth. In 1847 he founded the Terre Haute and Richmond Railroad, later renamed the Terre Haute and Indianapolis Railroad, among other lines running between Indiana towns and into Illinois.

Rose also founded and endowed a college: the Rose Polytechnic Institute, now the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. It did not open until after his death.

He was also known to be charitable, giving money to the Town Farm, a public library and an academy in Wethersfield, Connecticut, as well as the Ladies' Aid Society of Terre Haute, Providence Hospital, the Free Dispensary, and Rose Orphans' Home in and around Terre Haute, Indiana.

At the time of his death, Rose held approximately \$5.2 million in his estate. \$1.5 million went to his brother Henry. About \$1 million went to Rose Polytechnic. The rest went to various charities and organizations.

### Sources:

Stevens, John D. "He turned down an oil well." *The Indianapolis Star Magazine*, November 22, 1959.

Rose Polytechnic Institute. *Rose Polytechnic Institute 1874–1909 Memorial Volume*. Cincinnati: Monfort and Co., 1909.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains one half-plate daguerreotype and four cartes de visite.

The daguerreotype is cased. The case is missing its hinges. It is of Chauncey Rose, as are two of the cartes de visite. The cartes de visite are labeled as such, dated with 1863 and 1864, respectively, and stamped as having been taken in New York City on Broadway. The earlier photograph was done by D. Appleton & Co.; the later one by Bogardus.

The other two cartes de visite picture Letitia Watson Lohier and Mrs. Col. Watson. Both photographs were taken by Wright & Prescott's in Terre Haute, Indiana. They are each dated as having been taken in the 1860's.

All four cartes de visite label those pictured as residents of Terre Haute, Indiana.

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Cartes de Visite [Chauncey Rose, two women]

Half-plate daguerreotype of Chauncey Rose

### CONTAINER

Cased Image  
Box 1, Folder 1

Cased Image  
Box 1 , Folder 2