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**AERIAL VIEWS OF LYNCHBURG AND VICINITY, 1924,
BY UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD**

The bound collection includes 49 photographic prints of aerial views of Lynchburg, Va., and surrounding areas in Central Virginia, including the town of Monroe, the town of Amherst, and Pedlar dam in Amherst Co.; the surrender grounds at Appomattox in Appomattox Co.; New London, Peaks of Otter, Poplar Forest, and the town of Bedford in Bedford Co.; the Thomas Fortune Ryan estate in Nelson Co.

UNDERWOOD AND UNDERWOOD

Underwood and Underwood company was founded in 1881 in Ottawa, Kansas, by two brothers, Elmer Underwood and Bert Elias Underwood. They moved to Baltimore and then to New York City in 1891. At one time, Underwood & Underwood was the largest publisher of stereoviews in the world, producing 10 million views a year. Offices were also opened in Canada and Europe. In 1891, Bert learned how to operate a camera and thus the firm of Underwood & Underwood Publishing entered a new merchandising sphere. By 1897, the company had a number of full-time staff and free lance photographers. By 1910, Underwood & Underwood had entered the field of news photography. Due to this expansion, stereograph production was reduced until the early years of World War I. Altogether Underwood & Underwood produced between 30,000 and 40,000 stereographic titles. In 1920 stereograph production was discontinued and Underwood & Underwood sold its stereographic stock and rights to the Keystone View Company.

In 1924-25, Underwood & Underwood took the first vertically controlled aerial photographs of the new cities of Miami and Miami Beach. Approximately 400 images were taken showing the final phase of the first building boom, which collapsed shortly after when the Great Hurricane of 1926 destroyed both locations. The quality of the images was superb for the day and rivals modern aerials in detail due to the low altitude of the aircraft taking them. Little else is known about this aspect of the company's work.

In October, 1924, Lynchburg, Virginia, was fortunate enough to have the services of Underwood & Underwood for aerial photographs of the city and the surrounding areas.

The company ceased business in the 1940s.