

Finding Aid for the Ada, Michigan glass plate negatives Collection 122

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

July 1990

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Ada, Michigan glass plate negatives
Date [inclusive]	1898-circa 1910
Extent	4.1 Linear feet 23 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>This collection includes 292 images that depict rural scenes, farming activity, hunting, rural mail delivery, animals, farm equipment, funerary portraits, buildings, logging, and social events from Ada, Michigan at the turn-of-the-century (ca. 1898 to ca. 1910). Images of several individuals and groups are included, though there are few names available to identify the people depicted. Also included are views of what appear to be posed American West events, Niagara Falls stereo cards, and images of toy soldiers arranged to represent battle formations.</p>

Scope and Contents note

Contains 292 glass negatives which depict rural scenes, Ada, Michigan street scenes, farming activity, hunting, people, animals, farm equipment, steam powered tractors, funerary portraits, rural mail delivery, buildings, logging, social events from the West Michigan area at the turn-of-the-century. Also includes views of what appear to be posed American West events, duplicates of Niagara Falls stereo cards, and toy soldiers arranged to represent battle formations.

Photographic prints have been made from some of the negatives. If a photographic print is available, a "P" is added to the image description.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department July 1990

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Unknown donor/accession number

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- photographs

Geographic Name(s)

- Ada (Mich.) -- History -- Photographs

Subject(s)

- Agriculture -- Michigan -- Pictorial works

Series I. 5" X 7" Negatives

Collection Inventory

Series I. 5" X 7" Negatives

Scope and Contents note

The 5x7 glass plate negatives form the bulk of this collection. About half of the images are portrait photos; most of the individuals depicted are unidentified. Included are images depicting most of the subjects listed below. One of the earliest known views of the Civil War Monument in Grand Rapids is included with these negatives. Though this negative is broken, a digital print has been made, which is located with the Series V. materials.

Ada, Michigan

	Box	Folder
Ada, Mich. - linemen, team of horses in front of meat market P	1	1
Ada, Mich. - people, horses and wagon in front of Ada Drug Store P	1	2
Ada, Mich. flood - covered bridge and Ada in background P	1	3
White's Covered Bridge - work crew repairing washout P. Note: Also identified by a researcher as the Ada Covered Bridge. 2/17/2007	1	4
River - flood stage P	1	5

Cattle

Street scene, c1900 - letter carriers, horses and buggy in front of post office	1	6
Street scene, c1900 - men, horses and buggy in front of post office P	1	7
Street scene, c1900 - letter carriers, horses and buggy in front of post office P	1	8

Cattle

	Box	Folder
Cattle - in a field	1	9
Cow	1	10

Churches

	Box	Folder
Church [Carpenter Gothic style] P Identified by a patron as the Ada Christian Reformed Church, just after it was built in 1910. 3/20/2009	1	11
Church [Italianate style]	1	12
Church [Colonial style]	1	13

Farming Activities

	Box	Folder
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Farming Activities

Corn harvesting - team and wagon loaded with stalks	1	14
Corn harvesting - horse drawn corn sickle	1	15
Corn husking and storing - with a blower P	2	16
Dahlia harvesting -in field with people and wagon of W.E. Bolt farm	2	17
Haying - horses, wagon, hayrake	2	18
Haying - steam tractor and belt driven baler [upper right corner missing] P	2	19
Haying - lifting hay into mow P	2	20
Haying - wagon and hay rake	2	21
Potato harvesting - digging potatoes, horses and freight sled	2	22
Potato harvesting - field scene	2	23
Pumpkin harvesting - wagon loaded P	2	24
Pumpkin harvesting - wagon loaded P	2	25
Pumpkins	2	26
Squash harvesting - field scene [upper right corner missing, cracked]	2	27

Funerary Images

Threshing - with steam tractor P; LP 00.[5004].1	2	28
Threshing - with steam tractor [bottom right corner missing, cracked] P; LP 00.[5004].2	2	29
Threshing - with steam tractor, field scene P	2	30
Farm scene - fruit wagons loaded and ready for shipping P	3	31
Wagon - loaded with produce P – Corp Color	3	32
Silo construction - cement block construction P	3	33
Steam tractor P	3	34
Steam tractor P	3	35
Road grading - with steam tractor and team of horses P	3	36
Funerary Images		
	Box	Folder
Funerary portrait. Child	3	37
Funerary portrait. Woman	3	38
Funerary floral arrangement "Our Teacher"	3	39

Farm Houses

Funerary floral arrangement surrounding photograph	3	40
Funerary floral arrangement "Kate" surrounding photograph	3	41
Funerary floral arrangement	3	42
Funerary portrait. Child	3	43
Funerary portrait. Child	3	44
Funerary floral arrangement surrounding photograph	3	45
Funerary floral arrangement surrounding photograph	4	46
Farm Houses		
	Box	Folder
Farm house - family, pump, bicycle	4	47
Farm house - woman, man holding two horse [broken]	4	48
House [Italianate style] - girl standing	4	49
Farm house [double exposure] - exterior and dinner scene	4	50
Farm house - family standing	4	51

Farm Scenes

Farm house	4	52
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Farm house	4	53
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Farm house	4	54
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Farm house [blurred]	4	55
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Farm house [Italianate style] - girl standing P	4	56
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Farm house [Italianate style] - girl standing	4	57
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Farm house P	4	58
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Farm Scenes

	Box	Folder
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Farmyard - man, boy, dog	4	59
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Farmyard - woman, cow, calf	4	60
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Farmstead - people, horse and buggy P	5	61
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Farmstead	5	62
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Horses

	Box	Folder
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Horses

Horse C	5	63
Horse C	5	64
Horse and buggy - in front of Holt mailbox, two women, dog C	5	65
Horse and buggy - man seated C	5	66
Horse and buggy - man, woman near a house C	5	67
Horse and buggy - two men C	5	68
Horse and buggy - two women, dog C	5	69
Horse and cutter - man, woman C, 2P [Neg. #3578]	5	70
Horse and cutter - man C	5	71
Horses and cutter – man C, P	5	72
Horse C	5	73
Horse and buggy - two men C	5	74
Horse and foal C	5	75
Horses and buggy - man, woman [lower right corner missing] C	5	76

Hunting

Horses C	6	77
Horses C	6	78
Horses – harnessed C	6	79
Hunting		
	Box	Folder
Hunters - two men, dog C	6	80
Hunters - two men. dog [emulsion bad] C	6	81
Hunters – campsite C	6	82
Deer hunting - buck, doe, man C	6	83
Deer hunting - buck, doe, man C	6	84
Deer hunting, 1909 - two bucks, man C	6	85
Deer hunting - two bucks C	6	86
Deer hunting - two bucks, two does, two men C	6	87
Deer hunting - two bucks, two does, two men C	6	88

Logging

Rabbit hunting - five men, dog, rabbits C	6	89
Rabbit hunting - five men, dog, rabbits C	6	90
Fur trappers - two men with pelts C	6	91
Fur trappers - man with dead animals C	7	92
Fur trappers - two men with pelts C	7	93
Logging		
	Box	Folder
Logging - steam power saw in woods C	7	94
Logging - large log on sled C	7	95
Scenes not Identified		
	Box	Folder
Richerson Brick Valley [probably a copy from a stereoptic card] C	7	96
Scenes. Unidentified	7	97
Scenes. Unidentified - fields and farms C	7	98
Scenes. Flora C	7	99

Portraits

Scenes. Unidentified [upper right corner missing, cracked] C	7	100
Scenes. Unidentified C, P [Identified as the Ada Curve, ca. 1907. Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee Railroad – ID by Gordon Lydekson – photographer]	7	101
River. Unidentified C	7	102
River. Unidentified	7	103
Ice flows in river	7	104
Road	7	105
Road	7	106
Road	8	107
Road	8	108
Road grader - with four horse hitch P	8	109
Schoolhouse	8	110
Portraits		
	Box	Folder

Portraits

People. Black Fox	8	111
People. Unidentified - child and flower cart	8	112
People. Unidentified - child with teddy bear	8	113
People. Unidentified - child on rocking horse *Moved to Box 19 due to size difference		
People. Unidentified - child on rocking horse *Moved to Box 19 due to size difference		
	Box	Folder
People. Unidentified - child	8	116
People. Unidentified - boy and girl with kitten	8	117
People. Unidentified - two children and puppies	8	118
People. Unidentified	8	119
People. Unidentified - two brothers	8	120
People. Unidentified - young boy	8	121
People. Unidentified - two boys	8	122
People. Unidentified [copy of a photograph]	8	123

Portraits

People. Unidentified - man	9	124
People. Unidentified - man and dogs	9	125
People. Unidentified [copy of two photographs] - two men; man, bull, dog	9	126
People. Unidentified - man	9	127
People. Unidentified - man	9	128
People. Unidentified - man and two children	9	129
People. Unidentified - girl	9	130
People. Unidentified - girl in field with flowers	9	131
People. Unidentified - two girls on porch	9	132
People. Unidentified - woman	9	133
People. Unidentified - woman with flowers	9	134
People. Unidentified - woman in cape	9	135
People. Unidentified - woman in cape	9	136
People. Unidentified - woman on bicycle	9	137

Groups of People

People. Unidentified - woman on bicycle	9	138
People. Unidentified - woman with horse and dog	9	139
People. Unidentified - woman on horseback	9	140
People. Unidentified - old woman and child	10	141
People. Unidentified - old woman, dog in woods	10	142
Groups of People		
	Box	Folder
People. Group - family in front of cabin with bicycles [broken]	10	143
People. Group - family in front of cabin	10	144
People. Group - family in front of cabin with three bicycles	10	145
People. Group - family in front of cabin [upper left corner missing, discolored]	10	146
People. Group - family in front of cabin P	10	147
People. Group - family in front of house	10	148
People. Group - four girls on horseback	10	149

Groups of People

People. Group - four women, one man	10	150
People. Group - four boys with hoes	10	151
People. Group - four boys with hoes	10	152
People. Group - four boys with hoes	11	153
People. Group - women, possibly masonic auxiliary P	11	154
People. Group - women, possibly masonic auxiliary	11	155
People. Group - relaxing in a field	11	156
People. Group - in a field	11	157
People. Group - in a field	11	158
People. Group - in a field	11	159
People. Group - three children on a porch	11	160
People. Group - family with two children sitting on a pony	11	161
People. Group - family near ivy plants	11	162
People. Group - family with stroller	12	163

Groups of People

People. Group - family with stroller	12	164
People. Group - family	12	165
People. Group – family	12	166
People. Group - family	12	167
People. Group - woman, two girls on porch	12	168
People. Group - man, woman on porch	12	169
People. Group - seated around meal table	12	170
People. Group - inside of a house	12	171
People. Group - "Before"	12	172
People. Group - "After" drinking from bottles	13	173
People. Group - school children with teacher	13	174
People. Group - school children with teachers	13	175
People. Group - school children with teacher	13	176
People. Group - school children in front of school house	13	177

American West

People. Group - school children	13	178
People. Group - school children in front of school house	13	179
People. Group - children	13	180
People. Group - school children, teacher in front of school house P	13	181
People. Group - in front of school house and 44 star flag P	13	182
American West		
	Box	Folder
Cowboy	14	183
Cowboy - spinning a lariat	14	184
Cowboy and woman	14	185
Cowboy - spinning a lariat	14	186
Tenting - playing cards	14	187
Camp site - man shooting revolver	14	188
Cowboy and cowgirl	14	189

Miscellaneous Views

Cowboy, soldier, indian P	14	190
Cowboy and indian fighting	14	191
Indian - on horseback	14	192
Indian - shooting rifle	15	193
Cowboy, soldier, indian	15	194
Cowboy - standing over indian	15	195
Miscellaneous Views		
	Box	Folder
Bronco busting [copy negative]	15	196
Cannon (captured in Spanish-American War) P	15	197
Canoeing - two people	15	198
Civil War Monument, Grand Rapids, Mich. [broken] F	15	199
Dog	15	200
Flood scene - man in a canoe	15	201

Miscellaneous Views

Forest	15	202
Forest	16	203
House. Interiors	16	204
Lilies - in vase "No. 10"	16	205
Michigan Veterans Facility P	16	206
Milk wagon (Ira O. Johnson Milk Laboratory) P	16	207
Musicians - pump organ, banjo, guitar	16	208
Pond - swans swimming	16	209
Railroad bridge construction - two cranes lowering a section P	16	210
Roses	16	211
Snow - on trees "No. 16"	16	212
Snow - on trees	17	213
Stuffed animals - taxidermy by Funston Bros., St. Louis, Mo.	17	214
Street scene - streetcar tracks P	17	215

Civil War Toy Soldiers

Stroller	17	216
Target shooting - two men with rifles checking target	17	217
Vacationing - tent, campsite, hunting equipment	17	218
Civil War Toy Soldiers		
	Box	Folder
Toy soldiers	17	219
Toy soldiers	17	220
Toy soldiers	17	221
Toy soldiers	17	222
Toy soldiers	18	223
Toy soldiers	18	224
Toy soldiers	18	225
Toy soldiers	18	226
Motor Boats		
	Box	Folder

Niagara Falls Copy Negatives

Motor boat - woman driving	18	227
Motor boat - "Addie May," two men and a woman	18	228
Motor boat - "Addie May," two men and a woman	18	229
Motor boat - woman driving	18	230
Motor boat - woman driving	18	231
Motor boat - woman driving	18	232
People. Unidentifiable – child on rocking horse *Placed here due to size similarities	19	114
People. Unidentifiable – child on rocking horse *Placed here due to size similarities	19	115
Niagara Falls Copy Negatives		
	Box	Folder
Niagara Falls – gorge P	19	233
Niagara Falls - falls and bridge P	19	234
Niagara Falls - village and falls P	19	235

Series II. 4" x 5" Negatives

Niagara Falls - falls and tour boat P	19	236
Niagara Falls - falls with tour boat near dock P	20	237
Niagara Falls - falls and tour boat P	20	238
Niagara Falls – falls P	20	239
Niagara Falls – bridge P	20	240
Niagara Falls – footbridge P	20	241
Series II. 4" x 5" Negatives		
Miscellaneous Views		
	Box	Folder
Farmstead	21	242
Archibald farm house - William S. Archibald and sons	21	243
Fishing - woman in boat	21	244
Forest and split rail fence	21	245
Horse, sulky, rider	21	246

Portraits

Marksman [upper right corner broken]	21	247
Portraits		
	Box	Folder
People. Archibald, Mrs. William	21	248
People. Group - three children	21	249
People. Group - five children	21	250
People. Group - 2 women, 2 men	21	251
People. Group - woman, man, 5 children	21	252
People. Group - man, woman	21	253
People. Group - 2 women, 7 children	21	254
People. Unidentified - child in stroller	21	255
People. Unidentified - child	21	256
People. Unidentified - girl	21	257
People. Unidentified - boy, girl	21	258

American West

American West		
	Box	Folder
Cowboy, Indian	21	259
Cowboy, Indian - campsite	21	260
Cowboy, Indian	21	261
Indian	21	262
Cowboy	21	263
Cowboy, Indian	21	264
Cowboy, Indian [discolored]	21	265
Cowboy, Indian	21	266
Portraits		
	Box	Folder
People. Unidentified - boy	22	267
People. Unidentified - boy	22	268
People. Unidentified - women and child on porch	22	269

Scenes not Identified

People. Unidentified - man with cane	22	270
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People. Unidentified – man	22	271
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People. Unidentified - man	22	272
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Scenes not Identified

	Box	Folder
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Richerson Brick Valley	22	273
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Street scene - U.S. Mail wagon at loading dock	22	274
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Series III. 3.5" X 3.5" Negatives**Miscellaneous Views (Copy Negatives)**

	Box	Folder
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Cattle - "John Webster's cattle"	22	275
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Deer hunting	22	276
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Farmstead - "The Meadowland Paradise"	22	277
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Funerary floral arrangement	22	278
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Portraits

Hunters - 3 men with rifles	22	279
Portraits		
	Box	Folder
People. Archibald, Mrs. P.	22	280
People. Archibald, Mrs. William P – Corp. Color	22	281
People. Mallet, Earl	22	282
People. Wilson, Merti	22	283
American West Copy Negatives		
	Box	Folder
Cowboy	22	284
Cowboy, indian	22	285
Cowboy, indian - "Finding the trail"	22	286
Cowboy, indian - "The Discovery"	22	287
Series IV. 2.5" X 2.5" Negatives		
Scope and Contents note		

Series V. Photographic Prints

Series II, III and IV are all smaller series of images, depicting also portrait images and select scenes. The “Archibald” family name is associated with several of these images in these series. Also, a few other portrait images are named.

	Box	Folder
Bear hunters P – Corp. Color	22	288
People. Unidentified - man	22	289
People. Unidentified - woman	22	290
People. Unidentified – woman	22	291
Hunters	22	292

Series V. Photographic Prints**Scope and Contents note**

Photographic reproductions in the positive have been made from these historical negatives as necessary for use. The reproductions may be regular photo prints, contact prints, laser photocopies, or digital prints.

Rather than duplicate the list of negatives, the research should find the image desired in the list of negatives, and follow the codes given to determine if a positive reproduction has been made, and what type.

Note that a unique image number is given for each glass plate negative, along with the box number. The positive photo prints are filed first by type, and then in order by image number.

P = Photoprint in Box 23, either contact print or regular photoprint.

F = Inhouse Fuji digital photoprint

Series V. Photographic Prints

C = Photocopy in Box 23

LP = Laser Photocopy in Box 23

At present, all positive reproductions are housed in Box 23.

Box

Contact prints, full photographic prints, Fuji digital photoprint and laser photocopies made from the glass negatives. See description above for items with “P” for Print, “F” for Fuji digital print, “C” for Photocopy, “L” for laser photocopy.

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