

Grand Rapids History & Special Collections

Archives

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Finding Aid for the  
Massey Family Photo Collection  
Collection # 071

September 2009 version

Abstract

The small Massey Photo Collection contains black & white copy photographs of primarily African American and Native American families from the Burt Lake, Michigan area. The images depict various family members and activities from ca. 1900.

Collection #: 071

Accession #: 1986.045

Donor: Margaret Swarhout, 1/21/1986

Span dates: 1900-1910

Original archival processing date: May 1988. .

Size: .21 linear ft. (2.5 inches)

Related Collections

See also the African American Clipping Index and file.

See also Coll. 249.

Box Summary

Box No.	Description of Contents	Box Description
<hr/>		
Box Inventory 9/2009		
1	Photos	Slim

## History

Bits and pieces of information exist on the back of the photographs, allowing for the construction of some basic family genealogy. However, some of this information may include misidentifications.

Charles Massey married Sarah Nowqueskwa Massey, and they had a son Francis. Francis is seen in various images cutting timber, at a grocery store in Burt, and in various other activities. Charles parents were Joseph Massey & Mary Mosier Massey, who migrated from Canada. Charles is shown in one photo with a group of Cheboygan Co. Supervisors, Oct. 1910.

Some images show Charles & Sara with Henry Massey, not Francis. Joseph & Mary Massey are given as grandparents of Henry, but not Francis. One family photo lists Esther Martell Massey, Margaret Massey later Swartout(daughter of Henry & Esther), Henry J. Massey (son), Charles Massey, Francis Massey(son), Sarah Nawqueskwa Massey wife of Charles. A family group photo shows Henry & Esther with their daughters Margaret & Anna. Joe Massey, son of Henry is shown as a boy with friends. Charlie & Jerry Massey are shown in uniform at St. Ignas, Mi.

Another family photo shows Louis Massey, older brother of Henry (is that 3 sons for Charles?), with Mary Massey, and their children Walter, Lucy, Lena and Leona. Catherine Martell Neshaw, sister of Esther Martell Massey, is shown with Jerry Neshaw (husband?). Cecilia & Ruben Martell, niece & nephew of Esther Martell Massey are shown as children. Mary Moses, Jane Martell and Elizabeth Martell are shown with an unidentified woman. Jerry Martell is shown with a friend, and Abe Martell is shown with Robert Coby.

Two different photos of the Louis Moses (Native American) family are shown, also Zach Moses as a child. Eva Leo, daughter of Catherine & Jerry Neshaw is show alone, but in another photo with Helen(?). Sam Leo is shown with a friend.

## Scope and Content

Copy negatives are available for several of the photos.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	Baseball Team, Moses Martell (1)
1	2	Burt Lake (Mich.) (2) Includes historical notes on Henry J. Massey, his mother, Sara Mongreshlerve, and father, Charles Massey by Mary Margaret Swartout Pellston.
1	3	Castle Rock (Mich.) (1)
1	3.5	Massey Grocery Store (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Francis Massey at Massey's Grocery Store</li> </ul>
1	4	Churches (9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brutus, Mi.</li> <li>• St. Mary's, Burt Lake, 1 interior &amp; several exterior</li> <li>• St. Mary's being built, 1908</li> <li>• St. Jos' Indian Church, H. Springs.</li> <li>• Others unidentified</li> </ul>
1	5	Hessel (Mich.) (1)
1	6	Housing, and unidentified groups (7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Henry Massey on sleigh, O Her? brother Louis far right.</li> </ul>
1	7	Logging (11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joe Leo &amp; Henry Massey (2)</li> <li>• Jonas Shanaquet &amp; Paul Wasson</li> <li>• Abe Martell &amp; Don Bolten</li> <li>• Cross Village, 1904, from a postcard sent to Maggie Massey from Eva Leo, Dec. 27, 1910.</li> <li>• Charles Massey, Henry's father</li> <li>• Group, incl. Moses Martell</li> <li>• Group, incl. Henry Massey, Charles Massey</li> <li>• Group, incl. Charles &amp; Henry + info. On Hemlock for Bogardus Land &amp; Lumber Company Camp, Lakewood, Mi. Feb. 12, 1908.</li> <li>• Group, winter w logs</li> <li>• Group, by stacked cut lumber</li> </ul>

- 1 8 People, identified. (9)  
Includes Rayfields, Louise King, 2 white mails labeled Pellston Garage,  
White mother & infant labeled Hulet, Chester J., Gene Hamlin, John,  
Jammie & Emma Nongushlba(?), Louis, George & Alice Gallaway,  
Raymond Shawa, Amos Shawa, plus other photos unidentified.
- 1 8.1 People. Massey's (22)
- 1 8.2 People. Massey in-laws (12)  
Including Neshaw, Moses, Leo
- 1 9 Musicians (2)
- Boy seated with uke(?), 2 adults standing
  - 6 strummers in School House, including Amos Showa, Louis Massey,  
and John Nongurshkua(?)
- 1 10 People. Unidentified (24)  
Including some photos or images that may be identified from other photos  
above.
- 1 10.5 Generic photo from unidentified publication, Re Western Expansion  
exploration, Native American's.
- 1 11 Schools Classes (3), including Joe & Margaret Massey's classes as  
children.
- 1 12 Topinable (Mich.) (6, but some of these may not actually belong here)  
1 street scene  
5 people, including Mrs. Neff & her mother,  
Edith Mallony, Albert Shanoquit's daughter, 2 Massey boys at St. Ignasis,  
and others unidentified.