

Finding Aid for the James Bayne Company negatives Collection 165

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

May 1993

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	James Bayne Co..
Title	James Bayne Company negatives
Date [inclusive]	circa 1900-1920
Extent	4.0 Linear feet 14 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The James Bayne Company was a photography and printing business in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This collection includes 198 film negatives and 73 glass plate negatives. The images depict furniture, the interior of the Bayne Company and Grand Rapids area parks and buildings. The views include Fallasburg Park, Aman Park, Veteran's Park, Caledonia Park, Chief Hazy Cloud Park, Burton School, Sunshine Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Furniture Capital Air Service and the Consumer's Power Company Croton Dam.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

James Bayne (1845-1924) started his furniture photographing career in Grand Rapids in the late 1800s, when the demand for visual proof of quality furniture merchandise was in demand. His business grew rapidly, and he took pictures of items ranging from typewriters to funeral caskets in addition to furniture. Bayne enjoyed hunting and fishing during his leisure time. Bayne died in 1924 at the age of 79.

Scope and Contents note

This collection provides only very limited representation of the Bayne printing company and its work over several decades. No documents of the firm are given here, although some select items may be found in other collections in the archives.

The furniture negatives show furniture buyers a sample of the piece of furniture before buying, and this made it easier for door-to-door salesmen. The negatives are detailed pictures of furniture, parks, Grand Rapids buildings, roads and statues. Most of the glass negatives are of furniture, while the film negatives are of Grand Rapids buildings and parks. There are also large film negatives of the Grand Rapids Press book and a small historical background on James Bayne and his company. The Bayne Co. interiors show shots such as people working in the photo studios, in offices, or darkrooms. Other shots show printing machinery. The Parks shown in the Grand Rapids area are Aman Park, Caledonia Park, Chief Hazy Cloud Park, Fallasburg Park, and Fisk Knob Park. The furniture pieces shown are sofas, desks, dressers, tables, and sideboards.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department May 1993

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Dirk and Sally Van Kuik, 1991, accession number 1991.022

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 054, GRPL Photographs Collection. Images identified for Bayne in this collection date from the 1880s.

Coll. 076, GRPL Stereo Card Collection. Includes at least one image by Bayne.

Coll. 078, GRPL Postcard Collection. Set of Advertising "Reminder" cards nos. 2, 4-6.

Coll. 128, Stephen Stover Glass Negatives Collection. Stover was from Canada, and worked for the Bayne Co., among other Grand Rapids print companies.

Coll. 140, John Suchowolec Collection. He worked for the Bayne Company until moving to the Grand Rapids Herald in the 1950s.

Coll. 141, Grand Rapids Historical Society Collection has a family history for James Bayne.

Coll. 216, GRPL Ephemera Co., includes annual outing yearbooks for the Bayne staff, ca. 1912-1920.

Coll. 224-17, Graphic Clipping, Photo montage created by James Bayne of Michigan National Guard.

Coll. 289, Greater Grand Rapids Publishers and Publishing Collection, includes images of staff at work, at least one catalog of the work of the firms, and a representative publication.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- photographs

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- Photographs

Subject(s)

- Printing industry -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Series I. Film Negatives

Collection Inventory

Series I. Film Negatives

General note

Note: Available prints, made from negatives in the collection, are signaled by the presence of a “P” next to the negative folder in the lists below.

Circa 1910

	Box	Folder
Building and trucks, neg. nos. 001-009	1	1
Machinery, neg. nos. 010-015	1	2
People working in darkroom neg. nos. 016-018	1	3
People working in office neg. nos. 019-028	1	4
People working in photo studio neg. nos. 029-041	1	5
People working in print shop neg. nos. 043-069	1	6

Circa 1920

	Box	Folder
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Circa 1920

Ada Auto Co. covered bridge, neg. no. 070 P	2	1
Blythfield Pool, neg. no. 071	2	2
Buildings unidentified, neg. no. 073	2	3
Calvin College, neg. no. 076	2	4
Calvin College, neg. no. 077 P	2	4
Cambridge Blvd., neg. no. 078	2	5
Charles Belknap statue, neg. nos. 079-085	2	6
Consumer's Power Co.-Croton Dam, neg. no. 086	2	7
Elk's Building, neg. no. 087	2	8
Furniture Capital Air Service, neg. no. 088	2	9
Furniture Temple, neg. no. 089	2	10
G.R. Post Office, 1922, neg. no. 090 P	2	11
John Ball Statue, neg. no. 091	2	12
Kent Hills Drive, neg. nos. 092-093	2	13

Circa 1920

Lake Michigan Blvd., neg. no. 094	2	14
Pantlind Hotel, neg. no. 095 P	2	15
People Groups, neg. no. 096	2	16
Ryerson Public Library, neg. nos. 097-098 P	2	17
Sewage Treatment Plant, neg. no. 099	2	18
St. Mary's Hospital, neg. nos. 100-101	2	19
Street Scene, neg. no. 102	2	20
Sunshine Hospital, neg. no. 103	2	21
Veteran's Park, neg. no. 104	2	22
YMCA, neg. no. 105	2	23
YMCA, Shepard Building, Manufacturer's Building, neg. no. 106	2	24
Armory, Michigan ave., neg. no. 072 P	2	25
Burton School, 1929, neg. nos. 074-075	2	26
Boy at Printing Press, neg. nos. 157-158	4	1

Circa 1925

G.R. Press Building, neg. no. 159 P	4	2
Press Carrier, neg. nos. 160-163	4	3
G.R. Press Book, n.d., neg. nos. 164-198	5	1
Circa 1925		
	Box	Folder
Aman Park, neg. nos. 107-108	3	1
Caledonia Park, neg. nos. 109-112	3	2
Chief Hazy Cloud Park, neg. no. 113	3	3
Croton Dam, neg. nos. 114-119?	3	4
Fallasburg Park, neg. nos. 115-123?	3	5
Fisk Knob Park, neg. no. 124	3	6
Gordon Park, neg. nos. 125-127	3	7
Parks unidentified, neg. nos. 128-145	3	8
Townsend Park, neg. nos. 146-151	3	9

Series II. Glass Negatives

Wabasis Lake Park, neg. no. 152	3	10
Warren's Garden, neg. no. 153	3	11
Wilcox Park, neg. nos. 154-155	3	12
Indian Mounds Park, neg. no. 156 P	3	13
Series II. Glass Negatives		
Circa. 1920		
	Box	Folder
Bayne Co. car garage	6	1
Bayne Co. employees	6	2
Bayne Co. truck	6	3-5
Bayne Co. view side, front, rear	6	6-8
Bayne Co. view rear	6	9
Bayne Co. wagon	7	10
Building unidentified	7	11-12

Circa. 1920

Desk and dresser	7	13-15
Dresser	7	16
Dining room table	7	17
Dining room table	7	18
Dining room table	8	19-23
Grand Rapids Chair Co.	8	24
Grand Rapids Fancy Furniture Co.	8	25
Grand Rapids Furniture Shops	8	26
Grand Rapids Office Chair Co.	8	27
Grand Rapids Savings Bank	9	28
Grand Rapids Showcase Co. truck	9	29
Living room	9	30-31
Living room sofa	9	32-36
Living room sofa	10	37-45

Series III. Documents

Living room sofa	11	46-54
Living room sofa	12	55-57
Michigan Brush Co.	12	58
Old Cars unidentified	12	59
Sideboard	12	60-63
Sideboard	13	64-72
West Side Ladies Literary Club	13	73

Series III. Documents

	Box	Folder
Miscellaneous items, n.d.	14	1

Box

14

Prints made from negatives in the collection (available prints are signaled by the presence of a 'P' next to the negative folder in the finding aid).