

Record Group 12
Charles Draper Collection
1890-1930

Plymouth Historical Museum, Plymouth, MI
Finding Aid Written by Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, 14 September 2005
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Creator: Charles Draper
Acquisition: The Charles Draper collection was deposited in the archives initially in 1973, with later additions 1987 – 2004.
Language: Materials in English
Access: Records are open for research
Use: Refer to Archives Reading Room Guidelines
Notes: Citation Style: “Charles Draper Collection,” Record Group 12, Archives, Plymouth Historical Museum

Abstract

Charles Draper was born in South Lyon, Michigan, on 19 May 1865. He attended watchmakers’ school in Ann Arbor and opened his first watch/jewelry/optical business in South Lyon. He then moved to Plymouth, where he operated his business for 47 years. In 1901, he married Satie A. Merrell, who was born in New Boston, Michigan, in 1878. They had two children, Merrell (born in 1906) and Winifred. He died 26 January 1941 and is buried in the South Lyon Cemetery.

Although photography was a hobby for Draper, he managed to compile a chronicle of Plymouth life during the period 1890–1930. He captured the transition from the age of horse and carriage to the automobile, from dirt streets to paved roads in Plymouth. He photographed not only his own family and home, but also the people and buildings around him. His collection presents a window of life in suburban Wayne County as it passed from the nineteenth century into the technology of the twentieth century.

Scope and Content

The Charles G. Draper Collection is composed of more than 500 photographs, post cards, negatives, and glass plate negatives. Most of the glass plate negatives were donated to the museum in 2004 by Draper’s grandson, but the museum has been actively collecting other images taken by this photographer for many years.

Entries

[Entry 1](#): Negatives

[Entry2](#): Photographs and Postcards

Entry 1: Negatives (many images are unidentified)

Binder 1

Glass Negatives

Sutton Street, Plymouth

Horse

249 S. Main Street, Plymouth

775 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth

Plymouth High School in winter (pre-1916)

Plymouth High School (post-1916)

Daisy Manufacturing Co., Plymouth

Cows

"No Ball Playing Allowed," E. L. Riggs Store, Plymouth

Plymouth High School Football Team, 1906

Dining Room

Penniman Avenue, with bandstand in Penniman-Allen Park on left

Farm

Flower memorial with photo of a woman.

Parade down Main Street, Plymouth

Shelves in china shop

Binder 2

Satie & Friends

Silver Lake fish

Satie & Charlie family (Acc #2004.144.123)

1907 Pere Marquette trainwreck near Salem, Michigan; *See also* Postcard

Merrell Family

Draper Home

Draper Family, left to right Charlie, Merrell, Winifred, Satie

Charlie & Satie Draper & son Merrell

Merrell Draper

Draper Family

Charlie Draper's Family, 1907

Merrell & Winifred Draper & unknown family member

Merrell Draper & family member

Methodist Church and High School during winter (pre-1916)

Methodist Episcopal Church Parsonage, 680 Church St., Plymouth

Kellogg Park and Bandstand

Plymouth High School

Kellogg Park

Festival in Kellogg Park

Festival on Main Street

Church & Penniman Streets in winter

Church & Penniman Streets and Penniman-Allen Park

New Methodist Church & Plymouth High School after 1916 fire

Ann Arbor Trail at the corner of Main Street, across from Kellogg Park

Church Street, Plymouth (two views); *See also* Postcard

Presbyterian Church

Daisy Manufacturing Company

Penniman-Allen Park

Main Street Business Block

Power Home near Daisy Manufacturing Company
Main Street, Plymouth; *See also* Photographs
Interurban on Main Street, Plymouth
2 Women in Phaeton in front of home
Corner of Main and Sutton Streets, Plymouth
Festival on Main Street, Plymouth, MI; *See also* Photographs
Methodist Episcopal Church & Plymouth High School; *See also* Photographs
Plymouth Village Hall
Church Street facing Penniman Avenue, 1914
Methodist Church
Penniman Avenue, Plymouth
Lapham's General Merchandise Store after fire
Fire
Silver display case
Children and snowman
Women playing violin and piano
Child sleeping
Flower memorial with photo of a woman
Parade
U.S.M. Algomah (ship), Mackinaw City, Mackinac Island & St. Ignace
Memorial flowers in parlor

Binder 3
Fort Mackinac, Mackinac Island, Michigan
Train Station
Parade
Riggs Clothing Store Sign; *See also* Photographs
Arch Rock, Mackinac Island, Michigan
Boat "Pocahontas"
Horse
Kellogg Park, Plymouth
Cows
Cow
Merrell Draper
Winifred Draper
Draper Home
Draper Optical Store; *See also* Photographs
Man jumping off train
Silver Lake
Silver Lake, men with fish
Satie & Friends
Winifred & Merrill Draper
Draper Family
Merrill & Winifred Draper at Silver Lake
Merrell Draper's Birthday
Pigs

954 Penniman Avenue, Plymouth
1142 Holbrook Avenue, Plymouth
Washburn Bennett Home, 659 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth
Coleman Building, Plymouth Mail Office Printing Office
Sutton Street, Plymouth
School House

Film Negatives

Plymouth Mills
Class at Kate Allen's Carriage House after high school burned
Main Street Express Office Building.
Huston's Geo. Taylor Bakery & Schrader Building
Parade down Main Street
Harry Robinson Livery, Sutton Street, now Penniman Avenue.
Panoramic of Main Street; building new bank
After 1916 fire of Plymouth High School and Methodist Church.
Part of Plymouth High School walls still standing after 1916 fire.
Main Street, Kellogg Park. Band stand on left. Extreme right, Wills' House, corner of
Ann Arbor Trail. 1905.
1907 Pere Marquette trainwreck near Salem, Michigan; *See also* Postcards
Shafer Iron Foundry

Entry 2: Photographs and Postcards

Box 1

Folder 1: Postcards

Oak and Main Streets, Plymouth
School House & M. E. Church, Plymouth
Kellogg Park in Winter
Oak Street, Plymouth
Main Street with snow, Plymouth
Hotel and Stores, Main St., Plymouth
Kellogg Park, Plymouth, 1923
Kellogg Park, Plymouth, before 1920
Phoenix Lake near Ford Factory, Plymouth, 1923
Phoenix Mill Plant Women Workers, Plymouth, 1920s
German Lutheran Church, Plymouth
Pere Marquette trestle over Rouge River
Pere Marquette trestle and train over Rouge River
Catholic Church on Union St.
Phoenix Lake and Phoenix Mill Ford Factory
Sutton Street (now Penniman Avenue) looking West
Daisy Manufacturing Co. and Plymouth Electric Light Plant
Corner Main and Sutton Streets, Plymouth
Main Street, Plymouth
Corner of Main and Church Streets, Plymouth
Hotel Victor on Mill Street, Plymouth

Bandstand--Penniman & Church, Plymouth
Pere Marquette Round House at Junction, Plymouth
Presbyterian Church, Plymouth
Phoenix Bridge with Phoenix Mill on the other side, 1 postcard, 1 print
Liberty Street, Plymouth
Fire Department and Christian Science Church, Plymouth
Main Street, Plymouth; C. G. Draper's and W.O. Allen's
Methodist Episcopal Church, Plymouth
N. Harvey Street, Plymouth
Residences on Starkweather St., Plymouth
Streetcar tracks to Detroit, Plymouth
Main St., Plymouth
Plymouth United Savings Bank, Main St., Plymouth
Dan Smith's hotel, wrecked by a derailed train
Presbyterian Church, Plymouth
1907 Pere Marquette trainwreck near Salem, Michigan; *See also* Glass Negatives
Church Street, Plymouth; *See also* Glass Negative
Interurban going south on Main Street in front of Conner Hardware

Folder 2: Panoramic Postcards

Main Street Gala, 1 postcard, 1 print
Gala Day, Main Street, Plymouth
Water fight on Main Street, Plymouth
Water battle with Volunteer Fire Department on Main Street
Park & Main St. Brick pavement water battle
Interior of Draper's Jewelry Store on Main Street

Folder 3: Photographs

Presbyterian Church, Plymouth
Main Street looking North from Hotel--Gala Day
Kellogg House, Plymouth
Stage of Opera House in Plymouth Town Hall
Bicycle vacation to Niagara Falls
Riding Academy on Penniman Avenue
Ford Day-Bonafide Garage, 1 postcard, 1 photograph
Main Street, Plymouth; *See also* Glass Negatives
Festival on Main Street, Plymouth; *See also* Glass Negatives
Methodist Episcopal Church & Plymouth High School; *See also* Glass Negatives
Riggs Clothing Store Sign; *See also* Glass Negatives
Draper Optical Store; *See also* Glass Negatives
Washburn Bennett Home, 659 Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth
Plymouth Mills