DETROIT ANNIVERSARIES COLLECTION

DETROIT CENTURY BOX
December 31, 1900

Accession Number: 2001.061

Size: 1 linear foot
Number of Boxes: 2
Box Numbers: ANNV-1-A to ANNV-1-B
DETOUR ANNIVERSARIES COLLECTION

DETOUR CENTURY BOX

ACQUISITION: Donated to the Detroit Historical Museum by the City of Detroit in 2001.

OWNERSHIP & COPYRIGHT: The Detroit Historical Society except where copyrights for publications, manuscripts, and photos remains in effect.

ARRANGEMENT: Organized and catalogued with a finding aid prepared by Detroit Historical Museum employee, Eric Dalton, in June, 2012. The Detroit Historical Society uses PastPerfect museum software for its records database. All items in the database are assigned a 10-digit number in the format, 0000.000.000. Consequently, items listed in the Series Box List section of this finding aid are shown as object numbers. The finding aid format was updated in June, 2015.

ACCESS & USE: Opened to researchers and other interested individuals in June, 2012, without restriction except where physical condition precludes use.

BACKGROUND

HISTORY of COLLECTION
This collection includes letters, envelopes, pictures, photos, and other documents that were placed in a century box/time capsule at the Detroit City Hall on December 31, 1900. The letters were written by various citizens of the city in order to give some insights about present conditions and to offer some thoughts about the future for citizens of upcoming generations. The time capsule was opened at 11:20 pm on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2000, at Orchestra Hall by Mayor Dennis Archer as part of the 300th anniversary celebration (1701-2001) of the founding of the city.

In December, 1900, the Mayor’s secretary, Clarence A. Cotton, compiled a list of the century box/time capsule contents. This list (object number 2001.061.105), certified by the Mayor’s office, is included in the file for the Mayor, William C. Maybury, and it shows the names of the citizens who had been requested to write letters as well as the subjects that had been assigned to each of them. A total of 56 subjects/names were recorded on the list. When the century box contents were cataloged in March - June, 2012, the writer’s names were checked against the 1900 list. Their names and assigned subjects are summarized on the following pages along with the object numbers that were given to each of the submitted items.
The following names were shown on the 1900 list, but no letters were found in the box from these persons:

Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Davies  
Clarence M. Hayes  
Edward W. Pendleton.

Clarence M. Hayes and/or his associates, F. H. Holt and Frederick A. Goodrich, did handwrite some technical details on the verso of a photographic portrait of the Mayor. Possibly, this information was intended to be the portraiture exhibit for his assigned subject, a *Dissertation on Modern Photography With Two Exhibits, One Portraiture and One Exterior*. The collection also included an exterior photograph of City Hall, but it did not show the photographer’s name or any other information. Possibly, this photograph was intended to the exterior exhibit. The portrait photo is included in the file for Mayor William C. Maybury and the City Hall photo is included in a separate miscellaneous file at the end of the collection.

The following names were not shown on the 1900 list, but letters and/or envelopes were found in the century box from these persons:

Herbert J. Greville  
William C. Houghton  
Fred J. Schulte.

**TIMELINE of COLLECTION**

1900 – On or about midnight, December 31st, William C. Maybury, Mayor of Detroit, deposited letters and artifacts from various Detroit citizens into a time capsule box (Century Box) at City Hall. The box was sealed and stored at City Hall.

2000 – At 11:20 PM, December 31st, Dennis Archer, Mayor of Detroit, opened the Century Box at Orchestra Hall as part of the New Year’s Eve/New Year’s Day celebration in Detroit. New Year’s Day, January 1, 2001, began the 300th anniversary year of the founding of the city in 1701.

**CONTENTS**

**SCOPE and CONTENTS NOTES**

*Physical Description*

The collection contains a variety of letters, envelopes, business cards, photographs, newspaper articles, and one coin. All of the items are housed in folders in two archival boxes except for the century box/time capsule. This container is stored separately as object number 2001.061.001.

*Series Description*

Items are filed in the following series:

I. Contributing Writers
Editorial Description
As prepared by the Mayor’s secretary, the various assigned subjects and writers are listed as follows (with general category topics added):

Arts
Donaldson, John M., *Rise of Architecture in Detroit*
Griffith, Armond H., *What Detroit has Accomplished in Art*
Hayes, Clarence M., *Dissertation on Modern Photography with Two Exhibits* *
Whitney, Bertram C., *Short History of Theatricals in Detroit, 1800 to 1901*
York, Francis L., *History and Prophecy of Music in Detroit*

City Government
Barrie, Robert, *Our Legislative City Government*
Blades, Francis A., *Our Financial City Government Statement of Appropriations, City of Detroit*
Hurlbut, Myrtle P., *The Parks and Boulevards of Detroit, 1900*
Maybury, William C., *Greeting by the Mayor of Detroit*
Ingram, Frederick P., *Public Lighting of Detroit – Past, Present and a Prophecy for the Future*
Pendleton, Edward W., *The Water Supply of Detroit* *
Police Commissioners, *The Police Department of Detroit Municipal Manual of the City of Detroit, 1900-1901*

Commerce
Baldwin, Orrin R., *Merchants and Manufacturers Exchange*
Carson, William, *Board of Trade*
O’Brien, Michael W., *Banking in Prospective in Detroit*
Russell, George H., *Banking Interests, Statements, Officers and Directors of Detroit Banks*
Warner, Carlos E., *The Chamber of Commerce*

Education
Jacobs, Charles H., *The Detroit High School Scholarship Fund*
Marschner, Edward F., *Progress of Public Education in Detroit*
Martindale, Wales C., *Public Schools in Detroit*

Ethnic Heritage
St. Andrew’s Society, *Greetings to the Descendants of Early Scotchmen of Detroit*
Simons, David W., *The Jewish People in Mercantile, Social and Professional Life in Detroit*
Straker, D. Augustus, *The Past, Present and Future of the Colored Race in Detroit*
Willemin, Desire B., *Foundation of Detroit by the French*

General Prophecy
Scripps, James E., *A Prophecy for Detroit as a Metropolis*

Journalism
Cobb, Frank I., *The Newspapers of Detroit*
Quinby, William E., *Progress of Journalism in Detroit*
Schermerhorn, James, *Newspapers Now and Then*
Labor
Boyd, David A., *The Labor Movement in Detroit up to Date*
Greville, Herbert J., *Sentiment of Labor*
McLeod, Malcolm J., *Condition of Labor Men of the City of Detroit*

Law
Russell, Alfred, *The Detroit Bar*

Manufacturing
Dwyer, Jeremiah, *Growth of Detroit’s Manufactories during the 19th Century*
Freer, Charles L., *Possibilities of Detroit as a Manufacturing Center*
Stearns, Frederick, *Growth of Manufacturing Pharmacy in Detroit during the 19th Century*

Medicine
LeSeure, Dr. Oscar, *Growth of Homeopathic Practice in Detroit*
McGraw, Dr. Theodore A, *Progress of Surgery in the 19th Century*
Stephenson, Dr. Samuel S., *The Future of Biopathy*
Stewart, Dr. Morse, *Recollections of Practice of Medicine in Detroit*

Mementos
Houghton, William C., *Letter to Future Family*
Martin, Capt. Francis, *Signature of Capt. Francis Martin, the Oldest Man in Detroit*

Real Estate
Abbott, Edwin W., *Suburbs of Detroit of 1900*
Burton, Clarence M., *Real Estate Titles in Detroit, Past, Present and Future*

Religion
Blitz, Louis, *The Jewish People in Detroit in the 19th Century*
Cotton, Clarence A., *The Denominational Churches in Detroit*
Davies, Rt. Rev. Thomas F., *A Retrospect of the Churches in Detroit* *
Foley, Rt. Rev. John S., *The Roman Catholic Church in Detroit*
Knott, Annie M., *Growth of Christian Science in Detroit*

Social Life, Civic and Charitable Organizations
Arnold, Rev. Charles L., *The Arnold Home for the Aged and Hospital for Incurables*
Miller, Mrs. Sidney Trowbridge, *Detroit’s Social Life*
Moody, George T., *A Retrospect - Y.M.C.A.*
Post, Dr. James A., *Associated Charities in Detroit – Past, Present and Future*
Stoddard, Florine Smith, *Young Women’s Christian Association [Y.W.C.A.]*
Teichner, Mrs. Jacob F., *Hebrew Homes and Charities in Detroit*

Women
Chittenden, Irene Williams, *The American Mother of the 19th Century*
Moran, Mrs. John V., *The American Mother in Detroit*
Patterson, Pamela A., *The Growth of the Women’s Club Movement*
Skinner, Sara M. P., *Women’s Suffrage – Retrospect and Prophecy*
*missing (or never received) items as mentioned previously in the History of Collection section

Although each of the above general category topics could be arranged to form an archival series, it seemed more likely that researchers would first be interested in the name of the writer and second in the subject. Consequently, this finding aid arranges all of the files alphabetically by the writer’s last name rather than create a series arrangement by subject.

The following two items are not attached to any particular subject and are filed in two Miscellaneous file folders at the end of box, ANNV-1-A, after the file for York, Francis L.:
- 2001.061.181, photograph of City Hall, c.1900
- 2001.061.182, Indian Head penny, 1900.

SERIES BOX LIST
SERIES I: Contributing Writers
The names of writers who contributed letters and/or other items to the Century Box are listed alphabetically by last name. The occupation of the writer is also listed (if given) as well as the assigned subject.

Box ANNV-1-A

Abbott, Edwin E. (folder 1)
Owner, E. W. Abbott Real Estate and Insurance
Suburbs of Detroit of 1900
- 2001.061.098 Letter
- 2001.061.099 Envelope
- 2001.061.100 Booklet
- 2001.061.101 Envelope

Arnold, Rev. Charles L. (folder 2)
Arnold Home for the Aged and Hospital for Incurables
- 2001.061.029 Letter
- 2001.061.030 Envelope

Baldwin, Orrin R. (folder 3)
President, American Harrow Company
President, Merchants and Manufacturers Exchange
Merchants and Manufacturers Exchange
- 2001.061.002 Letter
- 2001.061.003 Envelope
- 2001.061.004 Card, Business
- 2001.061.005 Paper, letterhead
- 2001.061.006 Roster
- 2001.061.007 Paper, Letterhead
- 2001.061.008 Card, Business
- 2001.061.009 Chart, Genealogy
- 2001.061.010 Print, Photographic
Barrie, Robert (folder 4)
President, Detroit Common Council
*Our Legislative City Government*
  - 2001.061.012 Letter
  - 2001.061.013 Envelope

Blades, Francis A. (folder 5)
Controller, City of Detroit
*Our Financial City Government*
  - 2001.061.021 Letter
  - 2001.061.022 Envelope
  - 2001.061.023 Booklet

Blitz, Louis (folder 6)
Proprietor, Detroit City Glass Works
*The Jewish People in Detroit in the 19th Century and Their Relations to Social, Commercial and Religious Life*
  - 2001.061.076 Letter
  - 2001.061.077 Envelope

Boyd, David A. (folder 7)
Statistician, Council of Trades and Labor Unions
*The Labor Movement in Detroit up to Date*
  - 2001.061.034 Letter
  - 2001.061.035 Envelope
  - 2001.061.036 Magazine (article)

Burton, Clarence M. (folder 8)
Abstract Office
*Real Estate Titles in Detroit - Past, Present and Future*
  - 2001.061.084 Letter
  - 2001.061.085 Envelope

Carson, William (folder 9)
President, Detroit Board of Trade
*The Board of Trade*
  - 2001.061.014 Letter
  - 2001.061.015 Envelope
  - 2001.061.016 Roster
  - 2001.061.017 Newspaper (article)
  - 2001.061.018 Newspaper (page)
  - 2001.061.019 Handbill, political
  - 2001.061.020 Picture

Chittenden, Irene Williams (folder 10)
*The American Mother in the 19th Century*
  - 2001.061.025 Letter
  - 2001.061.026 Envelope
Cobb, Frank I. (folder 11)
Lead Editorial Writer, Detroit Free Press
The Newspapers of Detroit
2001.061.027 Letter
2001.061.028 Envelope

Cotton, Clarence A. (folder 12)
Mayor's Secretary
The Denominational Churches in Detroit
2001.061.062 Letter
2001.061.063 Envelope

Davies, Rt. Rev. Thomas F.
A Retrospect of the Churches in Detroit
-----

Donaldson, John M. (folder 13)
Architect, Donaldson & Meier Architects
Rise of Architecture in Detroit
2001.061.086 Letter
2001.061.087 Envelope
2001.061.088 Envelope

Dwyer, Jeremiah (folder 14)
President, The Michigan Stove Company
Growth of Detroit Manufactories During the 19th Century
2001.061.056 Letter
2001.061.057 Paper, Letterhead
2001.061.058 Envelope
2001.061.059-.061 Card, Business (3)

Foley, Rev. John S. (folder 15)
Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Detroit
The Roman Catholic Church in Detroit
2001.061.068 Letter
2001.061.069 Envelope
2001.061.070 Report, Annual

Freer, Charles L. (folder 16)
Capitalist
Possibilities of Detroit as a Manufacturing Center
2001.061.078 Letter
2001.061.079 Envelope
2001.061.080 Letter
2001.061.081 Envelope

Greville, Herbert J. (folder 17)
Ex-President of the Trades and Labor Council
2001.061.082 Letter
2001.061.083 Envelope
Griffith, Armond H. (folder 18)
Director, Detroit Museum of Art
What Detroit has Accomplished in Art
2001.061.037  Letter
2001.061.038  Envelope
2001.061.039  Card, Business
2001.061.040  Card, Business
2001.061.041  Advertisement
2001.061.042  Picture
2001.061.043  Postcard
2001.061.044  Brochure

Hayes, Clarence M.
Photographer, C. M. Hayes & Company
Dissertation on Modern Photography with Two Exhibits, One Portraiture and One Exterior (see handwritten text on verso of photograph in mayor’s file, Maybury, William C.; also see photograph of City Hall in file at the end of box ANNV-1-B)

Houghton, William C. (folder 19)
Alderman, 8th Ward, Detroit Common Council
2001.061.031  Letter
2001.061.032  Envelope
2001.061.033  Card, Business

Hurlbut, Myrtle P. (folder 20)
Secretary & General Manager, Commissioners of Parks and Boulevards
The Parks and Boulevards of Detroit, 1900
2001.061.089  Letter
2001.061.090  Envelope
2001.061.091  Card, Business
2001.061.092  Booklet
2001.061.093  Booklet
2001.061.094  Announcement
2001.061.095  Map

Ingram, Frederick F. (folder 21)
President, Public Lighting Commission
Public Lighting of Detroit – Past, Present and a Prophesy for the Future
2001.061.050  Letter
2001.061.051  Envelope
2001.061.052  Report, Annual
2001.061.053  Card, Business
2001.061.054  Card, Business
2001.061.055  Envelope

Jacobs, Charles H. (folder 22)
Vice President and Managing Director, Buhl Stamping Company
The Detroit Scholarship Fund, 1900-2000
2001.061.064  Letter
2001.061.065  Envelope
Knott, Annie M., C.S.D. (folder 23)
Doctor of Christian Science
*Growth of Christian Science in Detroit*
2001.061.071 Letter
2001.061.072 Envelope

LeSeure, Dr. Oscar, M.D. (folder 24)
Physician
*Growth of Homeopathic Practice in Detroit*
2001.061.073 Letter
2001.061.074 Envelope
2001.061.075 Envelope

McGraw, Dr. Theodore A., M.D. (folder 25)
Surgeon
*The Progress of Surgery in the Nineteenth Century*
2001.061.102 Letter
2001.061.103 Envelope

McLeod, Malcolm J. (folder 26)
President, Trades Council
*Condition of Labor Men of the City of Detroit*
2001.061.108 Letter
2001.061.109 Envelope
2001.061.110 Picture
2001.061.111 Card, Union
2001.061.112 Card, Union
2001.061.113 Card, Union

Marschner, Edward F. (folder 27)
President, Board of Education
*Progress of Public Education in Detroit in the 19th Century*
2001.061.045 Letter
2001.061.046 Envelope
2001.061.047 Envelope
2001.061.048 Roster
2001.061.049 Envelope
2001.061.194 Letter

Martin, Francis (folder 28)
Captain, Revenue Marine
*Signature of Capt. Francis Martin, the Oldest Man in Detroit, Who Was Born in June, 1800, and Has Lived In Three Centuries*
(contributed by Mrs. Gilbert B. Seymour)
2001.061.066 Paper, Writing
2001.061.067 Card, Calling
2001.061.187 Envelope
Martindale, Wales C. (folder 29)
Superintendent of Public Schools

*Public Schools in Detroit*
- 2001.061.096 Letter
- 2001.061.097 Envelope
- 2001.061.192 Picture
- 2001.061.193 Booklet

Box ANNV-1-B

Maybury, William C. (folder 30)
Mayor, City of Detroit
*Greeting by the Mayor of Detroit, 1901, and Generation to the Mayor of Detroit A.D. 2001 and Generation*
- 2001.061.104 Letter
- 2001.061.105 Certificate
- 2001.061.106 Envelope
- 2001.061.107 Print, Photograph
- 2001.061.195 Booklet
- 2001.061.196 Booklet

Miller, Mrs. Sidney Trowbridge (folder 31)

*Detroit’s Social Life*
- 2001.061.154 Letter
- 2001.061.155 Envelope

Moody, George T. (folder 32)
President, Detroit Y.M.C.A.
*A Retrospect – Y.M.C.A.*
- 2001.061.114 Letter
- 2001.061.115 Envelope
- 2001.061.116 Newsletter

Moran, Mrs. John V. (folder 33)

*The American Mother in Detroit*
- 2001.061.183 Letter
- 2001.061.184 Envelope

O’Brien, Michael W. (folder 34)
President, Peoples Savings Bank
*Banking in Prospective in Detroit*
- 2001.061.122 Letter
- 2001.061.190 Envelope

Patterson, Pamela A. (folder 35)

*The Growth of the Women’s Club Movement*
- 2001.061.117 Letter
- 2001.061.118 Envelope
Pendleton, Edward W.
*The Water Supply of Detroit*

---

Police Commissioners (folder 36)
(George W. Fowle, Ralph Phelps, Jr., Marvin M. Stanton, Homer Warren)

*Police Department of Detroit*
- 2001.061.160 Letter
- 2001.061.161 Letter
- 2001.061.162 Letter
- 2001.061.163-.171 Pictures (9)
- 2001.061.172 Envelope

Post, Dr. James A., M.D. (folder 37)
Secretary, Detroit Association of Charities

*Associated Charities in Detroit – Past, Present and Future*
- 2001.061.011 Letter
- 2001.061.024 Envelope
- 2001.061.185 Report, Annual

Quinby, William E. (folder 38)
President, Detroit Free Press

*The Progress of Journalism in Detroit*
- 2001.061.119 Letter
- 2001.061.120 Envelope
- 2001.061.121 Paper, Writing

Russel, George H. (folder 39)
President, State Savings Bank

*Banking Interests, Statements, Officers and Directors of Detroit Banks, 1900*
- 2001.061.125 Letter
- 2001.061.188 Envelope
- 2001.061.189 Booklet

Russell, Alfred (folder 40)
Lawyer

*The Detroit Bar*
- 2001.061.123 Magazine (article)
- 2001.061.124 Envelope
- 2001.061.139 Letter

St. Andrew's Society (folder 41)

*Greetings to Descendants of the Early Scotchmen of Detroit*
- 2001.061.146 Letter
- 2001.061.147 Envelope
Schermerhorn, James (folder 42)
Editor, TO-DAY Newspaper
*Newspapers Now and Then*
  2001.061.127 Letter
  2001.061.128 Envelope
  2001.061.129 Card, Business

Schulte, Fred J. (folder 43)
Deputy Receiver of Taxes
  2001.061.186 Envelope

Scripps, James E. (folder 44)
President, The Evening News Association
*A Prophecy for Detroit as a Metropolis*
  2001.061.130 Letter
  2001.061.131 Envelope
  2001.061.132 Newspaper (article)

Simons, David W. (folder 45)
Owner, D. W. Simons & Company
*The Jewish People in Mercantile, Social, and Professional Life in Detroit*
  2001.061.142 Letter
  2001.061.143 Envelope

Skinner, Sara M. Philleo (folder 46)
*Woman’s Suffrage – Retrospect and Prophecy*
  2001.061.144 Letter
  2001.061.145 Envelope

Stearns, Frederick K. (folder 47)
President, Frederick K. Stearns & Co.
*The Growth of Manufacturing Pharmacy in Detroit During the 19th Century*
  2001.061.135 Letter
  2001.061.136 Envelope

Stephenson, Dr. Samuel S., M.D. (folder 48)
Physician
*The Future of Biopathy*
  2001.061.133 Letter
  2001.061.134 Envelope

Stewart, Morse, M.D. (folder 49)
Physician
*Recollections of Practice of Medicine in Detroit*
  2001.061.137 Letter
  2001.061.138 Envelope
Stoddard, Florence (Florine) Smith  (folder 50)
Member of the Board of Managers, YWCA
*Young Women’s Christian Association*

- 2001.061.148  Letter
- 2001.061.149  Envelope
- 2001.061.150  Brochure

Straker, D. Augustus  (folder 51)
Lawyer
*The Present, Past, and Future of the Colored Race in Detroit*

- 2001.061.156  Letter
- 2001.061.157  Envelope

Teichner, Mrs. Jacob F. (née Fannie Freedman)  (folder 52)
Recording and Corresponding Secretary,
Detroit Ladies Society for the Support of Hebrew Women and Orphans
*Hebrew Homes and Charities in Detroit*

- 2001.061.140  Letter
- 2001.061.141  Envelope

Warner, Carlos Edgar  (folder 53)
Lawyer and President of the Chamber of Commerce
*The Chamber of Commerce*

- 2001.061.158  Letter
- 2001.061.159  Envelope

Whitney, Bertram C.  (folder 54)
Manager, Detroit Opera House
*Short History of Theatricals in Detroit, 1800 to 1901*

- 2001.061.173  Letter
- 2001.061.175-.178  Picture (4)
- 2001.061.179  Envelope
- 2001.061.180  Envelope

Willemin, Desire B.  (folder 55)
Correspondence Secretary, Franco-American Club
*Foundation of Detroit by the French*

- 2001.061.151  Letter
- 2001.061.152  Envelope

York, Francis L.  (folder 56)
Organist, Christ Church
*History and Prophecy of Music in Detroit*

- 2001.061.153  Letter
- 2001.061.191  Envelope

Miscellaneous  (folders 57, 58)

- 2001.061.181  Print, Photographic (Detroit City Hall, c.1900)
- 2001.061.182  Coin (Indian head penny, 1900)
KEY WORDS/SEARCH TERMS

Bi-Centenary Box
Bicentennials
Century Box
Detroit Anniversaries