

## **MS-213, Richard Fullerton Photographic Collection**

**Collection Number:** MS-213

**Title:** Richard Fullerton Photographic Collection

**Dates:** Circa 1850-1989 (Bulk 1860-1930)

**Creator:** Fullerton, Richard D., 1915-1990

**Summary/Abstract:** This collection consists of over 2,000 photographs and negatives collected, and in some cases taken by Richard Fullerton, who spent his career in the photography laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The portrait photography in the collection represents predominant photographic processes, portraiture styles, and formats from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The collection contains tintypes, cartes-de-visites, cabinet cards, albumen prints, platinum prints, matte collodion prints, silver gelatin prints, and negatives. Also included is a visual history of Dayton, Ohio with photographs of Dayton railroads and interurban, the local fire departments, Montgomery County Courthouse, Dayton photographers and their studios, Wright Brothers buildings and events, the 1913 flood, street scenes, and aerial photographs. The collection also includes Fullerton's subject files on Dayton history topics, and negatives. Fullerton's family genealogy photographs are included.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 7.0 linear feet

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:** Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092.

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection. Researchers are asked to slowly turn pages in the binder boxes so as not to place undue pressure on the brittle mounts of the cartes-de-visites and cabinet cards.

**Restrictions on Use:** Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-213, Richard Fullerton Photographic Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

**Acquisition:**

The collection was accessioned in the fall of 1990. It was donated by Richard Fullerton's wife, Ruth Fullerton.

**Related Material:**

- SC-74 Jane Reece Studio Collection
- MS-151 Jane Reece Photographic Collection
- MS-185 Fullerton / Jane Reece Collection
- MS-271 Peerless Mayfield Photograph Collection

- *99 Years of Dayton Photographers*, by Richard D. Fullerton, Dayton, Ohio, 1982. Call number TR24.O3 F84 1982.
- *Dayton a History in Photographs*, compiled and edited by Junior League of Dayton, 1976. Call number F499 .D2 J7.
- *New Dayton Illustrated: or the Gem City as Seen Through a Camera, 1893* compiled by C.W. Faber and published by the Press of United Brethren Publishing House in 1893. Call number F499.D2 .F1.

**Processed by:** Finding aid prepared by Alan D. Robison, 1991. Revised by Kathryn D. Goetz, 1995. Revised by Kellie Fox, 2008. Rehoused and revised by Nina Herzog, Katie Griffith and Toni Vanden Bos, 2017.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged into 5 series:

SERIES I: PORTRAITS AND STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHS, circa 1855-1922, undated

- Subseries IA: Tintypes
- Subseries IB: Cartes-de-visites
- Subseries IC: Cabinet Cards
- Subseries ID: Photographs by Dayton Area Photographers

SERIES II: DAYTON HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHS, circa 1850-1989, undated

- Subseries IIA: Dayton Railroads and Interurban
- Subseries IIB: Dayton Fire Department
- Subseries IIC: Montgomery County (Ohio) Courthouse and Aerials
- Subseries IID: Dayton Photographers and Studios
- Subseries IIE: Wright Brothers and Aviation
- Subseries IIF: Dayton Street Scenes and History
- Subseries IIG: 1913 Dayton Flood

SERIES III: NEGATIVES, 1855-1981, undated

SERIES IV: FULLERTON FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS, circa 1900s, undated

SERIES V: SUBJECT FILES, 1858-1989, undated

**Biographical Note:**

Richard Fullerton was born in Jersey City, N.J. in 1915. He graduated from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine in 1938. After service in the Army, he joined the Air Force. Fullerton eventually came to Dayton, Ohio where he worked in the photography laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He worked at the laboratory for thirty years, retiring in 1972. Richard Fullerton continued his passion for photography and Dayton's history, contributing research and counsel to the book titled *Dayton: a History in Photographs* compiled and edited by the Junior League of Dayton, Ohio, Inc. in 1976. Richard Fullerton published his own book in 1982 titled *99 Years of Dayton Photographers*. Many of the

photographs featured in both publications are in this collection, as well as documentation on the projects in the subject files in the collection. In addition to being a photographer and collecting photographic images, Fullerton was interested in model railroading and genealogy, which he actively pursued during his retirement and which is also reflected in the collection. In February 1990 Fullerton passed away at the age of seventy-five.

### **Scope and Content:**

The collection contains a rich assembly of portraits and studio photographs by photographers in Dayton, Ohio as well as across the country dating back to the 1850s. These photographs were collected by Fullerton, and represent a study in the history of photography formats and styles. In addition the collection is a rich source of photographic history of Dayton, Ohio, as well as Fullerton's family history. The collection is divided into 5 series.

**Series I: Portraits and Studio Photographs, circa 1855-1922, undated** contains portraits and photographs produced in a studio. This series is divided into subseries by photographic format, with one subseries broken out to highlight Dayton area photographers. While many of the tintypes, cartes-de-visite, and cabinet cards are portraits, many are also in the style of later photography in which individuals and small groups are photographed with items or backdrops representing their interests, such as musical instruments, bicycles, and books.

**Subseries IA, Tintypes, circa 1860-1892, undated**, contains tintype photographs collected by Richard Fullerton. Tintypes made from iron, not tin, were produced in the mid to late 1800s. This series contains multiple sizes, however the majority are sixth-plates (3 ½ x 2 ½ inches). Many of the individuals in the photographs are unidentified portraits of infants, girls, boys, women, and men. The few with photographer information are by photographers in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maine, Maryland, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York. However, only a small number of the 272 tintypes have this information.

**Subseries IB, Cartes-de-visites, circa 1860-1872, undated**, contains over 300 images by photographers from across the United States and some international locations such as Germany, Canada. The cartes-de-visite format was popular from the mid-1850s to late 1890s. Some of the photographs of celebrities such as Tom Thumb and Abraham Lincoln, were mass produced and sold. The majority of the photographs are albumen prints. While many of the individuals in the cartes-de-visites are unidentified, most of the mounts contain photographer information.

**Subseries IC, Cabinet Cards, circa 1870-1900, undated**, also contains the work of photographers from across the United States and some international locals. Cabinet cards are typically 4 ¼" x 6 ½" in size and became available around 1870, taking over the popularity of the cartes-de-visite. Like the cartes-de-visite, photographer information is common on the mount of the cabinet card. Again, individuals in the majority of the photographs are unidentified, but many of the mounts offer photographer information and location. Please note that several of the cabinet cards in this series were made by Ohio photographers outside of the Dayton, Ohio area. Of special interest in this series is the image of Buffalo Bill.

**Subseries ID, Photographs by Dayton Area Photographers, circa 1855-1922, undated** contains photographs of individuals in the form of cartes-de-visites, cabinet cards, and portrait folders made by Dayton, Ohio area photographers. Several of the cartes-de-visites are very early, many with

photographer information on the card mounts. This series contains albumen, platinum, matte collodion, and silver gelatin prints. Also included are a few postcard photographs.

**Series II: Dayton History Photographs, circa 1850-1989, undated**, contains some original photographs and many reprints of photographs depicting Dayton's railroads and interurban, fire houses and vehicles, the Montgomery County courthouse, Dayton photographers and their studios, Wright Brothers and aviation, the Dayton 1913 Flood, and many Dayton street scenes. Many of these photographs were used in the 1976 book *Dayton: a History in Photographs* compiled and edited by the Junior League of Dayton, for which Fullerton served as a photo consultant. Negatives for many of the prints in this series are found in Series IV.

**Subseries IIA, Dayton Railroads and Interurban, circa 1900s, undated**, primarily contain 8x10 black and white silver gelatin reprints stamped on the back "From the collection of Richard D. Fullerton". In some cases, the back of the photograph reveals the source of the original photograph, such as photographer William Preston Mayfield. Dayton's first railroad station at 6<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson Streets in 1851, a railroad near Harshmanville, Union Railway Station, map of the principal railroads of the Dayton area, and Cincinnati Hamilton & Dayton Railway are all represented in this series, among others. The photographs also include some aerial photographs.

**Subseries IIB: Dayton Fire Department, circa 1880-1965, undated**, contains primarily 8x10 black and white silver gelatin reprints documenting the Dayton, Ohio Fire Department. Several Dayton Fire Department engine houses and companies are photographed, along with various fire apparatus, and personnel. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and Euclid Engine House, Wayne Avenue Engine House, 5<sup>th</sup> at Brown St., Main and Monument Streets, and Chapel and Maryland are just a few included in the series.

**Subseries IIC: Montgomery County (Ohio) Courthouse and Aerials, circa 1850-1975, undated**, contains a mix of reprints and originals depicting historical images of the Montgomery County Courthouse back to the 1800s and as recent as 1975. This series also contains several aerial photographs of Dayton, Ohio from the 1920s and 1930s, some of which were taken by the Air Service, U.S. Army.

**Subseries IID: Dayton Photographers and Studios, circa 1875-1976, undated**, contains black and white reprints of Dayton photographers from the early 1900s, such as Samuel Owings, Thomas W. Cridland, Jane Reece, William Preston Mayfield, and Prof. Theodore Georgi. The series also includes some historic advertising by photographic studios. Photographs of the studios of Higginbotham, Cridland's, Grossman's, and H.G. Cole are included. Many of the photographs appear in Fullerton's book *99 Years of Dayton Photographers*, 1982 (call number TR24.O3 F84 1982). Of note are four scrapbook pages highlighting an event for the Dayton: A History in Photographs book, at the Dayton Art Institute in 1976.

**Subseries IIE: Wright Brothers and Aviation, circa 1887-1988, undated**, are reprints of photographs of buildings and events important in the Wright Brothers story in Dayton, Ohio. Included is a photo of the Wright's first print shop at 1210 West Third St. A photograph of the Wright Cycle Shop at 22 S. Williams in 1896, the West Dayton Reception Committee in 1909, the Hoover Block at 1060 West 3<sup>rd</sup>, a group photo of Canadians at Wright School taken at Simms Station in 1915, a plaque on the site of the original hangar, the 1950 dedication of the Bicycle Shop at 1129-31 W. Third St., the 1988 dedication of the Wright Cycle Company at 22 South Eilliams St., the Bothezat Helicopter from McCook Field in 1922.

**Subseries IIF: Dayton Street Scenes and History, circa 1884-1989, undated**, contains a mix of original prints and reprints depicting street scenes, buildings, shops, historic markers, vehicles, and people across the span of a century. Some of the photographs in this subseries are reprints of photographs that appear in the book *New Dayton Illustrated: or the Gem City as Seen Through a Camera, 1893* compiled by C.W. Faber and published by the Press of United Brethren Publishing House, and available in the reading room under call number F499.D2 .F1, while others appear in the book *Dayton a History in Photographs*, compiled and edited by Junior League of Dayton, 1976 under call number F499 .D2 J7.

**Subseries IIG: 1913 Dayton Flood, 1913**, contains some original sepia toned photographs and several black and white reprints showing scenes in the aftermath of the historic 1913 flood.

**Series III: Negatives, 1855-1981, undated**, contains photographic negatives for many, but not all, of the prints in Series II. Represented in this series are Dayton photographers, railroad and traction, Dayton Fire Department, aerial photographs, aerial maps, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, famous Daytonians including the Wright Brothers, and Dayton Dayton buildings and street scenes. Several of the negatives are identified and have accompanying reference prints.

**Series IV Fullerton Family Photographs and Negatives, circa 1900s, undated**, contains photographs and negatives of individuals and families from Fullerton's genealogy. The genealogy spans Richard Dunlop Fullerton's wife's family (nee Ruth Montgomery) as well. Included are the Bassett family, Dunlop family, Doll family, Fullerton family, McGlyn family, Montgomery family, Mulhair family, Pomeroy family, and Turner family. Due to the crossover of names as individuals married, researchers should look through files of all relatives that the individual may appear with in a family photograph. While not all are identified, many are and have accompanying reference prints.

**Series V. Subject Files, 1858-1989, undated**, contains documentation related to topics represented in photographs within the collection. Included in this series is information on Dayton photographers, the Montgomery County Courthouse, the local traction lines and railroad stations, Dayton Fire Department, the Wright Brothers history, and the 1913 Dayton flood. Fullerton's research for his book *99 Years of Dayton Photographers*, and his file with clippings and the book *Dayton: A History in Photographs* are included.

## **Subject Terms:**

### **Persons/Families**

Fullerton, Richard D., 1915-1990

Fullerton, Ruth

### **Organizations**

Dayton (Ohio). Fire department – Photographs.

### **Places**

Dayton (Ohio) – History

Dayton (Ohio) – Buildings, structures, etc.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (Ohio) – History – Pictorial works

### **Subjects (General)**

Floods – Ohio – Dayton – Pictorial works  
Photographers -- Ohio – Dayton  
Photography – History  
Portrait photography  
Railroads -- Ohio Miami River Valley -- History

**Material Types**

Aerial photographs  
Clippings (information artifacts)  
Glass plate negatives  
Negatives (photographs)  
Photographs  
Tintypes (prints)  
Cartes-de-visite (card photographs)  
Cabinet photographs

**Occupations**

Photographers

**Collection Inventory**

<b>SERIES I : PORTRAITS AND STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHS, circa 1855-1922, undated</b>			
<b>Subseries IA: Tintypes, 1860-1892, undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1-153	Tintypes	circa 1860-1892, undated
2	1-125	Tintypes	circa 1860-1892, undated
<b>Subseries IB: Cartes-de-visites, circa 1855-1872, undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1-319	Cartes de Visites	circa 1860-1872, undated
<b>Subseries IC: Cabinet Cards, circa 1870-1900, undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	1-80	Cabinet Cards	circa 1870-1900, undated
5	1-62	Cabinet Cards	circa 1870-1900, undated
<b>Subseries ID: Photographs by Dayton Area Photographers, circa 1855-1922, undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	1-162	Photographs by Dayton Area Photographers	circa 1855-1922, undated
<b>SERIES II: DAYTON HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHS, 1850-1989, undated</b>			
<b>Subseries IIA: Dayton Railroads and Interurban, circa 1900s, undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	1-172	Rail and Interurban Railways	circa 1900s, undated
8	1-37	Interurban Rail	circa 1900s, undated
<b>Subseries IIB: Dayton Fire Department, circa 1880-1965, undated</b>			

<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
8	38-130	Dayton Fire Department	circa 1880-1965, undated
<b>Subseries IIC: Montgomery County (Ohio) Courthouse and Aerials, circa 1850-1975, undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
9	1-102	Montgomery County Courthouse and Aerials	circa 1850-1975, undated
<b>Subseries IID: Dayton Photographers and Studios, circa 1875-1976, undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
10	1-58	Photographs of Dayton Photographers and Studios	circa 1875-1976, undated
<b>Subseries IIE: Wright Brothers and Aviation, 1887-1988, undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
10	59-98	Wright Brothers and Aviation	1887-1988, undated
<b>Subseries IIF: Dayton Street Scenes and History, circa 1884-1989, undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
11		Dayton Street Scenes and History	circa 1884-1989, undated
12		Dayton Street Scenes and History	circa 1884-1989, undated
<b>Subseries IIG: 1913 Dayton Flood, 1913</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
13	1-179	1913 Dayton Flood	1913
<b>SERIES III: NEGATIVES, circa 1855-1981 undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
14	1	Dayton Photographers	circa 1860-1930, undated
14	2	Railroad and Traction	circa 1855-1912, undated
14	3	1913 Dayton Flood	1913



14	4	Dayton Fire Department	circa 1889-1912, undated
14	5	Aerial Photographs	circa 1920-1960, undated
14	6	Aerial Maps	circa 1875-1965, undated
14	7	Wright-Patterson Air Force Base	1918-1947, undated
14	8	Famous Daytonians and Wright Brothers History	circa 1900-1950, undated
14	9	Wergenzyn Gardens	1976
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
17	1	Negatives of Market Interior	circa 1900-1910
17	2	Negatives of Aerials of Dayton, Ohio	circa 1900, undated
17	3	Negatives of Dayton Scenes, O Series 16-32	circa 1900, undated
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
15	1	Dayton Buildings and Street Scenes	circa 1875-1981
15	2	Images from Books	circa 1900-1964
15	3	Dayton Opera Festival	undated
15	4	Nearby Dayton, Ohio	1881-1954, undated
15	5	Intermediate Negatives	undated
<b>SERIES IV: FULLERTON FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS, circa 1900s, undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
16	1	Bassett Family	circa 1900s, undated
16	2	Bassett, Charles Henry and wife Almeda Pomeroy	circa 1900s, undated
16	3	Bassett, Frank	circa 1900, undated
16	4	Bassett, Joseph Eugene	circa 1900, undated
16	5	Bassett, Marie Hortense	circa 1900, undated
16	6	Bassett, Obeline	circa 1900, undated
16	7	Dunlop and Doll Family	circa 1900s, undated
16	8	Fullerton, Richard Dunlop	circa 1900s, undated
16	9	Fullerton, Robert Brown Thomson	circa 1900s, undated
16	10	Fullerton, Ruth Montgomery	circa 1900s, undated
16	11	Montgomery Family (Frank, Ellis, Ruth)	circa 1900s, undated

16	12	Montgomery and Turner Family	circa 1900s, undated
16	13	Mulhair McGlyn Family	circa 1900s, undated
16	14	Pomeroy House	1957
16	15	Pomeroy Bassett, Martha Almeda	circa 1900s, undated
16	16	Pomeroy, Maria (sister of Martha)	circa 1900s, undated
16	17	Pomeroy, Moses Boardman	circa 1900s, undated
<b>SERIES V. SUBJECT FILES, 1858-1989, undated</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
17	4	History of Photography	undated
17	5	Carillon Park Rail and Steam Society Membership Directory	1989
17	6	Dayton Railroad Stations	1878-1987
17	7	Dayton and Local Traction	1957, 1969
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
18	1	Dayton Fire Department	1858-1885, 1984
18	2	Dayton Fire Department	1984, 1989
18	3	Fire Station Number 6	1989
18	4	Montgomery County Courthouse	1932, 1959
18	5	Wright Brothers and Aviation History	1953, 1987-1988
18	6	Dayton Street Scenes	1976
18	7	Wayne Ave. History	1950
18	8	49 Linden Ave. History	1962, undated
18	9	1913 Dayton Flood	1913, 1966
18	10	Dayton Photographers	1869, 1966
18	11	99 Years of Dayton Photographers, A-K	1982
18	12	99 Years of Dayton Photographers, L-Z	1982
18	13	<i>Dayton: A History in Photographs</i> (book and clippings)	1976