

MS-489 Homer and Elsie Hardy Collection

Collection Number: MS-489

Title: Homer and Elsie Hardy Collection

Dates: 1891 – 1969 (bulk 1920s – 1930s)

Creator: Hardy, Homer, 1886 - 1960

Summary/Abstract:

Homer and Elsie Hardy lived in Dayton, Ohio, but travelled the world in the 1920s and 1930s, possibly as part of Homer's job as a manager in the foreign department of the Delco-Light Company. The Homer and Elsie Hardy Collection contains 8 scrapbooks and numerous other postcards and photographs documenting their family life and travels.

Quantity/Physical Description: 1.7 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

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 Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright.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:

MS-489, Homer and Elsie Hardy Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition: Donated to Special Collections and Archives by Dr. David Small, 2011

Processing Information:

Photographs that were stored in scrapbooks have been kept in their original order. Where photographs have become detached from the scrapbook and it was not obvious where they should fit, they have been included at the end of the scrapbook folder. Box 3, Folder 1 in Series II contains some family pictures within a scrapbook that is predominantly travel. These have been kept with the rest of the pictures in the scrapbook to preserve the original order.

Processed by: Karis Raeburn, May 2014

Arrangement:

The Collection is organized into two series:

Series I: Family Life

Series II: Travel

Biographical/Historical Note

Homer Hardy was born on 16 March 1886 in Utopia, Ohio, and died on 29 August 1960 in Dayton, Ohio. Elsie Hardy was born Elsie Taylor with twin sister Erma Taylor on 17 November 1890 in Xenia, Ohio and died on 24 November 1973, in Dayton, Ohio. Homer and Elsie were married around 1911.

Homer was a metalworker in Dayton in 1910, but by 1913 was a clerk and by 1919 had risen to become an assistant manager in the Delco-Light Company's foreign department. He continued to work for the company until his retirement in the early 1950s, and it may have been the nature of his work that allowed the couple to travel so extensively. They travelled to Australia in 1921 and all around the world from 1930-1931. They also travelled around America in the 1950s and Elsie may have travelled around America in the 1960s after her husband's death. The couple seem to have enjoyed their trips and learned a great deal about other nations and cultures on their extensive travels.

Delco-Light, a division of the larger Delco Company manufactured electric power systems for use in rural areas. Once Delco became part of the General Motors Company, Delco-Light systems were used to support the sale of products, such as refrigerators, to rural communities.

Scope and Content

The Homer and Elsie Hardy Collection is comprised predominantly of photographs taken by the couple throughout their life together and on their many travels. The majority of these photographs were stored in 8 scrapbooks and the order of these scrapbooks has been maintained.

Series I, Family Life contains photographs of both sides of the family up until the 1920s, the earliest photograph being of Elsie and her twin sister Erma, taken when they were 6 months old in 1891. This series also contains pictures of Erma and her friends studying nursing, and the program from her graduation from The Lakeside Hospital School of Nursing in 1921. Among the portrait photographs of family members is a booklet produced by the Delco-Light Company containing a photograph of Homer Hardy in his role as Assistant Foreign Manager.

Series II, Travel represents the bulk of material in the collection and consists predominantly of photographs taken by Homer and Elsie Hardy on their travels around the world in the 1920s and 1930s which made up a number of scrapbooks in the collection. This series also contains postcards written to and from a variety of people and blank postcards kept as mementos from places the couple visited. There are also three maps in this series, two of counties in Ohio and one of the stopping points on a proposed trip in 1926.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Hardy, Homer, 1886 -1960

Hardy, Elsie, 1890 -1973

Taylor, Erma, 1890 – 1976

Organizations/Corporate Names

Delco-Light Company.

Places

Dayton (Ohio)

Miami County (Ohio)

Preble County (Ohio)

Subjects (General)

Travel – 1920-1930

Tourists – 1920-1930

Family life – Pictorial works

Material Types

Photographs.

Scrapbooks.

Brochures

Postcards

Collection Inventory

Series I: Family Life

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Portraits of Elsie and Sister Erma	1891-1910s
	2	Portraits	Circa 1910s- 1930s
	3	Portraits	Circa 1910s- 1930s
	4	Scrapbook 1 – Family Photographs	1909-1912
	5	Scrapbook 1 – Family Photographs	1912
2	1	Scrapbook 2 – Family Photographs	Circa 1910s - 1920s
	2	Scrapbook 3 – Family Photographs	1916-1917
	3	Scrapbook 4 – Family and Nursing Photographs	Circa 1918
	4	Erma's Graduation Program	1921
	5	Dayton Women's Club Bulletin – January 1958	1958

	6	Steele High School 1908 Class Reunion	1958?
	7	Income / Expenses Notebook	1968-1969

Series II: Travel

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	8	Scrapbook 5 - Australia	1921
	9	Scrapbook 5 - Australia	1921
	10	Scrapbook 5 - Australia	1921
	11	Scrapbook 5 - Australia	1921
3	1	Scrapbook 6 – California, Michigan, Some Family Pictures	1921
	2	Oceanic Steamship Company Leaflet	1923
	3	Scrapbook 7 – Canada, Japan, China, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia	1930-1931
	4	Scrapbook 7 – India, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Egypt	1931
	5	Scrapbook 7 – Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Holland (Netherlands), France	1931
	6	Scrapbook 8 – Colorado, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa	1931
4	1	Scrapbook 8 – Mozambique, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Kenya, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, Jerusalem, Palestine, Lebanon	1931
	2	Scrapbook 8 – Greece, Italy, France, England	1931
	3	Maps	1926, 1941
	4	Correspondence - Postcards	1918, 1953-1973
	5	Postcards	c.1950s-1960s
	6	Postcards	c.1950s-1960s
	7	Photographs from “Ocean Monarch”	c.1955
	8	Travel Plans	1958, 1960