

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.027]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Thomas Garfield Cooper Photograph Collection

Abstract: Photographs taken by Thomas Garfield Cooper, mostly concerning the Capitol fire of 1911 and construction of Missouri's new Capitol Building.

Extent: 53 images

Physical Description: Photographs and ephemera

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: TIF

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [item description], [date]; *Thomas Garfield Cooper Photograph Collection*, Record Group 998.027; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift & Loan; Accession #1982-0053

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 12/12/2016. Updated by EW on 03/23/2021.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Thomas Garfield Cooper (1882-1950) was born in Jefferson City to Albert and Anna Cooper. Although he had no formal training, Cooper became a highly skilled photographer. His primary interest was in landscape work. In 1912, he was advertising himself as a commercial photographer who specialized in "interiors and exteriors of homes, factories, offices and show windows or photographs of any kind required for illustrated purposes." Cooper became involved with the Capitol Commission Board in the latter part of 1912 and became the official photographer documenting the construction of the new Capitol Building from 1913-1917.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

MS006 Edwin William Stephens Collection
MS013 Theodore Lacaff Diaries
MS066 Peter Herman Rackers Photograph Collection
MS111 Ralph Miller Capitol Fire Photograph Collection
MS163 Blanche Leach Capitol Dedication Scrapbook
MS268 New Capitol Day Collection
MS313 Van Gundy Photograph Collection
MS314 Tom Sater Capital City Collection
MS321 James C. Worth Photograph Collection
MS433 Dr. Joseph Summers Collection
MS441 Alfred A. Speer Capitol Collection
MS474 Dave DeLaney Photograph Collection
RG395 State Capitol Commission Board
RG395 State Capitol Commission Board Photographs
RG395.2 Missouri State Capitol Commission
RG395.2 Missouri State Capitol Commission Photographs
RG396 Capitol Decoration Commission

Available on the Cole County shelf in the Archives' Reference Room:

Summers, Joseph S. Jr. The Day the Capitol Burned. Jefferson City, MO: CeMoMedServ Publications, 1986.

Young, Timothy. The Life and Times of the Jefferson City, Missouri Fire Department. 2013.

Additional External Resources

United States Patent Collection through Google Patents shows at least one patent obtained by Cooper: <https://patents.google.com/>. Patent for "Printing Attachment for Photo-Printing Machines," 1919.

PHOTOGRAPHS, 1911-1917

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

Cooper took photographs of the second Jefferson City, Missouri State Capitol Building while it was burning on February 5, 1911, of the ruins after the fire and later of the new third Capitol being built. His family also donated family photographs; however, the individuals, dates, and places are unidentified.

All images are available on the Z Drive. TIFs are also available on Manuscript DVD #1 in the Reference Room.

Container List

Located in Box 4

Folder	Image	Size	Format	Contents	Date
12	1	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Senate Chambers before the fire	pre-1911
12	2	5"x6"	Platinum Print? Silver Gelatin?	Capitol Building on fire [See also MS433 for a postcard-sized print]	02/05/1911
12	3	5"x6"	Platinum Print? Silver Gelatin?	Capitol Building on fire	02/05/1911
12	4	5"x6"	Platinum Print? Silver Gelatin?	Capitol Building on fire	02/05/1911
12	5	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Capitol Building on fire	02/05/1911
12	6	5"x6"	Platinum Print? Silver Gelatin?	Capitol dome on fire	02/05/1911
12	8	5"x6"	Platinum Print? Silver Gelatin?	Capitol dome on fire	02/05/1911
12	8	3.5"x5.25"	Platinum Print? Silver Gelatin?	Capitol dome on fire	02/05/1911
12	9	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Capitol dome on fire: photo caption reads, "Before upper dome fell Cooper photo MO Capitol Burning Feb 5 1911"	02/05/1911
12	10	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Ruins of Capitol Building in snow	Feb. 1911
12	11	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Aerial of Capitol ruins and the Missouri River	Feb. 1911
12	12	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Men standing among the ruins of the House Chambers, interior	Feb. 1911
12	13	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Ruins of Capitol Building, interior	Feb. 1911
12	14	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Group of men standing on steps, interior, ruined Capitol. Some men wearing law	Feb. 1911

				enforcement badges on their coats.	
12	15	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Woman standing next to new Capitol under construction	c1915
12	16	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Woman standing next to new Capitol under construction	c1915
12	17	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Woman standing next to piles of stones for the new Capitol Building	c1915
12	18	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Man standing next to piles of stones for the new Capitol Building	c1915
12	19	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Man sitting on pile of building materials	c1915
12	20	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Group of men at the cornerstone laying ceremony	06/23/1915
12	21	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Cornerstone laying ceremony	06/23/1915
12	22	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Cornerstone laying ceremony	06/23/1915
12	23	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Capitol under construction from a distance	c1915
12	24	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Central Hotel with Capitol under construction in the background	c1915
12	25	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Capitol under construction (compare with RG395 Image 51)	06/15/1915
12	26	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Capitol from a distance as seen from High Street looking east; pedestrians on street	c1915
12	27	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Steamboat "Missouri," possibly bringing in building supplies for the Capitol	c1915
13	28	8"x10"	Print	Dome capping ceremony, posed portrait	12/05/1916
13	29	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Dome capping ceremony, men using trowels	12/05/1916
13	30	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Dome capping ceremony, two men stand on top of the newly-capped dome	12/05/1916
13	31	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Missouri State Capitol, newly-completed (minus Ceres)	1916-1917
13	32	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Interior of a church, possibly St. Peter's	none
13	33	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Image of a photograph from an album of a basket on a table with flowers in it	none
13	34	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Gov. Forrest Smith signing a bill with State Comptroller E.L. Pigg watching	1949-1950
13	35	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Gov. Forrest Smith signing a bill with six people watching	1949-1950
13	36	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Bride and Groom, Couple #1	none
13	37	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Bride and Groom, Couple #2	none
13	38	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Brides and Grooms, Couple #1 & #2	none
13	39	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Wedding party and attendees	none
13	40	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Wedding party and attendees	none
13	41	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Man holding baby	none
13	42	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Portrait of a morose man	none
13	43	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Portrait of a morose man	none
13	44	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Three people sitting on a porch	none
13	45	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	A family in front of a house	none
13	46	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	A man and a boy sit on the front stoop	none
13	47	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	A river	none
13	48	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Men observing something from the trees	none

13	49	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	A small river boat with people on board	none
13	50	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	The Gem Picture Palace with a crowd out front	none
13	51	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	Red Star brand food display	none
13	52	3.5"x4.75"	Copy Print	View of the Missouri River from the Capitol showing the old bridge; the River is flooded	none

EPHEMERA, 1920

Arrangement: N/a

Scope and Content

American Legion ribbon. Scan is available on the Z Drive. TIF is also available on Manuscript DVD #1 in the Reference Room.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Image	Description	Date
	4	14	53	A very tattered ribbon from the American Legion showing Board Member status	08/23-24/1920