



Finding aid for

LAPEER MACHINE SHOP RECORDS, 1866-1924 (bulk 1866-1905)

Accession 29.3062.4

Inventory Published: 16 November 2020

NOTE: This is an **UNPROCESSED COLLECTION** and has not yet been prepared for routine service (i.e. housed for safe handling, labeled, and cataloged). Access may be restricted in order to maintain physical and intellectual control, and is at the discretion of archives personnel. Researchers interested in access to unprocessed collections should contact Benson Ford Research Center staff to discuss collection availability.



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 29.3062.4

CREATOR: McDonald, William Sr.

TITLE: Lapeer Machine Shop Records

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1866-1924 (bulk 1866-1905)

QUANTITY: 11.02 cubic ft. (12 boxes and 9 loose volumes)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English.

ABSTRACT: William McDonald, a trained machinist from Glasgow, Scotland, moved to Lapeer, Michigan in the late 1860s. He purchased an interest in the shop of Mr. Newton, and after an 1872 fire destroyed the buildings, bought out his partner and began operating as McDonald & Sons. The business manufactured steam engines, brass and iron castings, and assorted machinery. The building was later moved to Greenfield Village, where it is currently known as the Davidson-Gerson Gallery of Glass.

The Lapeer Machine Shop Records, 1868-1924, contains ledgers and other records books; catalogs and brochures from assorted machine companies; financial records, including canceled checks, receipts, and statements; newspaper clippings; photographic prints; and correspondence.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** This is an **UNPROCESSED COLLECTION** and has not yet been prepared for routine service (i.e. housed for safe handling, labeled, and cataloged). Access may be restricted in order to maintain physical and intellectual control, and is at the discretion of archives personnel. Researchers interested in access to unprocessed collections should contact Benson Ford Research Center staff to discuss collection availability.
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** Acquired by The Henry Ford in 1929.
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 29.3062.4, Lapeer Machine Shop Records, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection is unprocessed. Inventory assembled from donor-supplied item listings, and has not been checked against material. Use this inventory as reference only.
- Partial draft inventory published December 11, 2020, by Janice Unger.

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

Cash book, 1 September 1897 to 25 September 1900
Address book, undated
Receiving slips book, contains 3 drawings, 1923
Ledger, March 1908 to 1 May 1912
Ledger, 8 November 1890 to 8 June 1895
Order book, 1877-1880
Order book, 1877-1891

Box 2

Financial Records
Canceled checks and receipts (3 folders)
Statements
Statements of purchases
Statements of Lapeer Machine Shop (4 folders)
Miscellaneous statements
Check books (2 folders)
Receipt books
Miscellaneous ledgers
Contracts and miscellaneous papers
Correspondence
George McDonald (3 folders)
Mr. McDonald and Sons
Stationery

Box 3

Ledger, dates unknown
Ledger, 1882-1883
Ledger, 1873-1874
Ledger, 1872-1873
Ledger, May 1915-1918
Ledger, 1895-1897
Cash book, September 1887 to 17 July 1890
Ledger, 10 June 1895 to 11 May 1899
Ledger, 1880

Box 4

Printed materials
Blotters
Catalogs
Catalogs and other printed materials
“Standard’ Baths”
“Standard’ Drinking Fountains”

Box 4, continued

“Modern Bath Rooms”
Telephone directory for Lapeer, Jun 1929
Handwritten telephone list
Safety Furnace Pipe Company
The Stilwell-Bierce & Smith Vaile Co., Dayton, Ohio
American Injector Company, Detroit, Michigan, Catalogue No. 30
The Novelty Iron Company, Canton, Ohio
Chicago Fust Mfg. Co, Catalog No. 26
“Martin’s Screw Cutting Tables”
American Injector Company, Detroit, Michigan, Catalogue No. 31
“The Fitters Handbook,” James B. Clow & Sons
“Furman Boilers and Supplies”
“The Stylograph or Rapid Letter Copying Book, No. 9”
“Stylographic Writing Packet to be used in McDonald’s Stylograph; or Rapid Letter Copying Book”
Swift Lubricator Company, Elmira, New York, Catalog no. 25
“Emperor Furnaces for Warming Churches, Schools, Halls, Stores, Residences, and other Buildings,” Bergstrom Bros. & Co., Neenah, Wisconsin
“Pipeless Furnaces,” The Monroe Foundry and Furnace Co., Monroe, Michigan
Penberthy Injector Company, Detroit, Michigan
United States Rubber Company
“The Money-Saving Buying Guide for Better Heating and Plumbing,” M. Levy & Company, Chicago, Illinois
“Utica-Imperial Super-Smokeless Boilers,” Utica Heater Company, Utica, New York
“Jewel ‘Cool Saver’ Furnaces,” Detroit Stove Works
“1903 Annual Catalogue of H.L. Bennett & Co.,” Westerville, Ohio
“The New Floral City Furnace,” The Monroe Foundry and Furnace Co., Monroe, Michigan
“Boilers for Steam and Hot Water Heating Underfeed and Topfeed,” The Peck-Williamson Foundry Company, Cincinnati, Ohio
“Floral City Hot Water and Steam Boilers,” The Monroe Foundry & Furnace Co., Monroe, Michigan
“Floral City Furnaces and Boilers,” The Monroe Foundry and Furnace Co., Monroe Michigan, April 1920 (still in envelope)
The Rudy Furnace Company, Detroit, Michigan (still in envelope)
“Clean Without Dues Arcowand”
“Wayne Furnaces,” Safety Furnace Pipe Co., Detroit, Michigan
“Engines and Boilers, Pamphlet ‘L,’” The James Leffel & Co., Springfield, Ohio
“Catalog and Price List No. 19, 1922,” Detroit Safety Furnace Pipe Company, Detroit, Michigan
“Floral City Furnaces,” Monroe Foundry & Furnace Company, Monroe, Michigan
“Catalogue No. 10,” F.W. Mateer & Co., Chicago, Illinois
“Stearns Standard Baseboard and Wafer Registers”
“Catalogue of Saw Mills, Boilers and Engines, Saw Mill Machinery, 1899,” Curtis & Co. Manfg. Co., Chicago, Illinois

Box 4, continued

- Summit Foundry Co., Geneva, New York (in envelope)
“Portable and Stationary Circular Saw Mills,” The Enterprise Co., Columbiana, Ohio
Vicksburg Governor Co., Vicksburg, Michigan
“U.S. Automatic Injectors,” American Injector Company, Detroit, Michigan
“The Delanyite Trouble-Proof Tank Combination Meets Every Requirement”
“The Delanyite Trouble-Proof Tank: There Is No Better,” Murray W. Sales & So.,
Detroit, Michigan
“Ohio Injectors for Locomotive, Stationary, Portable, Traction and Marine Boilers”
“Toledo Pipe Threading Devices,” distributed by Anchor Pipe & Supply Co., Detroit,
Michigan
“Trico Powder-Packed Time-Limit Plug Fuses,” distributed by Jennison Hardware
Co., Bay City, Michigan
“Continental System, Patented, Three in One, Vapor Vacuum, Pressure,” The Jos. F.
Grosswiller Company
Harris Brothers Company, Chicago, Illinois
“Catalog G, Kelly Boiler Fronts and Accessories,” Kelly Foundry & Machine Co.,
Goshen, Indiana
“Logan Radiators,” sold by The Jos. F. Grosswiller Co., Toledo, Ohio
“Gasoline Fire Pots and Torches,” manufactured by Clayton & Lambert Mfg. Co.,
Detroit, Michigan
Summit Furnace
“The Floral City King Furnace,” The Monroe Foundry and Furnace Co., Monroe,
Michigan
“Floral City Furnaces, Net Trade Prices,” Monroe Foundry & Furnace Co, Monroe,
Michigan
“Everything in Gear Cutting,” Sawyer Gear Works, Cleveland, Ohio
Kenneth Anderson Co. Distributing Agents, Detroit, Michigan
“Red Cross Cider Mills and Fruit Presses,” The Red Cross Mfg. Co., Bluffton,
Indiana
“Floral City Boilers for Steam and Water,” Monroe Foundry & Furnace Company,
Monroe, Michigan
“Superior Furnaces and Heating Supplies,” Utica Heater Company, Utica, New York
“Vapor Vacuum Heating,” Bottum Valve Company, Chicago, Illinois
“The Capitol Red Cap, Masterpiece of Round Boilers,” United States Radiator
Corporation
“Capitol Dependable Smokeless Boilers,” United States Radiator Corporation,
Detroit, Michigan
“Mott’s Fitters’ Companion”
“Reliable Vacuum Heating System,” The Bishop Babcock Becker Co., Cleveland,
Ohio
“Trade Prices on Capitol Boilers and Radiators,” United States Radiator Corporation,
Detroit, Michigan
“Catalogue O, Engines and Boilers,” Orr and Sembower Incorporated, Reading,
Pennsylvania
“Thatcher Boilers,” Flack-Pennell Company, Saginaw, Michigan

Box 4, continued

- “Furman Sectional Boilers, Round Series,” The Herendeen Manufacturing Co.,
Geneva, New York
- “How to Properly Design & Install the Honeywell Method of Hot Water Heating”
- “National Water Lifts”
- “Jones Machine Moulded Pulleys,” W.A. Jones Foundry and Machine Company,
Chicago, Illinois
- “The Gardner Governor”
- “Furman”
- J.M Kohler Sons Co.
- “Asbestos Steam Pipe and Boiler Coverings, Packing, Textiles, Shingles, Building
Lumber and Corrugated Sheathing,” S.P. Conkling, Detroit, Michigan
- “The National Water Lifts”
- “Vogel Frost-Proof Outfit No. 1,” Michigan Supply Co., Lansing, Michigan
- “Catalogue 19-7,” Pickering Governors, Portland, Connecticut
- “New Judson Three-Ball Governor for Steam and Gas Engines,” Vicksburg Governor
Co., Vicksburg, Michigan
- “Condensed Price List, Chisel Tooth Saws, Solid Tooth Saws, Combination Saws,
Novelty Saws, Grooving Saws, Concave Saws, Wide Band Saws, Narrow Band
Saws, Machine Knives, Mandrels, Files,” Disston
- “Catalog and Price List No. 15,” The South Bend Spark Arrester Company, South
Bend, Indiana
- “Automatic Injectors, 1903,” American Injector Co., Detroit, Michigan
- “The Reliable Return Line Vacuum Heating System,” The Bishop Babcock Becker
Co.
- “New American Radiator Products, January 1928,” American Radiator Company
- “The Capitol Boiler,” United States Radiator Corporation, Detroit, Michigan
- “Jones Pulleys,” W.A. Jones Foundry and Machine Company
- “Furman Sectional Boilers,” The Herendeen Manufacturing Co., Geneva, New York
- “The New Capitol Boiler,” United States Radiator Corporation, Detroit, Michigan
- Price list, American Radiator Company, Chicago, Illinois, 16 August 1919
- “The Honeywell Tank-in-Basement Method of Hot Water Heating,” The Honeywell
Heating Specialty Co., Wabash, Indiana
- “The South Bend Spark Arrester for Thresher and Other Small Engines, Traction,
Portable and Stationary with Short Smoke Stacks”
- “The South Bend Wind Stacker Hood and Revolving Attachment,” The South Ben
Spark Arrester Co., South Bend, Indiana
- “Floral City Furnaces and Defender Pipeless Furnaces, Net Trade Prices for Dealers
Only, 15 January 1921,” The Monroe Foundry and Furnace Company, Monroe,
Michigan
- “The South Bend Spark Arrester Company, Manufacturers of Spark Arresters and
Smoke Stacks, etc., Folder No. 22”
- “Now Showing, The Plumber’s Reward, A Very Moving Picture of American Home
Life”
- “Whiz 98 Quality Products,” The R.M. Hollingshead Co., Camden, New Jersey
- Printed material

Advertising
Price lists
Legal papers, contracts and agreements
“Application of Wabash Railway Company Before the Interstate Commerce
Commission”
Ledger, 1885-?
Ledger, 1866-1872

Box 5

Ledger, 1881
Ledger, 1878
Ledger, 1874-1875
Cash book, 25 March 1903 to 31 December 1910
Ledger, 1868-1869
Invoice ledger, 1874-1877
Ledger, 1886-1889
Cash book, 12 July 1918 to 19 August 1920

Box 6

Pamphlets
Ledger, 1874-1878
Ledger, 1874-1885
Ledger, 1874
Ledger, 1878-1882
Pamphlet, “5 Minute Jew’s Harp Instruction Book”
Invoice ledger, 1871-1874
Envelope of materials
Handwritten note, 11 June 1984 (Note indicates the materials were from the
“McDonald” desk that was transferred from the Lapeer Machine Shop to the
Village Print Shop Office.)
Foldable ruler
Glass inkwell
Two metal pieces
Receipt stub books
1896
3 March 1897 to 24 December 1897
1898
Tag, from Wm. McDonald & Sons Lapeer Steam Engine Works, Lapeer, Michigan
Library card for Mr. George D. Braslau, 1936
Index card sample, Dahlke Stationery & Mfg. Co., Buffalo, New York
Pamphlet, Dealers Wallet Steel Tank Data, Chicago Steel Tank Company
Correspondence, 1880
Statement on Loss of Machinery, Thompson Smith’s Steam Saw Mill
Envelope, Boston Gear Works, Norfolk Downs, Massachusetts
Inventory of stock tools, 1871

Box 7

Assorted newspaper clippings, drawings, photographic prints, and correspondence

Box 8

Assorted catalogs, brochures, and correspondence

Box 9

Ledger, 1887-1891

Office forms (2 folders)

Maps, undated

Assorted business documents (includes 1867 mortgage, 1873 promissory note, insurance information from 1880, and assorted price lists and sales materials from McDonald and Sons and the Lapeer Steam Engine Works)

Box 10

Day book, 2 June 1890 to 6 October 1896

Day book, 30 November 1896 to July 1900

Ledger, 24 August 1920 to 25 October 1924

Ledger, 25 March 1903 to 1 March 1908

Time book, 1 April 1895 to 16 September 1899

Time book, 31 May 1866 to 4 January 1868

Ledger, 12 May 1900 to 21 July 1905

Box 11

Assorted clippings, drawings, an accordion folder, bank book, correspondence, small ledgers, and books

Box 12

Time book, 25 September 1888 to 30 March 1895

Ledger, June 1884 to April 1886

Cash book, 18 July 1890 to 25 November 1893

Volume 1

Ledger, 1 January 1874 to 15 June 1875

Volume 2

Invoices, 1890 to 1895

Volume 3

Ledger, 16 June 1875 to 5 July 1879

Volume 4

Invoices, July 1878 to March 1883

Volume 5

Invoices, February 1894 to October 1898

Volume 6

Invoices, July 1901 to March 1903

Volume 7

Ledger, undated

Volume 8

Ledger, 8 January 1886 to 28 December 1896

Volume 9

Ledger, 2 January 1885 to March 1903