



Finding Aid for

WISE FAMILY PAPERS, CIRCA 1875-1955

Accession 94.99

Finding Aid Published: February 2017



Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Boulevard · Dearborn, MI 48124-5029 USA
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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
www.thehenryford.org
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 94.99

CREATOR: Wise family

TITLE: Wise Family Papers

INCLUSIVE DATES: circa 1875-1955

BULK DATES: 1900-1930

QUANTITY: 0.5 cubic ft. (1 box)

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: The Wise Family Papers document an African American family living in Detroit, Michigan in the late 19th and 20th centuries primarily through images contained in over 100 photographic prints.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The collection is open for research.
- 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, 1994.
- ALTERNATE FORMS:** Selected material from this collection has been digitized and is available online at:
<https://www.thehenryford.org/collections-and-research/digital-collections/search-results#advancedSearch=1&tab=artifact-results&s.0.in=collectionTitle&s.0.for=Wise%20Family%20Photograph%20Collection>
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 94.99, Wise Family Papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Brian Wilson and other staff of The Henry Ford.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by Cynthia Miller.
- Finding aid written by Brian Wilson, February 2017, and published in the same month.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Little is known about the Wise family except that they were an African American family living in Detroit, Michigan in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Dorothy "Dotty" Wise is listed as a dancing teacher, with residence on Lambert Ave., in the 1930-1931 *Polk's Detroit City Directory*. Materials in the collection indicate that the family had relatives living elsewhere in Michigan, Ohio and possibly Louisiana.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Wise Family Papers (0.5 cubic ft.) consist primarily of approximately 115 photographic prints and snapshots dating from the 19th and 20th centuries of family activities including graduations, confirmations, and weddings; images of families in front of their homes, with their automobiles, and on vacation; individual and group portraits; and dancers and dance recitals. One portrait shows a man in what appears to be a priest's cassock and is possibly an Ordination portrait.

The papers also include a Certificate of Admission to St. Mary's Mission Sunday School of Detroit, dated January 17, 1886, and a newspaper clipping about a Catholic school dance program performed by Dotty Wise's students in 1930.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Wise family

Subjects

African Americans

Families

Dancers

Dance

Weddings

Vacations

Commencement ceremonies

Geographic

Detroit (Mich.)

Ypsilanti (Mich.)

Cleveland (Ohio)

Boutte (La.)

Genre and Form

Portraits

Photographs

Cabinet photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

- Cabinet Card Photographs, circa 1875-1885 (2 items; Object IDs 94.99.2 and 94.99.17)
- Certificate of Admission, St. Mary's Mission Sunday School, Detroit, MI, 17 January 1886 (certificate of admission, number a22, to the St. Mary's Mission Sunday School of St. John's Parish, issued to Ida Wise)
- Dancing, circa 1930 (9 items; 8 photographic prints and 1 clipping; images of girls and young women in dance costumes; clipping from 1930 shows dance students of Doty Wise; includes Object IDs 94.99.12 and 94.99.16)
- Photographs, 1900-1905 (6 items; includes Object IDs 94.99.9 and 94.99.14)
- Portrait Photographs, 1905-1925 (7 items; mostly studio portraits; studio locations include Cleveland (Ohio), Detroit (Mich.), Ypsilanti (Mich.); includes Object IDs 94.99.3, 94.99.5 and 94.99.6)
- Portrait Photographs, circa 1892-1948 (2 folders; 10 items; studio portraits; studio locations included Cleveland (Ohio), Detroit (Mich.), Ypsilanti (Mich.); includes Object IDs 94.99.4, 94.99.8, 94.99.10, 94.99.11 and 94.99.15)
- Group Portrait Photographs, circa 1930 (3 items)
- Photograph Album, 1920-1930 (4 folders; loose album pages and photographs; pages and loose photographic prints sleeved individually; pages contain prints mounted on black construction paper; subjects include a trip to the American West, Catalina Island, dancing, several prints labeled "Boutte, La."; album is Object ID 94.99.13 and includes Object IDs 94.99.13.1 to 94.99.13.14)
- Snapshots, 1914-1955 (14 items; names written on backs of prints include Lorine, Shirl, Aunt Grace, Maude, Grace, Rachel, and James Connor Jr.; includes Object ID 94.9.7)