

Frank Ford Photograph Collection (P4)

Introduction

The collection's 117 developed photographs and 51 glass plate negatives show scenes from around the turn of the twentieth century by local amateur photographer, Frank S. Ford. They include photographs which detail local events as well as rural, pastoral, and human interest views.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Frank S. Ford
Title: Frank Ford Photograph Collection
Dates: ca. 1890-1915
Size: 1.04 linear feet, 4 boxes
Collection Number: P4

Donor Information

Gift, Berenice Ford, 1980. Multiple donations.

Citation Note

Frank Ford Photograph Collection (P4), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Additional forms available: A portion of the original photographs have been digitized. All photographs have been photocopied.

Biographical Sketch

The Frank Ford Collection was produced primarily between the years 1900-1905 by amateur photographer Frank S. Ford. The collection was donated by his daughter, F. Bernice Ford, in January of 1980.

Frank Ford was born June 25, 1857 and was the son of H.N. and Mary Ford. He worked as a bookkeeper for the George W. Lovejoy Planing Mill, located at 1335 Main Street and lived with his wife, Emma Ford, at 2917 Flora. He died on July 18, 1912 and is buried in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Kansas City, MO.

Scope and Content Note

The collection initially contained 117 developed photographs and 51 glass plate negatives showing scenes from around the turn of the twentieth century by local amateur photographer,

Frank S. Ford. They include photographs which detail local events as well as rural, pastoral, and human interest views. They are of varying sizes and most are mounted with one developed on cloth linen.

Funding from the Friends of the Library in 1998 enabled further processing which resulted in five new prints made from the collection's 22 undeveloped glass negatives, 35 reprints from negatives, and 17 new negatives made. The collection now contains 122 photographs, 35 reprints, 34 developed glass plate negatives, 17 undeveloped glass plate negatives, and 17 film negatives.

Scenes of local interest include what appears to be an early Priests of Pallas parade; a bicycle race; numerous scenes of destruction which resulted from the 1903 flood; the Missouri River banks in the Kansas City area as well as a steamboat on the river; Kansas City, Kansas and Armourdale sites; African American men in both parade scenes and human interest views; the Troost Lake vicinity; Watt's Mill located on Indian Creek at Dallas, Missouri; the Junction area in downtown Kansas City; and the Watt Webb Castle located by Mt. Washington Cemetery in Independence, Missouri.

The photographs are loosely organized by subject matter. All photographs have been numbered and are arranged by type (old prints, new prints, glass plate negatives, new film negatives). The film negatives have been removed from collection and put in cabinets for preservation purposes.

Collection Inventory

- f. 1 Photocopies of photographs #1 - #60
- f. 2 Photocopies of photographs #61 - #122
- f. 3
 - #1 Bicycle race with spectators; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10009207
 - #2 Bicycle race with spectators; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10009208
 - #3 Bicycle race and photographers; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10009209
 - #4 Bicycle race and photographers; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10009210
 - #5 Bicycle race with spectators along road; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10009211
 - #6 Bicycle race with spectators along road; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has glass negative; Barcode: 10002243
 - #7 Bicycle race, racers on road coming up the hill; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has glass negative; Barcode: 10009212
 - #8 Parade at corner of 13th and Main Street, showing E.H. Geiss Saloon; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10009213
 - #9 Parade at corner of 13th and Main Street, showing E.H. Geiss Saloon; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10005574
 - #10 Parade at corner of 13th and Main Street, showing E.H. Geiss Saloon; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; **Duplicate Copy of #9**
- f. 4
 - #11 Parade at corner of 13th and Main Street, showing E.H. Geiss Saloon; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009214

- #12 Parade with procession moving south at 13th and Main, showing Neuer Brothers Sausage Factory; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10009215
- #13 Parade with procession moving south at 13th and Main, showing Neuer Brothers Sausage Factory; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009216
- #14 Parade with procession moving south at 13th and Main, showing Neuer Brothers Sausage Factory; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; **Duplicate Copy of #13**
- #15 Parade scene at 13th and Main Street, shows soldiers in uniform; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009217
- #16 Parade scene at 13th and Main Street, shows soldiers in uniform; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, with new print and glass negative; **Duplicate Copy of #15**
- #17 Parade scene at 13th and Main Street, shows soldiers in Revolutionary War uniform; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has glass negative; Barcode: 10009218
- #18 Parade scene showing women riding in a buggy with umbrellas; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has glass negative; Barcode: 10009219
- #19 Parade scene showing women riding in a buggy with umbrellas; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009220
- #20 Parade with Neuer Brothers Sausage Factory in background and large band in uniform marching; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009221
- f. 5 #21 Parade with Neuer Brothers Sausage Factory in background and large band in uniform marching; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; **Duplicate Copy of #20**
- #22 Parade scene with buggies and women with umbrellas visible; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and 2 glass negatives (one damaged); Barcode: 10009222
- #23 Parade scene with boat shaped float in view; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has glass negative; Barcode: 10009223
- #24 Crowded parade scene at 14th and Grand; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10009224
- #25 Crowded parade scene at 14th and Grand; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; **Duplicate Copy of #24**
- #26 Parade scene at 14th and Grand with large float in foreground; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has glass negative. Barcode: 10009225.
- #27 Parade scene at 13th and Main, has float in view with horses and blankets that say "K.K.K."; 3.5" x 4", has new print and glass negative (damaged); Barcode: 10009226
- #28 Parade scene at 14th and Grand, shows float drawn by horses; 3" x 4", has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10009227
- #29 Parade at 14th and Grand with men in uniform on horses; 5" x 6.5"
- #30 Parade at 14th and Grand with men in uniform on horses; 5" x 6.5"; **Duplicate Copy of #29**
- f. 6 #31 Parade scene at 14th and Grand with men in different uniforms from previous photographs; 5" x 7"
- #32 Parade scene at 14th and Grand with people on horses holding spears; 5" x 7"
- #33 Parade scene at 14th and Grand with large float drawn by horses; 5" x 4.5" has new print and glass negative (damaged); Barcode: 10009231
- #34 Parade scene at 14th and Grand area with large float shaped like a war ship; 3" x 4", has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10009232
- #35 Three unidentified male photographers with cameras and tripods in a wooded area; 5" x 7", mounted; Barcode: 10009233

- #36 Three unidentified male photographers with cameras and tripods in a wooded area; 4" x 5.5"; **Duplicate Copy of #35**
- #37 Unidentified young man with stick standing on a rock by a stream; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009234
- f. 7 #38 Unidentified man and boy fishing in stream, perhaps Blue River, ca. 1911; 5" x 7"; Barcode: 10009235
- #39 Unidentified man fishing with pole and net in stream; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009236
- #40 Same man as #39 but different view with rock cliffs in background; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009237
- #41 Group of men and dog along bank of Missouri River tending a large fishing net, with the A.S.B. Bridge in background, ca. 1910; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted, has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10004520
- #42 Group of men and dog along bank of Missouri River tending a large fishing net, with the A.S.B. Bridge in background, ca. 1910; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted, has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10009238
- f. 8 #43 Group of men and dog along bank of Missouri River tending a large fishing net, with the A.S.B. Bridge in background, ca. 1910; 4" x 6", mounted, has new print; Barcode: 10009239
- #44 Two men and child with fishing net along bank of Missouri River; 5"x7"; Barcode: 10009240
- #45 Two men and child with fishing net along bank of Missouri River; 5"x7"; **Duplicate copy of #44**
- #46 Photos showing effects from the flood of May 1903: Group of men building a pontoon bridge on the Missouri or Kansas River, Armour Packing Co. can be seen on the shore, June 18, 1903; 3.5" x 5", mounted, has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10009241
- #47 Small passenger ferry boat loaded with people crossing river, June 20, 1903; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print; Barcode: 10009242
- #48 East of Central Avenue bridge probably after the 1903 flood washed out its support, brush piled up and electric lines falling down, June 20, 1903; 4" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009243
- f. 9 #49 Elevated railroad by Riverside with most of the pieces on the ground from the 1903 flood, June 20, 1903; 3.5" x 5", mounted; Barcode: 10009244
- #50 Elevated railroad near Riverside showing 1903 flood damage, June 20 1903; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print; Barcode: 10009245
- #51 Flood damaged Riverside Iron Works, June 20 1903; 4" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10003232
- #52 West end of Central Ave. bridge, after 1903 flood, showing destruction. June 20 1903; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and film negative. Barcode: 10009247
- #53 View of Armourdale, Kansas from 4th Street and Kansas Avenue showing people standing around and mud and trash piled up in streets, June 10, 1903; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10009246
- f. 10 #54 View of flood damaged and collapsed buildings; 3.5" x 5", mounted; Barcode: 10009248
- #55 View of Armourdale, Kansas from 3rd Street and Kansas Avenue showing people cleaning up the rubbish, June 12, 1903; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009249
- #56 East end of Central Avenue Bridge, showing flood damage, June 20, 1903; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009250

- #57 Street scene with people moving about and streets littered with rubble after flood; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009251
- #58 Pastoral scene showing two cows standing in shallow stream; 4.5" x 6", mounted; Barcode: 10009252
- #59 Pastoral scene showing three cows drinking in shallow stream; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009253
- f. 11 #60 Pastoral scene showing two cows in and by shallow stream; 5" x 6.5"; Barcode: 10009254
- #61 Pastoral scene showing group of cows by small barn with snow on the ground; 4.5" x 6.5"; Barcode: 10009255
- #62 Pastoral scene showing group of cows on hillside; 4" x 6"; Barcode: 10009256
- #63 Interior view of Lovejoy planing mill located at 1335 Main St., showing two men behind counter area; 4" x 5.5", mounted, has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10005063
- #64 Farm scene of man with basket and two children with African American man; 2" x 4.5"; Barcode: 10009257
- #65 Young girl standing next to cat in tree; 3.5" x 5.5"; Barcode: 10009258
- #66 Group of children and teacher, identified as Mrs. Stone and 1st grade class, on steps of Linwood School; 5" x 7", has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10009259
- #67 Outside view of two story rustic house with stone chimney and porch and a man chopping wood; 4.5" x 6"; Barcode: 10009260
- f. 12 #68 Two men seated on a park bench, one man might be Robert Neal, a Kansas City, Kansas, politician; 5" x 7"; Barcode: 10009261
- #69 Three children seated in a sunroom with plants; 3.5" x 4.5"; Barcode: 10009262
- #70 Unidentified African American man standing on house porch with small girl in the front doorway; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; **Duplicate Copy of #71**
- #71 Unidentified African American man standing on house porch with small girl in the front doorway; 4.5" x 6.5", has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10009263
- #72 Two unidentified girls and a boy seated on a park bench; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009264
- #73 Unidentified man holding shovel in front of a furnace; 5" x 7", has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10009265
- #74 Street view of home with two women and child in front yard; 4.5" x 5", mounted; Barcode: 10009266
- f. 13 #75 Horse and buggy with man and child situated in a rural scene; 5" x 7"; Barcode: 10009267
- #76 Small horse drawn cart with man and children in cart and walking beside; 3.5" x 4"; Barcode: 10009268
- #77 Photo of Mrs. Grover Cleveland by J.E. Hale, Seneca Falls, N.Y, copyright date 1886; Back contains a reproduction of Mrs. Cleveland's note to the photographer giving him permission to sell the picture; 4" x 5.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009269
- #78 Rural scene with dirt road, trees, and old fence; 5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009270
- #79 Rural scene with two horses and one rider standing in flooded area; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009271
- #80 Rural scene with two horses and one rider standing in flooded area; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; **Duplicate Copy of #79**

- f. 14 #81 Rural scene of people in two horse wagon on dirt road; 4" x 6", mounted; Barcode: 10009272
- #82 Rural scene of person on horseback with cows in field and trees in view; 4" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009273
- #83 Rural scene of someone camping or living in a tent under a tree; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009274
- #84 Rural scene of rock ledge with trees; 5" x 7", mounted; Barcode: 10009275
- #85 Rural scene of snow on ground and man in what appears to be a frozen stream bed; 4" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009276
- f. 15 #86 Rural scene of stream bed; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009277
- #87 Rural scene of dirt road and trees; 5" x 7", mounted; Barcode: 10009278
- #88 Rural scene of small stream with trees; 5" x 6 ½", mounted; Barcode: 10009279
- #89 Rural scene of small dwelling with trees and hillside; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009280
- #90 Dirt road and wooden sidewalk in view, possibly part of Troost Lake; 4" x 4", mounted, has glass negative; Barcode: 10009281
- f. 16 #91 Scene of 3 elk in pen in wooded area; 4" x 4.5", mounted, has glass negative; Barcode: 10009282
- #92 View down dirt road with rock cliff, possibly Cliff Drive in Kansas City, Mo.; 5" x 7"; Barcode: 10009283
- #93 View of dirt road and trees with man walking across small bridge, possibly Cliff Drive in Kansas City, Mo.; 5" x 6.5"; Barcode: 10009284
- #94 Winter scene of snow on the ground and lake with trees; 5" x 7"; Barcode: 10009285
- #95 Lake scene, possibly Troost Lake, pre 1912; 4" x 4.5", mounted, has two glass negatives (one broken); Barcode: 10009286
- #96 View of stream and banks in winter, possibly Brush Creek near 47th and Paseo, pre 1905; 4.5" x 7", mounted; Barcode: 10009287
- #97 View of small waterfall in stream with bank and trees in winter; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009288
- f. 17 #98 Steamboat in river taken from shore; 4" x 5", mounted, has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10009289
- #99 View of stream; 5" x 7", mounted; Barcode: 10009290
- #100 View looking across stream to bank with large trees; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009291
- #101 View of Watt's Mill and Indian Creek located at Dallas, Mo; 5" x 6.5", mounted, has new print; Barcode: 10009292
- #102 View of small stream with trees along bank and portion of small road bridge in view; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted; Barcode: 10009293
- f. 18 #103 View of lake with homes along bank; 4" x 6.5"; Barcode: 10009294
- #104 View of Missouri or Kansas River with Armour Packing Plant in view; 4.5" x 6.5", has new print; Barcode: 10004519
- #105 View of stream with trees along bank and what appears to be a foot bridge over the stream, 5" x 7"; Barcode: 10009295
- #106 View of Troost Lake and boat house or pavilion, with a crowd of people watching a water event; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10009296
- #107 View of Troost Lake and boat house/pavilion; 4" x 4", mounted, has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10005834

- #108 Rural scene of small stream with bank and trees in winter; 4.5" x 6½"; Barcode: 10009298
- #109 View of Watt's Mill and Indian Creek, showing small waterfall in stream; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted, has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10009299
- #110 View of Watt's Mill and Indian Creek with small waterfall in view; 5" x 7", mounted, has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10009300
- f. 19 #111 Neighborhood view, possibly Kansas City, Kansas, with homes and Union Pacific Elevator in distance; 3.5" x 4", mounted; Barcode: 10009301
- #112 Interior view of home living room area with fireplace; 4" x 4", mounted; Barcode: 10009302
- #113 Neighborhood view, possibly Kansas City, Kansas, with industrial looking area in background and small homes in front of photo; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print, glass negative, and film negative; Barcode: 10009303
- #114 Neighborhood view, possibly Kansas City, Kansas, with industrial looking area in background and small homes in front of photo; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print, glass negative, and film negative; Barcode: 10009304
- #115 Junction area of downtown Kansas City, Mo., looking to the north on Main Street with 9th St. and Delaware St. in view; 3.5" x 4.5", mounted, has new print, glass negative, and film negative; Barcode: 10009305
- #116 View of the Watt Webb Castle located on Truman Road near Mt. Washington Cemetery, Independence, Mo., ca1900; 4.5" x 6.5", mounted, has new print and film negative; Barcode: 10009306
- f. 20 #117 Cloth of linen with a photograph of a lady in a greenhouse printed on it, and advertisement for K.C. Philharmonic Society concert; 4" x 4" (photo size)
- f. 21 #118 View of Troost Lake with boathouse, boaters on the lake, and people along shore; has new print, glass negative, and film negative; Barcode: 10015402
- #119 Buggies with people on road, possibly part of the scenes from the bicycle race listed earlier in the collection; has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10015403
- #120 Lake shore area with what appears to be boat launch or ramp; has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10015404
- #121 View of roofs and industrial area in background; has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10015405
- #122 Riverfront view near the confluence of the Kaw and Missouri Rivers, with railroad cars in view; also in view is John Wedge & Co. machine shop located at 1006 W. 8th Street; has new print and glass negative; Barcode: 10015406
- f. 22 #1, #3, #4, #8, and #12 New 8" x 10" prints
- f. 23 #16, #17, #22, #24, and #27 New 8" x 10" prints
- f. 24 #28, #33, #34, #41, and #42 New 8" x 10" prints
- f. 25 #46, #47, #50, #52, and #53 New 8" x 10" prints
- f. 26 #63, #66, #71, #73, and #98 New 8" x 10" prints
- f. 27 #101, #104, #106, #107, and #109 New 8" x 10" prints
- f. 28 #110, #113, #114, #115, and #116 New 8" x 10" prints

Boxes 3-4

- #1 - #106 (with gaps) 25 Glass Plate Negatives
- #107 - #122 (with gaps) and Unnumbered 26 Glass Plate Negatives

Processed by Special Collections Associate Librarian Beth Whitaker, 1990; further processing done by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, 1998. Updated by Special Collections Librarian/Archivist Kara Evans, 2015