



## MG 400 : Ralph Dill fonds

**Dates:** 1912-1925

**Extent:** 12 glass negatives

**Biography:** Ralph Dill, 1876-1948, Saskatoon's first resident photographer, was born in Huntsville, Ontario, and lived in Iowa, USA with his parents until 1884 and then in Huntsville again. He was soon orphaned and went to work as a clerk and then a photographer's apprentice. In 1896 he moved to Manitoba, and to Battleford, Saskatchewan the next year. For a number of years he worked on farms and ranches, and in 1901 he clerked in a Battleford store and the next year in Saskatoon. In 1902 he opened a photography studio and from then until 1914 concentrated on commercial work documenting the economic boom in Saskatoon. Many of his photos were sold as postcards for the public and as promotional material by the city's board of trade. After the war Ralph concentrated on studio and interior work. He had a number of assistants over the years including Len Hillyard, Vern Tomlinson and Jack Porter. The downturn in business brought on by the Depression and Ralph's poor health caused him to close the studio and retire in 1938. He married Helen Elizabeth Morgan of Regina in 1905 and they had two sons, George and Morgan.

Source: Archives Canada

More Info: Brock Silverside's article, "Ralph Dill : Saskatoon's First Photographer" in Saskatchewan History. - vol. 36, no. 3 (autumn 1983), p. 81-93.

**Scope and Content:** Oversized Glass Negatives of group photographs/graduation photos.

**Restrictions on Access:** None. All images are in the public domain.



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**Box 1:**

Saskatoon City Council, 1912

University of Saskatchewan, Students of the first class: 1916

University of Saskatchewan Athletic directorate, 1919-'20

Engineering Society 1919 – 1920

University of Saskatchewan's Hockey Team, 1919-1920

Prebyterian Theological College, Saskatoon 1919-1920

**Box 2:**

University of Saskatchewan Graduating class of 1922

University of Saskatchewan, Class of 1922

Presbyterian Theological College; Foot-ball (football) Club, 1922-1923

University of Saskatchewan, College of Agriculture, year 1923 graduating class

University of Saskatchewan, Pharmacy Graduates in 1923

Saskatoon City Council 1925