

ALLIANCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Celebrating Three Quarters of a Century of Alliance History

Subject: 2014 OHRAB Grant Final Report

Date: 23 January 2015

Institution Name: Alliance Historical Society

Title of Project: Organization and Preservation of Historic Materials in the Archives of the

Alliance Historical Society

From: Michelle Dillon, Project Director: 330-206-6365, mdillon57@gmail.com

To: John Runion: jfrunion@starkcountyohio.gov

Fred Previts: fprevits@ohiohistory.org

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

General Organization of Collection. At the close of the grant period, all previously unsorted materials in the collection have been sorted and separated, encompassing approximately 25 cubic feet of photographs, negatives, newspapers, ledgers, scrapbooks, and blueprints. Many of these items were formerly stored in non-archival boxes and bins at floor level, with all formats mixed together. Some items were rolled or folded. All formats have now been separated, and smaller paper items have been filed in the Society's subject file cabinets.

Two flat map files were donated to the Society last year. One was designated for maps, and the other for architectural drawings, blueprints, patent drawings, and some oversized photographs that were too large for the archival boxes. A newly built and donated storage unit for oversized framed and display board items was put into service to get these larger items off the floor. Three sections of double-sided metal shelving were added to the archives area to accommodate the Society's book collection and the new archival boxes used to store photographs and newspapers.

Maps. Local historic maps were unrolled and unfolded and organized into a flat map file cabinet. In addition, 5 framed maps, including several original plat maps from the 1800s and an 1885 panoramic bird's-eye map, were removed from their frames and encapsulated in archival polyester. 92 maps have been fully cataloged (about 90% of the total map holdings), and 19 of these cataloging records had been added to the Past Perfect archives collection by the end of the grant period.

Ledgers. 199 ledgers were brought together from various boxes, drawers and shelves. Represented in the collection are records from local businesses, doctors, veterans' organizations, post offices, and a justice of the peace, dating from the 1850s to the 1950s. All of the ledgers were cleaned using our new Nilfisk HEPA vacuum, and some of the covers were further cleaned with rubbing alcohol. All ledgers were sorted and temporary ID tags with brief cataloging information were placed inside to minimize handling. The ledgers were placed flat on wooden shelves lined with Tyvek. 58 of the ledgers have

been fully catalogued and added to the Past Perfect archives database. We still need to get 4 additional shelves installed on the shelving unit so there will be fewer books on the stacks, and at some point we would like to place some of the more fragile items in individual archival boxes or enclosures.

Unframed Photographs. All unfiled, unframed photographs 8" x 10" and larger were sorted by size and then by general subject and placed flat in archival boxes. Of the 758 items sorted, 112 of these were cataloged by the end of the year, and 52 of those cataloging records had been added to the Past Perfect photograph database. As the photographs are being cataloged, they are interleaved with acid-free tissue within the archival boxes. Photographs that were already filed in the Society's subject file cabinets were not separated and removed from the files at this time.

Framed Photographs. Framed items have been collected together and grouped by size. The largest framed items, 18 in number, are no longer stored directly on the floor; they have been placed vertically into a newly-constructed cabinet. Smaller framed items, 97 in number, have been grouped by size and placed flat on wooden shelving in the archives. Brief temporary ID listings have been made of these items until they can be evaluated for removal from frames and fully cataloged.

Panoramic Photographs and Negatives. Relaxing unframed panoramic materials that have been stored rolled for many years has been the biggest challenge. Many of the items are brittle, and must be relaxed gently and gradually, with mild humidifying as necessary. The problem with this is that the process ties up the limited flat work space available in the archives area, making it impossible to do anything else. As such, we designated a small area of counter space to work on these materials a few at a time. By the end of the grant period, 20 panoramic photographs had been unrolled and placed in a flat file drawer. We would like to preserve these items between foam board and polyester film as time and budget permit. There are also 20 framed panoramic photographs in the collection.

Newspapers. Newspapers were gathered from various boxes and files, unfolded when necessary, and sorted into 11 large archival boxes. Complete issues were generally placed in individual oversized folders for protection. Each box has a cover list of contents, but full cataloging of the newspapers is yet to be done.

Blueprints and Patent Drawings. These items have been unrolled and organized into several drawers in the second flat file cabinet. We have complete drawings of several area buildings, and a number of drawings from several local engineering and transportation businesses.

Scrapbooks. Scrapbooks of locally significant materials were gathered together from various boxes and placed flat on shelves in the archives. They can now be evaluated for preservation and possible digitization.

Cataloging and Past Perfect. The cataloging process progressed smoothly with the use of cataloging worksheets developed specifically for maps, ledgers, photographs, and newspapers. As information was extracted from each item for the worksheet, the item was assigned and marked with a unique ID number, and then digitally photographed. Photographs and maps in the collection were interleaved with acid-free tissue and placed in archival boxes or a flat file, as appropriate. Data from the worksheets were then entered into the Past Perfect software. The digital photos were valuable for quickly clarifying any information during the data entry process without having to handle the original item again. Although we did not initially purchase the multimedia add-on for the software, these images should be useful if we decide to add this module in the future. In addition, the images will help us select items for our Alliance Memory digitization project. It has been exciting to see the number of catalogued records grow. As names and subjects and keywords are added and searchable, we realize how valuable all of the sorting and cataloging efforts are. By the end of the grant period, 262 items were catalogued, 129 had been entered into Past Perfect, and there were 334 distinct names added to the software's

"people" field. (Data entry has continued into 2015, and at this writing more than 200 records have been added to Past Perfect.)

Format	Cataloged (Cataloging Worksheets)	Entered in Past Perfect by 12-31-2014
Maps	92	19
Ledgers	58	58
Photographs	112	52
Total	262	129

VOLUNTEERS

We had 7 volunteers contribute a total of 303 hours toward the project, well above our budgeted 80 hours. The volunteers worked 106 individual shifts over the course of the grant period. Most of the hours came from 3 volunteers, one of whom was the project director. One volunteer was a university student who worked 65 hours sorting and cataloging the map collection as part of an internship for his sociology major. Only time working directly on the project (i.e., working with the historic materials or doing collection data entry on Past Perfect) was counted. The time developing training materials, reading the Past Perfect manual, and setting up the software were not counted towards the project. In addition, members of the Society also entered membership, contacts, donations, and receipts information into the Past Perfect software, again with the hours to accomplish this not counted in the grant total.

FINAL THOUGHTS / NEXT STEPS

As mentioned in the Interim Report, our progress was slower than anticipated due to limited work space and the need to learn more about museum registration procedures. While we have good procedures in place now, we still have a need for a comprehensive collection policy. Limited work space will remain an issue, especially with regard to flattening rolled materials. Cataloging these materials takes time, but being able to find items by name, subject, and keyword is extremely valuable.

We feel we accomplished much of what we set out to do with the grant. The archival supplies have been put to good use, and the software and vacuum cleaner will continue to serve our needs as we organize and catalog more of our collections. There are no more "mystery boxes" of miscellaneous items sitting on the floor of the archives to sort. For the first time ever we have a good knowledge of what our archival collections are, and that knowledge becomes better with every catalog record we create. Now that we have the materials sorted and a method in place to catalog them, we plan to continue. The grant gave us the jump-start we needed to begin the process, and it will be exciting to see the work progress.

With the software in place, we can now begin to properly accession and catalog all newly received materials as well. This is our first priority for 2015. We have also established a board committee to begin working on a full-fledged collection policy.

Other tasks to be considered:

- Add multimedia or online catalog options to the Past Perfect software.
- Use the Past Perfect catalog records to identify items to add to our Alliance Memory digitization project.
- Comb through our existing subject files and separate out photographs, fragile historic documents, and newsprint items, which in some cases are stored in the same file folders together.

EXPENDITURE REPORT THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 2014

OHRAB Grant Budget Expenditure Form--FINAL REPORT

Salaries and Wages (list items)		Gra	ınt Funds	Cas	h Match	-	OTAL
80 hours volunteer work @ \$18.54 (proposed)				Jus	·······································		J., . <u>L</u>
303 hours volunteer work @ \$18.54 (actual)				ς ι	5,617.62		
303 Hours volunteer work & \$15.54 (actual)	Subtotals	\$	_		5,617.62	ςι	5,617.62
		Υ		Ψ.	5,017.02	Υ.	5,017.02
Supplies (list items)		Gra	nt Funds	Cas	h Match	7	TOTAL
Drop-Front Flip-Top Print Boxes				\$	-		
6 - 9.5x12.5x3 Blue-Grey FB-BG1293		\$	74.05				
7 - 16.5x20.5x3 Blue-Grey FB-BG20163		\$	112.54				
5 - 16.5x20.5x3 Blue-Grey FB-BG20163		\$	73.75				
8 - 20.5x24.5x1.5 Print Box FB-ACPB24201		\$	120.96				
Newspaper Boxes				\$	-		
3 - 19x25x2.5 FB-NB19252		\$	56.64				
Newspaper Preservation Kit							
5 - 22.75x30.875x1.875		\$	207.64				
Poster Boxes (for panoramic photos)				\$	-		
1 - 15x37x2 Insert Sheet FB-MV1436		\$	22.85				
Acid-Free Buffered Tissue				\$	_		
1 - 8.5x11 FB-BT8511		\$	9.34	·			
1 - 15x20 FB-BT1520		\$	33.90				
1 - 14x18 FB-BT1418		\$	21.25				
1 - 16x20 FB-BT1620		, \$	31.96				
Archival Polyester L-Sleeves				\$	-		
1 - 16x20 FB-ESM1620L		\$	29.29	•			
Archival Polyester Sheets		•					
1 - package of 10 - 4 mil 25x40		\$	47.52	\$	0.72		
3M 415 Double-Sided Tape		Ψ.		\$	-		
1 roll .25" FB-6265A		\$	18.83	,			
All-Stabilo White Pencils		,		\$	_		
2 pencils FB-57110		\$	6.48	Ψ.			
All-Stabilo Black Pencils		Ψ	0.10	\$	_		
6 pencils FB-57111		\$	18.00	Υ			
Shipping		Y	10.00	\$	15.15		
Simpling	Subtotals	\$	885.00	\$	15.15	\$	900.87
	Subtotals	Ą	885.00	Ą	15.67	Ţ	300.87
Equipment (list items)		Gra	nt Funds	Cas	h Match	1	TOTAL
NilFisk HipVac Vacuum Cleaner with HEPA Filter		\$	-	\$	575.60		
	Subtotals	\$	-	\$	575.60	\$	575.60
Contracted Comittee History		C	mt Freeds	Con	h Matak		OTAL
Contracted Services (list items)		Gra	nt Funds	cas	h Match		TOTAL
	Subtotals	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-

Past Perfect 5.0 software	\$	884.00	\$	-		
Subtotal	\$	884.00	\$	-	\$	884.00
Summary Budget	Gra	ant Funds	Cas	sh Match	7	ΓΟΤΑL
Salaries & Wages	\$	-	\$!	5,617.62	\$!	5,617.62
Supplies	\$	885.00	\$	15.87	\$	900.87
Equipment	\$	-	\$	575.60	\$	575.60
Contracted Services	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Other Eligible Expenses	\$	884.00	\$	-	\$	884.00
Total Project Costs	\$	1,769.00	\$	6,209.09	\$	7,978.09
Original funding award/proposed match	\$	1,769.00	\$:	2,183.00	\$ 3	3,952.00
Remaining balance grant funds/match overage	\$	-	\$ 4	4,026.09	\$ 4	4,026.09

Grant Funds

Cash Match

TOTAL

We took advantage of sales at Gaylord and were able to purchase some additional archival materials as a result. We surpassed our 80 hours of volunteer work, which greatly increased our match numbers.

PUBLICITY

The grant project was featured in articles in the *Alliance Review* newspaper and the Alliance Historical Society's newsletter and Facebook page.

In addition, Karen Perone and Michelle Dillon have submitted a proposal for a program on our grant project for the annual OLHA meeting in October 2015.



Other Eligible Expenses (list items)

Alliance Review, September 18, 2014

Society Receives Grant to Preserve Photos



Sharron Springer works with historic photos

Earlier this year Alliance Historical Society President Karen Perone and Board Member Michelle Dillon wrote a successful grant application to help preserve the historic documents, maps, photographs, and ledgers in its archival collection, which is located in the basement of Rodman Public Library. In April we received \$1,769 from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) to purchase archival boxes and supplies as well as the museum software Past Perfect. As part of our grant match, the Society purchased a special museum vacuum with a HEPA filter and is providing volunteer hours to organize and begin cataloging the collection.

Utilizing expanded archives space provided by the Library, and newly donated shelving units and map cabinets, the project to organize our archives is well

under way. The process of unrolling and unfolding maps and panoramic photos, placing newspapers and oversize photos in archival boxes, and the development of a cataloging plan has been developed. To date we have trained seven volunteers and have begun working in the archives.

Our goal is to catalog 200 items before the end of the grant period, December 31, 2014. Once the grant project is complete, we will be able to continue cataloging our collections using the new software. Anyone interested in volunteering to help should contact Michelle Dillon (mdillon57@gmail.com or 330-206-6365).

Then & Now (Alliance Historical Society newsletter), Fall 2014



As part of our OHRAB preservation grant, we removed plat maps of Freedom in the 1830s from their frames and encapsulated them into Mylar sleeves to prevent any further wear and tear. Here Karen Perone and Mount Union student intern Trevor Stephenson tackle the process.



Facebook page, Alliance Historical Society

IVIAP	CATALOGING WORKSHEET
*Today's Date: 9-25-14	*Date of Item: 60.1930
Accession #:	Date Range:
*Object ID #: 2014.0.45	Other Date(s):
*Object Name: MAP	*Volunteer Name: Trevur Stephenson
*Title: Map of Allsonce *Dimensions (overall, in inches): 35 H x 25	ohio. voting Precincts
Pages/Folded/Rolled: Single Shu	.+
*Publisher/Creator: n/6	
City of Publication:	
Area/Region: Alliance ohio	
Projection: p/h	
Insets: n/a-	
*Description (scope and content): This word precincts for e	is a Blue print map displaym
word precincts for e	123
1713	123
word previncts for a	elections in 1930.
Scale: 1" = 500' P. Meridian:	elections in 1930.
Scale: 1" = 500' P. Meridian: *Condition: Excellent Good Fair Source/Provenance:// Related/Associated Items:	elections in 1930.
Scale: 11 = 500 Precincts for a scale: 11 = 500 Precinct for a scale: 1	Poor Notes:
Scale: 1" = 500' P. Meridian: *Condition:ExcellentGoodFair _ Source/Provenance:/ Related/Associated Items:/ *Subject Suggestions/Keywords: All_and Elections -	Poor Notes:
Scale: 1" = 500' P. Meridian: *Condition: Excellent Good Fair Source/Provenance:	Poor Notes: Poor Notes: e. word. Precincts. Stark counts.

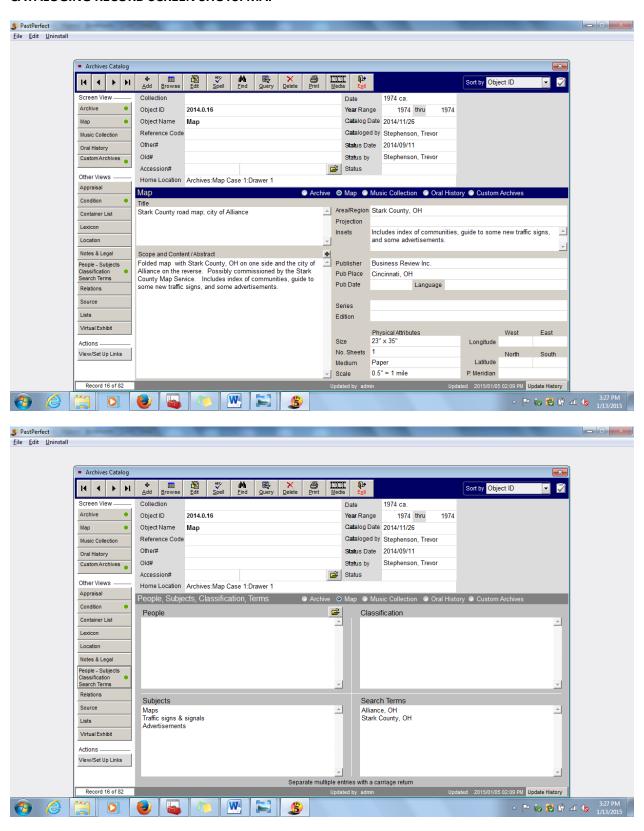
LEDGER: CATA	ALOGING WORKSHEET
*Today's Date: 12 2014	*Date of Item:
Accession #:	Date Range: \887 - 1899
*Object ID #: 2014.0,104	Other Date(s):
*Object Name: LEDGER	*Volunteer Name: M Dullow
*Title: "A.S. Cass aday, Druggest *Dimensions (overall, in inches): 13.75 H x 1.25W;	e & Stationer", gournal
*Number of Pages: 432 (Estimated) Publisher:	Estimated % of pages with data:
*Name of Creator (person and/or organization): A	5. Cassaday
west debuts + credits for the So	the info"-" appears to be acct held als of Chemicals or drugs, paper as 2, 1887 to now 20 1899
west debets + credits for the So	ale of Chemicals or drugs, paper
west debets + credits for the So	cle of Chemicals ordrugs, paper e 2, 1887 to Nov 20 1899 - Some Gold embellishment "Jour
but delets + credits for the set to merchandise from our pur Binding/Cover: Leather bunding with	cle of Chemicals or drugs, paper 2, 1887 to Now 20 1899 Some Gold embellshment "Jour or Notes: preprinted on spir
Binding/Cover: Leather bunding with *Condition: Excellent Good X_Fair Po Cover deleterating, pages in G	cle of Chemicals or drugs, paper 2, 1887 to Now 20 1899 Some Gold embellshment "Jour or Notes: preprinted on spir
Binding/Cover: Leather bunding with *Condition:ExcellentGood X_FairPo Cover deliverating, pages in g Source/Provenance: wknown	cle of Chemicals or drugs, paper 2, 1887 to Now 20 1899 Some Gold embellshment "Jour or Notes: preprinted on spir
Binding/Cover: Leather bunding with *Condition: Excellent Good X_Fair Po Cover delenating, parls in conce/Provenance: Related/Associated Items: *Subject Suggestions/Keywords:	cle of Chemicals or drugs, paper 2, 1887 to Now 20 1899 Some Gold embellishment "Jour or Notes: preputed on spur
Binding/Cover: Leather binding with *Condition: Excellent Good X_Fair Po Cover debugating, pages in g Source/Provenance:	ale of Chemicals or drugs, paper e 2, 1887 to Nov. 20 1899 Some Gold embellishment "Gorn or Notes: preprinted on spring ord condition Drugget Stationary Store
Binding/Cover: Leather burding with *Condition:ExcellentGood X_FairPo Cover deliverating, pages in g Source/Provenance:	cle of Chemicals or drugs, paper 2, 1887 to Now 20 1899 Some Gold embellshment "Jour or Notes: preputed on spur god condition Drugget Stationary Stare

CATALOGING WORKSHEET: PHOTOGRAPH

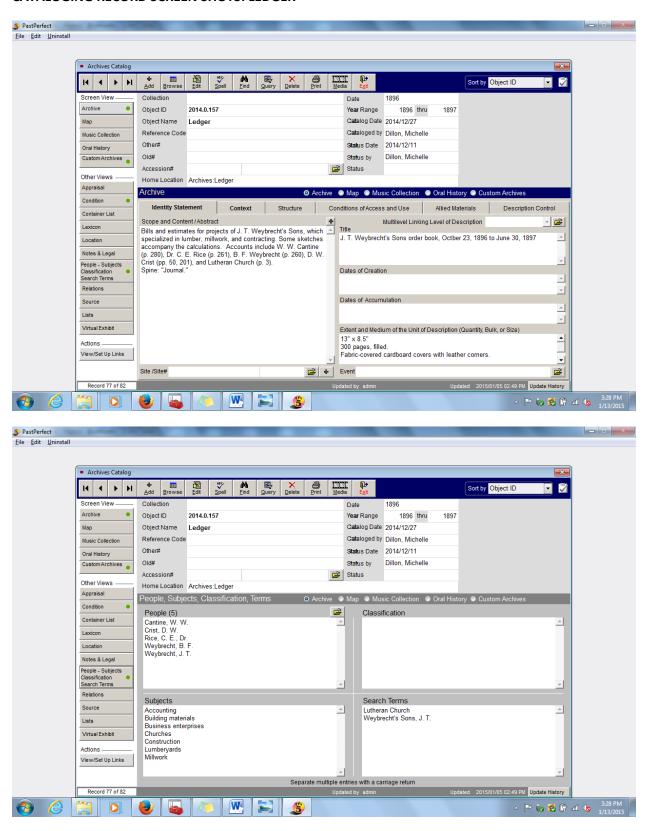
	TION: CATALOGING WORKSHEET
*Today's Date: 8 - 28 - 2014	*Date of Item: 1917
Accession #:	Date Range:
*Object ID#: 2014 . 0 . 210	Other Date(s):
*Object Name: PRINT, PHOTOGRAPHIC	*Volunteer Name: ROBB HAPE
*Title: ALLIANCE OHID BUKENER	
*Dimensions (overall, in inches): 11.25 H x 14	W; Print size: 8" H x 10" W; Other:
Studio: T.O. FOLEY	
Photographer:	
Paper/Mounting/Matting/Frame: CALD BORES	mouthly
Color/B & W/Tone:	
Location where taken:	
*Description:	HE BASESALL TEAM PHOD 1917
Hermon and party	The second secon
December () it is a second of the second of	0 %
Reverse of Item (writing, notes, numbers):	LLIANCE OHO BUKEVE BASEBAL TEAM
	1917
*Condition: ExcellentGoodFair _	Poor Notes: TEMON PROPERCEST GON PICHTSIDE CE
	MOUNTING
Source/Provenance:	
Related/Associated Items:	
*Subject Suggestions/Keywords:	ASSESALL, BUZZE ATHEFIX CLUS, 1910S
	POTS BOXILY20 A
Photo Image File(s)/Notes:	-3224 , Ima-3225
Alliance Memory:	

Alliance Historical Society - 9 - 2014 Final Report

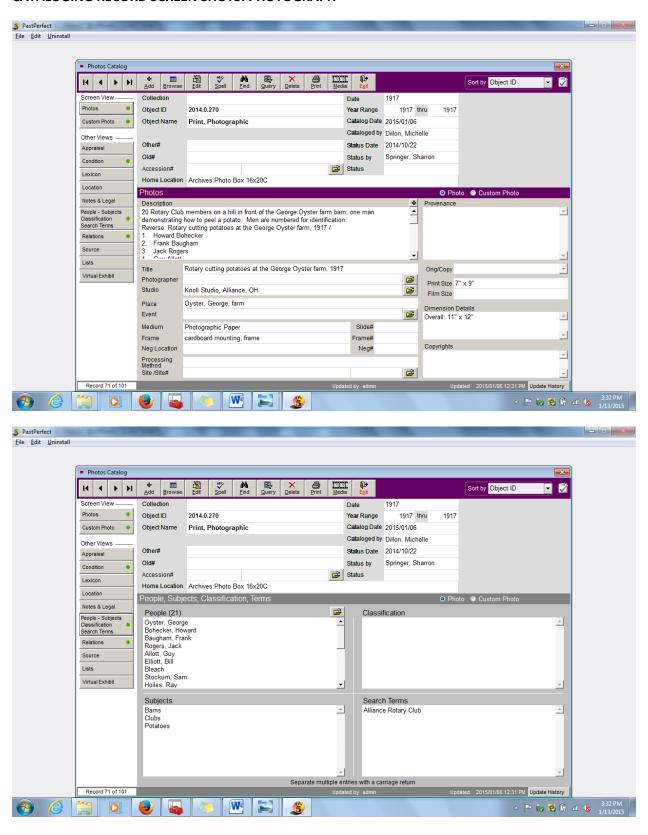
CATALOGING RECORD SCREEN SHOTS: MAP



CATALOGING RECORD SCREEN SHOTS: LEDGER



CATALOGING RECORD SCREEN SHOTS: PHOTOGRAPH



PROJECT PHOTOS



Before:

At the beginning of the project, we had many items stored in non-archival boxes and bins stashed under tables on the floor.



Before:

Work surface covered with piles of miscellaneous materials.

Unsorted boxes of photographs and documents stored on the floor.



Maps, etc.:

Framed and rolled maps, architectural blueprints, and patent drawings covering a work table.

Unsorted boxes of photographs, documents, and ledgers stored on the floor beneath the table.



Maps:

Karen Perone and Trevor Stephenson carefully removing an old plat map from its frame.



Maps:

The original plat map of the village of Freedom (1838), encapsulated in archival polyester after being removed from its frame.



Maps, etc.:

Two donated flat files. One now houses the map collection, and the other has blueprints, patent drawings, and large photographs.

The non-archival "paper" boxes in the background are empty now!



Maps:

A bird's-eye panoramic view of the city of Alliance (1885), removed from its frame and encapsulated in polyester. This item will be digitized.



Maps, etc.

Architectural prints and patent drawings have been unrolled and placed in a flat file cabinet.



Photographs:

Boxes and bins of oversized photographs at the beginning of the project.



Photographs, etc.:

Framed and oversized items stored directly on the floor in the corner at the beginning of the project.



Photographs:

Eloise Bradford cataloging oversized photographs.



Photographs, Newspapers:

New archival boxes filled with photographs and newspapers.

Permanent box labels will replace the temporary ones visible.



Photographs:

Oversized photographs as they are now stored in archival boxes, interleaved with acid-free tissue.



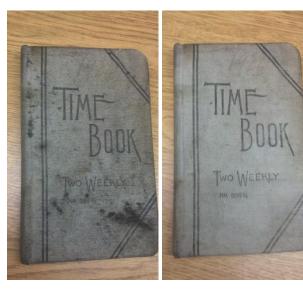
Photographs, etc.:

Large framed items and display boards are now stored in a new unit designed to keep them off the floor.



Panoramic Photographs:

The counter workspace used to relax and flatten rolled items. Duplicate copies of some heavy books are being used to help flatten the items.



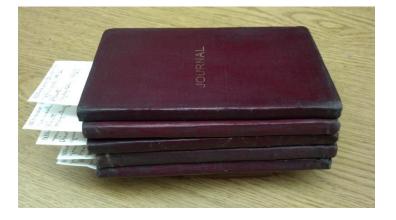
Ledgers:

The same ledger, before and after cleaning with the HEPA vacuum.



Ledgers:

Before cleaning with the HEPA vacuum and rubbing alcohol.



Ledgers:

After cleaning with the HEPA vacuum and rubbing alcohol.



Ledgers:

Ledger collection brought together and stored flat on shelves lined with Tyvek, temporary ID tags visible. More shelves are needed for the unit to reduce the number of ledgers stacked upon each other.



Newspapers:

Historic newspapers as they were found stored under a bed at the Mabel Hartzell home, between layers of nonarchival cardboard.



Newspapers:

An old issue of a local paper, now protected with an acid-free file folder in an archival box.

mld 23Jan2015