

James D. Lowman Family Photograph Collection, circa 1880-1917

Overview of the Collection

Creator	James D. Lowman family
Title	James D. Lowman Family Photograph Collection
Dates	circa 1880-1917 (inclusive) 1875 1922
Quantity	2 boxes, (.63 cubic feet)
Collection Number	2008.47 (accession)
Summary	Photographs of the James and Mary Emery Lowman family
Repository	Museum of History & Industry, Sophie Frye Bass Library Sophie Frye Bass Library Museum of History & Industry P.O. Box 80816 Seattle, WA 98108 Telephone: 206-324-1126 Fax: 206-780-1533 library@mohai.org
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public by appointment.
Languages	English.

Biographical Note

James Lowman was an early Seattle business and civic leader. He was born in Leitersburg, Maryland on October 5, 1856. After teaching school for one year in Maryland, he moved to Seattle at age twenty where his uncle, Henry Yesler, employed him as an assistant wharf master. In 1882, he used his saved earnings to purchase a half interest in the bookstore W.H. Pumpey. After two years, he bought his partner's share in the business and established the Lowman and Hanford Stationary and Printing Company with an establishment at Front and Cherry Streets.

Lowman and Hanford Stationary operated as a bookseller, binder and newspaper printer, but also sold sewing machines, typewriters, pianos and organs. During the 1889 Seattle fire, Lowman loaded wagons with his printing equipment and transported it to his home on Spring Street for safekeeping. The business was destroyed in the fire, and Lowman was a key contributor in rebuilding Seattle, including the Lowman and Hanford Building at 616 First Avenue and the new Seattle Theater.

Mary Emery Lowman was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania on November 1, 1863. She married James Lowman in Seattle in 1881, and the couple resided at 11th Avenue and Marion Street, later 820 Boren Avenue. The Lowman home was the center of much of Seattle's early social life, and they enjoyed travel, theater, fishing, golf, pets, and entertaining friends and family. Mary Lowman was active with the Red Cross, the Children's Orthopedic Hospital and the Seattle Tennis Club. She died on September 4, 1939 at the Lowman residence after a brief illness and was survived at the time of

her death by two sisters, a nephew and her husband. James Lowman died in Seattle on November 18, 1947 at the age of 91.

Content Description

The collection consists of four photograph albums, a newspaper article, travel journal and loose photographs documenting the James Lowman family circa 1880-1917. The albums vary in size and contain photographs pasted on beige paper pages, some with handwritten captions. The images include studio portraits of James and Mary Emery Lowman and informal group portraits taken indoors and outdoors at the Marion Street residence and other Northwest locations. Photographs depict adults and children engaging in recreational activities such as amateur dramatics, golf, tennis, fishing and hiking. The images also include Native Americans and document landmarks such as Lake Washington, Salmon Bay, Woodland Park, Ravenna Park, Elliott Bay, Cedar Lake and Montlake.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

View selections from the collection in digital format by clicking on the camera icons in the inventory below.

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

James D. Lowman Family Photograph Collection, Museum of History & Industry, Seattle

Administrative Information

Location of Collection

3a.4.4

Acquisition Information

Acquired from Michael Maslan, 2008.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Photograph albums, circa 1885-1900

James D. Lowman Family Photograph Collection, circa 1880-1917
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv81942>

4 albums

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	2008.47.1: Photograph album [view] [view] [view] [view] 80 photographs on 34 pages 7 x 10 in. Some of the photos have handwritten captions. Subjects include Lake Union, Salmon Bay, Lake Washington, Smith Cove, Ravenna Park, Cedar Lake and Falls, Native Americans, family groups, children, dogs, horses.	circa 1885
1/2	2008.47.2: Photograph album [view] [view] 41 photographs on 21 pages 5 x 9 in. Subjects include family groups, rural scenes, city parade, lakes, Montlake, Elliott Bay, Lake Washington bicycle path, boats, Native Americans.	circa 1885
2/15	2008.47.3: Photograph album 30 photographs on 24 pages 11 x 7 in. Some of the photos have handwritten captions. Subjects include family groups, cabin, farm, garden, various outdoor scenes and activities	circa 1894-1989
2/16	2008.47.4: Photograph album [view] 185 photographs on 34 pages 10 x 14 in. Some of the photos have handwritten captions. Subjects include family groups, portraits, Marion Street residence, children, pets, beaches, parks, sports and dramatics, Orcas Island views.	1897-1900

Photographs

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/1	2008.47.5: Portrait of James D. Lowman Moore , Seattle (photographer) Cabinet card	circa 1890
2/2	2008.47.6: Portrait of James D. Lowman Taber , San Francisco (photographer) Cabinet card	circa 1881
2/3	2008.47.7: Full length studio portrait of James D. Lowman [view] Taber , San Francisco (photographer)	circa 1881

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Cabinet card	
2/4	2008.47.8: Full length studio portrait of Mary Emery Lowman [view] Taber , San Francisco (photographer) Cabinet card	circa 1881
2/5	2008.47.9: Portrait of James D. Lowman Marceau Photographers , New York	circa 1900
2/6	2008.47.10: James and Mary Lowman in Japanese costume pouring tea [view]	circa 1908
2/7	2008.47.11: Waterfront house and shoreline, possibly Lake Washington Poor condition	circa 1890
2/8	2008.47.12: House on residential street, possibly Lowman home at 11th and Marion Streets Wilse, Anders B. (photographer) Written on photo: Residencel [sic] Portion No. 52	circa 1890
2/9	2008.47.12-.14: Interior of home Cyanotypes	circa 1900
2/10	2008.47.15-.16: Small snapshots of Alaska straits Icy Strait, Chatham Strait	circa 1900
2/11	2008.47.17: Two men, woman and dog posing in front of rustic building	circa 1900
2/12	2008.47.18-.26: Views of men and women golfing	circa 1903

Miscellaneous

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/13	2008.47.27: Seattle Times newspaper page with cartoon drawing of James D. Lowman This full-color illustration depicts Lowman, in Japanese garb, as "The Orientalist." From a feature titled "Some of Seattle's Favorites Done into Cartoon."	1909 September 12

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/14	2008.47.28: Typewritten travel journal with photographs of cruise of the yacht <i>Lydia</i> Cover has photo three men on deck of a boat, with the inscription "Fraternally yours, J.H. Kerr."	1917 August

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Families--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Family members--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Houses--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Recreation--Washington (State)--Seattle

Personal Names :

Lowman, Mary Emery, 1863-1939

Geographical Names :

Ravenna Park (Seattle, Wash.)
 Washington (State)
 Washington, Lake (Wash.)

Form or Genre Terms :

Cabinet photographs
 Photograph albums
 Photographic prints

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

Lowman, James D., 1856-1947
 (creator)

Finding aid prepared by Sue Terrible
 2014



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