

The Whitney Library
New Haven Colony Historical Society

Manuscript Register

MSS #245

CARRIAGES AND EARLY AUTOMOBILES

Arranged and Described

April, 2000

Introduction

This collection contains two boxes of material relating to the carriage industry and its gradual evolution into the early stages of the automobile industry. The majority of items relate to New Haven individuals or firms, notably Lawrence Curtis, a carriage maker whose account books with Gideon Ferris & Co., Kean & Lines and F.H. Bradley are present; George A. Curtis, whose portfolio of original carriage designs from the early 1880's is present, as well as correspondence about his search for a job in automobile manufacturing, ca. 1901; the New Haven Carriage Co.; Brockett & Tuttle; B. Manville & Co.; and Holcomb Bros. & Co., whose 1900 fire alarm booklet shows pictures of their "locomobile" agency and repair garage. Included are numerous drawings and printed catalogs of carriage designs, as well as catalogs of automobiles manufactured by Riker Electric Vehicle Co. of Elizabethtown, New Jersey. Finally, there is a bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on a 1940 exhibit of carriage designs.

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Box/Folder

- 1/A Riker Automobiles - Mfd. by Riker Electric Vehicle Co.,
Elizabethport, N.J.
- (4) account books (notebook size) - Lawrence Curtis
1. Period 1856-59
 2. Period 1859-71
 3. Period 1871-74
 4. Period 1877
- (22) items to and from George L. Curtis re: job search and
employment opportunities in the early stages of automobile
manufacturing
- 1/B Riker Electric Vehicles - catalogues and drawings
(2) copies of Riker Electric Vehicle catalog, copyright 1900
- 1/C Electrical Apparatus For Marine Use - catalog, no date, pre-1900
Riker Electric Motor Co., Brooklyn, NY
- 1/D The New Haven Carriage Co. - booklets of carriage designs and
models, no date
- 1/E The Brockett And Tuttle Co. - Fine Carriages, booklet
- 1/F B. Manville & Co. - Carriages, booklet
- 2/G Holcomb Bros. & Co. - carriage bodies, no date
- 2/H Sleigh & Park Phaeton - working drawings from 1884, 1886
- 2/I Albert DuPont Carriages, French - Berline 1887, Mail-Coach 1889
- 2/J New Haven Fire Alarm Directory, probably right after 1900- booklet
Advertisement of the Holcomb Bros. Co. - a locomobile agency and
repair garage
- Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, Vol. XXXV No.10,
Oct. 1940
- Article about an exhibition of carriage designs

Box/Folder

2/K George A. Curtis - drawings
Oversize Folder 1 Bundle of drawings, blueprints etc.