



Finding Aid for

A. R. WELCH PAPERS, 1880-1913
Accession 578

Finding Aid Published: October 2011



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OVERVIEW

REPOSITORY: Benson Ford Research Center
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd
Dearborn, MI 48124-5029
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ACCESSION NUMBER: 578

CREATOR: Welch, A. R.

TITLE: A. R. Welch papers

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1880-1913

QUANTITY: 0.8 cubic ft.

LANGUAGE: The materials are in English

ABSTRACT: A. R. Welch was an early automobile producer, setting up shop in Chelsea and Pontiac, Michigan. His Welch Motor Car Co. was bought by General Motors in 1909. These papers contain correspondence and printed materials on automobile component parts.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS: The collection is open for research

COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to The Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).

ACQUISITION: Ford Motor Company Archives donation, 1964

PREFERRED CITATION: Item, folder, box, accession 578, A. R. Welch papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford

PROCESSING INFORMATION: Collection processed by Ford Motor Company Archives staff, May 1964.

DESCRIPTION INFORMATION: Original collection inventory list prepared by Ford Motor Company Archives staff and published in May 1964.

Finding aid prepared by Elyssa Bisoski, October 2011, and published in October 2011.

Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Like many early American automobile makers, brothers A. R. Welch and Fred Welch started out as bicycle manufacturers. The Chelsea Manufacturing Company was a bicycle shop in which the Welch brothers experimented with automobiles from 1901 to 1903. A few Welch Tourists were produced in Chelsea, Michigan before the Welch Brothers set up a new factory in Pontiac, Michigan. Both a Touring Car with Tonneau and a Runabout were produced. In 1911, William C. Durant's newly established General Motors Corporation, which had taken over Welch Motor Car Co. in 1909, produced the last of the Welch automobiles. A. R. Welch became a consulting engineer with Oakland Motor Co. until his death in 1913, meanwhile experimenting with a one-cylinder delivery car.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers consist of correspondence and printed materials on component parts of the automobile during its development including batteries, motors and bodies. There is also some aviation data from 1908.

ARRANGEMENT

Collection is organized chronologically.

SUBJECT TERMS

Names, Personal and Corporate

Welch, A. R.

Welch Motor Car Co.

Subjects

Automobile industry and trade--Michigan

Welch automobiles

Genre and Form

Photographs

Directories

CONTAINER LIST

Box no.	Description
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Box 1

A. R. Welch and Welch Motor Car Co. records and correspondence

1880

1884

1885

1889

1900

1901

1902

1903

1904

1905

1906

Box 2

1907

1908 (includes 1908 Society of Automotive Engineers membership directory)

1909

1910

1911

1912 (includes copy of The Commercial Car Journal, Vol. II, No. 6, February 12, 1912)

1913 (includes correspondence with General Motors, Oakland Motor Car Company, and Chevrolet)

Correspondence, undated (includes letter beginning "Dearest Mother" and signed "daughter / Vesta"; several photographs of boats and engine components; a Michigan State Good Roads Association lapel button)

Printed materials, undated (consists primarily of automotive supplier trade literature)