



# Ralph Crissman Sweeney Collection

## UA.10.3.521

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall  
943 Conrad Road, Room 101  
East Lansing , MI 48824  
Business Number: 517-355-2330  
[archives@msu.edu](mailto:archives@msu.edu)  
URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University Archives and Historical Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Sweeney, Ralph Crissman, 1896-1990
<b>Title:</b>	Ralph Crissman Sweeney collection
<b>ID:</b>	UA.10.3.521
<b>ID [aspace_uri]:</b>	/repositories/2/resources/6734
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1910 - 1920, 1924 - 1935, 1947, 1952
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Cubic Feet , 2 photo albums, 8 folders
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

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## Biographical / Historical

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Ralph Crissman Sweeney was born on January 25, 1896 as the oldest of at least four children to Willard N. Sweeney and Loretta Crissman Sweeney in West Bay, Michigan. The Sweeney family moved to Lansing, Michigan in 1911, where Ralph played football and graduated from Lansing High School in 1914. Ralph continued his education at Michigan Agricultural College in 1914, and graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Engineering in 1919. While attending M. A. C., Ralph was a member of the Freshman Basketball Squad, Union Literary Society, J. Hop Committee, and served as Associate Editor for "The Holcad," and Assistant Athletic Editor for the "1917 Wolverine." In 1918, Ralph enlisted in Ordnance Supply School where he participated in the 16th Ordnance Depot Co., taking a year off from schooling before returning for his senior year. In 1925, Ralph Crissman Sweeney married Angeline Shaw on March 28, 1925 in Franklin County, Ohio, and later had two children Sue and Willard. The marriage ended in divorce between 1940 and 1950. Ralph Crissman Sweeney was enlisted in the Army during World War II from May 4, 1941 to December 18, 1946, where he served in England, North Africa, and Italy, and attained the rank of colonel before his retirement. Ralph worked as a sanitary engineer with the Ohio State Health Department in Columbus, Ohio, as well as for the New York State Health Department. Ralph Crissman Sweeney died on March 21, 1990 in Lansing, Michigan, and is buried in Deepdale Memorial Park in Eaton County, Michigan.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection consists of two photo albums. The first album contains 235 photos of various sizes and covers Ralph Crissman Sweeney's life from 1910 to 1920. Included are photos of him and his family, Michigan Agricultural College's campus and buildings, railroad construction, the Michigan State Capital, Michigan Governor Woodbridge Ferris being sworn in, school football photos, and Williams Hall after it burned down.

The second album contains 435 photos and 40 loose photos and covers Ralph's life from 1924 to 1935. Included are photos of him and his family; family vacations at Houghton Lake, Eight Point Lake, and Glen Lake, Michigan, Florida, and Ohio; a Crissman family reunion, sanitation locations and conferences, and the Special Class Sanitary Reserve. The loose photos show Ralph's daughter, Sue, getting married in 1947 and his son, Willard, graduating from Michigan State College in 1952.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Photograph albums
- Family histories
- Agricultural colleges -- Michigan
- Michigan -- Capital and capitol
- High schools -- Sports -- Michigan
- Railroads -- Design and construction
- College sports -- Michigan -- East Lansing
- Universities and colleges -- Michigan -- East Lansing
- College students -- Michigan -- East Lansing
- Ohio -- Photographs
- World War, 1939-1945
- Sweeney, Ralph Crissman, 1896-1990

## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Photo album, 1910-1920	Box 6924	
Photo album, 1924-1935	Box 6929	
<b>Loose Photos</b>		
Title/Description	Instances	
Group and individual photos of R.C. Sweeney, his family, and unidentified, circa 1945-1955	Box 6929	folder 1
Group photo of the Ohio Sewage Treatment Conference, 1933	Box 6929	folder 2
House and surrounding landscape with negatives, undated	Box 6929	folder 3
R.C. Sweeney and others stand next to a U.S. military plane, circa 1943	Box 6929	folder 4
Sue Sweeney graduating from Ohio State University, 1947	Box 6929	folder 5
Sue Sweeney marries Boyd Herman Ross, June 7, 1947	Box 6929	folder 6
Willard Shaw Sweeney, circa 1945, 1952	Box 6929	folder 7
Envelopes and letterhead addressed to Ralph Sweeney, 1938, 1952	Box 6929	folder 8

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