



**TITLE:** Ralph Bowman Collection

**DATE RANGE:** 1922-1936

**CALL NUMBER:** PP PC 245

**LOCATION:** Arizona History Museum, 1300 N. College Ave, Tempe AZ 85288

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.5 ft (2 boxes)

**PROVENANCE:** Donated by James E. Lunbeck

**RESTRICTIONS ON USE:** Any photograph with identifiable family member may not be made use of (by a third party) or licensed for commercial use without the permission of Julia Emma Reid or her brother Stewart Bowman Reid. They put no restrictions on those photographs which do not feature their relatives.

**PREFERRED CITATION:** Ralph Bowman Collection, Arizona Historical Society-Tempe

**PROCESSED BY:** Jesse Cabano, 2024.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** Ralph Bowers Bowman was born September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1878 in St. Louis, Missouri and was the only son of Kate Hutchinson and Albert Bowers Bowman. When Albert Bowman's machinery company called Bowman Machine Company went bankrupt in the panic of 1893, Ralph established a similar business as a machine shop machinery broker and assumed the burden of his father's debts, which he eventually repaid in full. He eventually married his first wife Helen Marie Hill and had two daughters named Constance and Julia. When Helen passed away, Ralph closed his business in St. Louis and move to Phoenix, Arizona with his daughters to live with his mother and began taking an interest in photography. He went on to marry Edenia Kridelbaugh in 1923 and moved to a small community at the base of Camelback Mountain. Ralph was interested in various transportations such as cars and trains while also being interested in home construction and would often travel by train or drove on primitive roads of Arizona and eventually California in his Model T Ford car and took photographs along the way. At the time, his main occupation was pursuing his interest in photography and looking after his investments while spending the summer in San Diego, California. Eventually Ralph would move there permanently in 1925 at Edenia's insistence that the girls needed proper schooling. This is where his last daughter, Billie, was born. He lived the rest of his life there and passed away on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1937.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** In box 1 of the Ralph Bowman Collection is a series of negatives and photographs that were taken by Ralph Bowers Bowman while he was in Phoenix. The photographs and negatives contain images of various towns, plants, animals, landscapes, and people. It even contains pictures of famous trails and dams such as Roosevelt Dam and Apache Trail. These photographs and negatives are one part of his collection that has been split geographically and handed to similar repositories in St. Louis and San Diego.

In box 2 of the Ralph Bowman Collection there are various items that show more images taken by Ralph Bowman and tells the story of one of his daughters named Julia. The two DVDs contain images that were photographed by Ralph over the years 1922 – 1927 and 1928 – 1937. There is also a movie and book that tells the life of Julia Bowman and how she pursued a career in mathematics that eventually lead her to become the first woman mathematician elected to the national academy of sciences and the first woman elected president of the American Mathematical Society.

**SUBJECT TERMS:** Landscapes, Trains, Phoenix (Ariz.), Mules, Apache Trail, Roosevelt Dam, Boulder Dam, Grand Canyon

**CONTAINER LIST:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1</b>	1	May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 1922
	2	December, 1922
	3	December, 1922
	4	December, 1922
	5	December, 1922
	6	December, 1922
	7	December, 1922
	8	December, 1922
	9	April, 1923
	10	April, 1923
	11	October, 1923
	12	October, 1923
	13	November, 1923
	14	November, 1923
	15	December, 1923
	16	December, 1923
	17	December, 1923
	18	December, 1923
	19	January, 1924
	20	January, 1924
	21	January, 1924
	22	February, 1924
	23	February, 1924

	24	February, 1924
	25	February, 1924
	30	March, 1924
	31	March, 1924
	32	March, 1924
	33	March, 1924
	34	April, 1924
	35	April, 1924
	36	May, 1924
	37	May, 1924
	38	May, 1924
	39	June, 1924
	40	June, 1924
	41	June, 1924
	42	July, 1924
	43	July, 1924
	44	July, 1924
	45	August, 1924
	46	August, 1924
	47	September, 1924
	48	September, 1924
	49	October, 1924
	50	October, 1924
	51	October, 1924
	52	March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1925
	53	September 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1934
	54	December, 1934
	55	August, 1935
	56	September, 1935
	57	April, 1936
<b>2</b>	1	Julia Robertson and Hilbert's Tenth Problem DVD
	2	Ralph Bowman 1922 – 1927 DVD
	3	Ralph Bowman 1928 – 1937 DVD
	4	Julia: A Life in Mathematics book