



## Summary Information

**Title:** Robert Ruby Martin Wagon Company Collection

**Collection Number:** 2014:032

**Creators:** Robert Ruby and Fauchie Brandon Thompson

**Collection Dates:** 1887-2004, (bulk 1922-1924)

**Extent:** 1.5 cubic feet (1 box) and three oversized items.

**Language:** English

**Collection Abstract:** The Robert Ruby Martin Wagon Company Collection consists of a variety of items, the majority of which were passed down from Fauchie Brandon Thompson to his grandson, Robert Ruby. Some of the most significant items in the collection include a small, piece of paper that documents an agreement made between The Martin Wagon Company and the school districts to construct the first school buses in Angelina County, Texas, and a time book dated 1922-1924 that records Fauchie Brandon Thompson's earnings at The Martin Wagon Company. A rare company token patented July, 1899 from The Martin Wagon Company also adds to the importance of this collection.

## Repository:

The History Center

102 N. Temple

Diboll, TX 75941

936-829-3543

[www.thehistorycenteronline.com](http://www.thehistorycenteronline.com)

**Processing Information:** Processed by Candace Cupps in September 2014.

**Biographical/Historical Note:** The majority of this collection comes from or concerns The Martin Wagon Company of Lufkin, Texas. The Martin Wagon Company was an outgrowth of the enterprises of Daniel Webster Martin, an inventor and craftsman. Martin Wagon Company's most recognizable product was the eight-wheel wagons designed for moving heavy equipment or oversized logs. This invention was used in both the oil fields and the lumber industry, both important for the economy in Texas and the adjacent states in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Another locally notable Martin Wagon product was its school buses, which were needed during the consolidation of local school districts in the 1920's and 1930's. These were some of the earliest school buses in use in Texas.

The Great Depression and a fire in 1930 caused financial problems for the business. Lufkin Foundry and Machine Company's officers purchased and reorganized the company in 1939 as a division within the larger company. The remnants of the wagon company, which had been making trucks using

Lufkin parts for several years, became Lufkin's successful and recognizable trailer division, which operated until 2008.

**Collection Scope and Content:** The Robert Ruby, Martin Wagon Company Collection consists of a variety of items, the majority of which were passed down from Fauchie Brandon (F. B.) Thompson, 1886-1972. F.B. Thompson worked as a foreman for The Martin Wagon Company and helped design and negotiate the cost of Angelina County's first school buses. Robert Ruby, Mr. Thompson's grandson, built the two models in the collection. Some of the most significant items in the collection include the only known documentation of the agreement made between The Martin Wagon Company and the Angelina County School Superintendent to construct the first school buses in Angelina County, Texas. A time book dated 1922-1924 that documents Fauchie Brandon Thompson's earnings at Martin Wagon Company, and a rare company token patent dated July, 1899 from The Martin Wagon Company also adds to the importance of this collection.

**Arrangement:** This collection is arranged and described at the folder level.

### Subject Terms

#### Topics

- Industries --Texas, East
- Schools -- Texas, East
- Aircraft -- Texas, East
- Lumber – Texas, East

#### Corporate Names

- The Martin Wagon Company
- Lufkin Trailers
- Lufkin Industries
- Hudson Independent School District

#### Personal Names

- Ruby, Robert
- Thompson, Fauchie Brandon

#### Family Names

- Ruby
- Thompson

#### Locations

- Lufkin (Tex)
- Texas, East

### Access and Use

**Access Restrictions:** There are no restrictions on this collection

**Acquisition Information:** Donated by Robert Ruby on September 16, 2014.

**Citation:** Robert Ruby Martin Wagon Company Collection, 1887-2004, 2014:032, The History Center, Diboll, TX

**Separated Material:** Oversized items 2 and 3 will be stored separately for preservation and space concerns

**Related Material:**

Lufkin Industries Collection, 2013:023

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**Bibliography:**

Elaine Jackson, *Lufkin: From Sawdust to Oil* (Houston: Gulf, 1982).

Diana J. Kleiner, "LUFKIN INDUSTRIES," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dtlbk>),

J. Gerland, M Johnson, "Research: Sawmill Database," *Texas Forestry Museum* (<http://www.treetexas.com/research/sawmill/?action=view&cid=4>)

**Collection Inventory**

**Box 1**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Folder 1                 | Martin Wagon Company Time Book, April 1922-June 1924   |
| Folder 2                 | Ropp's Commercial Calculator, 1887   |
| Folder 3                 | A one dollar token from The Martin Wagon Company, patent dated July 1899   |
| Folder 4                 | A small piece of paper that is the only documentation known discussing The Martin Wagon Company school bus design. ca. 1930            |
| Folder 5                 | A ¾ to 1 inch Howard DGA-15 diagram, designed by Robert Ruby in August 2004  |
| Folder 6                 | A scanned photograph of Fauchie Brandon Thompson standing with a Martin Wagon Company Truck. ca. 1930.                                 |
| Folder 7                 | A scanned photograph of school buses built for the Hudson School district by The Martin Wagon Company.                                 |
| Folder 8                 | An original photograph of an eight wheeled Martin wagon on its side.   |
| Folder 9                 | An original photograph of Fauchie Brandon Thompson, foreman of The Martin Wagon Company. ca. 1950.                                     |
| Folder 10                | An original photograph of an eight wheeled wagon from the back with The Martin Wagon Company and No. 1249 written on the reverse side. |
| <b>Oversized Item #1</b> | 32 x 7 x 4 model of the eight wheeled Martin Wagon, created by Robert Ruby   |
| <b>Oversized Item #2</b> | 28 x 20 x 8 model of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Lufkin Industries Company plane, Howard DGA-15, created by Robert Ruby                        |
| <b>Oversized Item #3</b> | 25 x 28 ½ tinted, framed photograph of an eight wheel Martin wagon in a field  |