

Grand Rapids

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Introduction

The Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan has prepared this guide to its Grand Rapids related holdings of manuscript and visual sources. The guide is meant to inform interested researchers of the existence of unique Grand Rapids materials at the Bentley. When founded in 1935, the Michigan Historical Collections (since renamed the Bentley Historical Library) undertook to collect and preserve documentary materials important for the understanding of state history. Among the many important cities documented in the Bentley's collection is Grand Rapids, the urban center of West Michigan.

The materials collected encompass a wide range of formats and subjects. Donations from private citizens include letters, journals, and family portraits. The activities of a variety of organizations are documented by minutes and other files. Photographs and scrapbooks capture the diverse and evolving character of Grand Rapids. Together, these materials provide rich historical record of Grand Rapids.

The intent of this guide is to list the library's holdings of archival and manuscript collections including photographic and other visual materials. The entries have been compiled from the library's catalog (part of the University's Mirlyn catalog) using Grand Rapids as a search term. In some cases, the bulk of the materials described relate to Grand Rapids; in other instances, there might be only an item or two that are specific to Grand Rapids. The goal has been to emphasize Grand Rapids materials.

The guide has been arranged into broad topical subdivisions: ethnic communities, religious life, African American life and contributions, etc. Within each subdivision, entries are arranged alphabetically. Included with each entry are dates of collection, size, brief biographical or institutional information, and a summary description of the contents. Also indicated is such information as the existence of a more extensive finding aid to the collection, or the language of the materials (if not English). Collections that fall within more than one of the topical subdivisions have been listed in each section.

This guide is not intended to replace the [catalog to Bentley Library holdings](#) available on the web. Rather through catalog descriptions and representative images interspersed throughout these pages, we seek to offer a glimpse of Grand Rapids' vibrant history.

African Americans

Claytor, Helen Jackson.

- Helen Jackson Claytor papers 1924-2005 bulk 1955-1985.
- 6 linear feet, 1 oversize volume, and 1 oversize folder.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, club woman, officer in the Grand Rapids chapter of the Young Women's Christian Association, president of the national YWCA, 1967-1973.
Biographical files include clippings and award materials; files relating to her work with the Young Women's Christian Association, both national organization and Grand Rapids branch. Files relating to her community work in Grand Rapids and her participation in national conferences/committees. The Grand Rapids files relate to education, housing, issues of urban renewal, and other topics. Speeches delivered on topics relating to the YWCA, civil rights, citizenship, and the family; speeches reflect in part her thoughts as a black woman on questions of school and housing segregation.
[Finding Aid](#)

Creswell, Thomas.

- Thomas Creswell papers [ca.1870]-[ca.1890].
- .2 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, poet, and teacher with the Freedmen's Bureau after the Civil War.
Copies of poetry largely reflecting a white interpretation of the experiences of Black persons living in America; also poetry containing religious themes.
Search [Mirllyn](#)

Gill, Lillian.

- Lillian Gill papers 1950s-2007.
- 6 linear feet.
African American businesswoman from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Lillian Gill was active in the Order of the Eastern Star and in African American Baptist Church organizations, particularly New Hope Baptist Church of Grand Rapids.
The Lillian Gill collections is comprised of the following series: Biographical and personal; Business career; Political and community interests; Order of Eastern Star, Free and Accepted Masons; New Hope Baptist Church and other Baptist organizations; and Photographs. The great bulk of the collection details her Masonic responsibilities and her activities with her church and with her denomination's regional bulletins, brochures, programs, announcements, and the like. A smaller portion of the collection relates to her varied business endeavors as an insurance underwriter and as a salesperson with Amway. Photographs documenting her activities within the Order of the Eastern Star and as a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Grand Rapids; also photos of Amway meetings.
[Finding Aid](#)

Grand Rapids Urban League.

- Grand Rapids Urban League records 1941-1986.
- 4 linear ft.
Affiliate of the National Urban League.

Historical information file, administrative files, topical files, and photographs. Photos of activities of the Grand Rapids Urban League, especially its activities with children (ca. 1950), later activities of the League, and portraits of its secretary, Paul Phillips.

[Finding Aid](#)

Parks, Lyman S.

- Lyman S. Parks papers 1962-1977.
- 4 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.

Pastor of the Grand Rapids A. M. E. First Community Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, city commissioner, acting mayor, and later mayor, 1971-1975

Mayoralty files, political materials, scrapbooks of career activities, and photographs. In photograph series: portraits; photographs of Parks with various public figures, and of Parks at numerous official functions, including Mayor Exchange days at Warren, Southfield, and Saginaw, Michigan.

[Finding Aid](#)

Commerce and Industrial

Anonymous.

- Anonymous daybook 1855-1857.
- 1 v.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, general store.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Ball Family.

- Ball family papers 1844-1868 (scattered).
- 1 folder.
Ball family of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Scattered business documents and correspondence.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Birkerts, Gunnar.

- Gunnar Birkerts papers 1930-2002.
- 10.5 linear ft. 1912 architectural drawings.
Michigan-based architect, founder of Gunnar Birkerts and Associates, professor in the University of Michigan College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Birkerts designed the Freeman Residence, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
The Gunnar Birkerts collection is comprised of four series: Personal papers, Professional papers, Faculty papers, and Project files. Personal papers includes biographical information, family photographs, early architectural drawings, and course notebooks and project drawings completed while a student at the Technische Hochschule Stuttgart. Professional papers includes transcripts and notes of speeches, lectures and seminars, some of which occurred in Grand Rapids, MI (many of these are also available on audiotapes; some are available on videocassettes). Also included are correspondence, awards, travel diaries with conceptual drawings, newspaper and journal articles and photographs. Faculty papers include course and other materials relating to his career as professor at the University of Michigan College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Project files contains textual files, photographs, and conceptual drawings associated with 122 of the buildings and projects designed by Birkerts. Audiocassette of Birkerts speeches, lectures and seminars. Personal and family photographs; scattered photographs in project files; videotapes of selected speeches, lectures, and seminars; and architectural drawings.
[Finding Aid](#)

Blake family.

- Blake family papers 1836-1926.
- 1 linear foot, 1 oversize folder, and 1 oversize volume.
William F. Blake, Grand Rapids tea merchant, and his wife Alde L.T. Blake, campaign secretary for the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association
Scrapbook, ca. 1872-1915, of William F. Blake largely concerning family history and business interests; scrapbook, ca. 1876-1920, and other papers of Alde L. T. Blake, including correspondence with Jane Addams, Ben Lindsey, Woodbridge N. Ferris, and

Anna Howard Shaw; and volume (1872-1875) containing copies of letters sent by Robert Blake in his capacity as U.S. Consular Agent serving in Canada, including detailed commercial report about London, Ontario in 1873; and photographs. Include photos of Anna Howard Shaw, Jeanette Rankin, and others following a lecture by Dr. Shaw; also group photos, possibly of woman suffrage groups; and portraits.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Blodgett family.

- Blodgett family papers 1872-1953.
- 33 linear ft., 43 outsize v., and 12 outsize folders.

Family of Delos A. Blodgett, his son John W. Blodgett, and his grandson John W. Blodgett, Jr., residents of Grand Rapids, Michigan and owners of a series of logging companies active in Michigan, Mississippi, California, Oregon, and Vancouver Island. Correspondence, journals, cash books, ledgers, and maps of family businesses, including the Blodgett Company, Wright-Blodgett Company, Michigan-California Lumber Company, Michigan Timber Company, Hill-Davis Company, and Tidewater Timber Company; also personal correspondence and photographs. Photographs of lumber mills, group portraits of the Republican National Committee (1903 and 1908), the Grand Rapids Board of Trade (1905) and a banquet honoring Theodore Roosevelt (1905), and portraits of Delos and John Blodgett.

[Finding Aid](#)

Coffinberry, Wright L.

- Wright L. Coffinberry papers 1835-1920 (scattered dates).
- .5 linear ft.

Wright L. Coffinberry was a Grand Rapids, Michigan surveyor, captain in Company C of the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics during the Civil War, and later Superintendent of the Poor for Kent County, 1880-1888.

Papers of Wright L. Coffinberry and other members of the Coffinberry and McCargar families of Grand Rapids. Volume containing both diary of Wright L. Coffinberry for 1855-March 1859 and records of his services (time spent, expenditures) as Kent County Superintendent of the Poor, 1880-1888. The diary is a detailed and well-written account of his daily surveying business, the weather, local civic and political interests, and religious musings. Also included is a manuscript autobiography (with partial typescript and index), 1887 and covering the period of 1760 to 1885 with details about his life and the life of his father George Lewis Coffinberry. This autobiography includes mention of settling in Michigan, his surveying activities, and service in the Civil War. The remainder of the collection consists of volumes of Coffinberry family genealogy; scattered family correspondence; miscellaneous biographical information and photographs; and a brief typescript history, 1920, of the application of assembly line technology to furniture manufacturing at the Stow-Davis Co. of Grand Rapids. Images of Coffinberry in military uniform and of Coffinberry with his wife; also portrait.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Cornelius, Louis A.

- Louis A. Cornelius papers 1910-1951.

- 1 linear ft. and 1 v. [outsized].
Grand Rapids, Michigan, businessman, president of the Wolverine Brass Works. Scrapbooks relating to business and masonic activities, his activities as director of the Grand Rapids Welfare Union, and Grand Rapids during the depression; also letters exchanged with Arthur H. Vandenberg.
[Finding Aid](#)

Cowell, Robert B.

- Robert B. Cowell account book 1850-1863.
- 1 v.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, farmer.
Personal accounts and farm expenditures.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Denison family.

- Denison family papers 1848-1907.
- 1 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, family.
Correspondence and business and legal papers of Julius Coe Denison; diaries, 1886-1890 and 1897-1907, of Julius' wife, Cornelia Carter Denison, describing daily life; and diaries, 1879-1889, of their son, Arthur Carter Denison, concerning in part his activities as student at the University of Michigan in the 1880s.
[Finding Aid](#)

Eaton, Leonard K.

- Leonard K. Eaton papers 1950-2004.
- 4.5 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
Professor of architectural history at the University of Michigan.
Correspondence, topical files, college term papers written by Eaton, papers written by Eaton students (mainly concerning the architecture of Michigan buildings, including Grand Rapids), and photographs; subjects include seventeenth century Dutch architecture, the Chicago school of architecture, and the career of Frank Lloyd Wright. Also included is Eaton's research file on the Palmer-Ryan House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in Ann Arbor. The collection contains extensive correspondence with architect William Gray Purcell. Photographs used in his research on Dutch architecture and a Flint, Michigan, public housing project; also photographs used by his students in their term papers on Michigan architectural history topics; and photographs of the Palmer-Ryan House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in Ann Arbor.
[Finding Aid](#)

Employers' Association of Grand Rapids.

- Employers' Association of Grand Rapids records 1954 and 1958-1966.
- .3 linear ft.
Organizational correspondence and working papers.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Field family.

- Field family papers 1836-1940.
- 2 linear ft.

Residents of Englishville and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Business and family correspondence of Abby Field, worker with the Church of Christ of Englishville and Grand Rapids, Michigan, also correspondence, 1848 and 1852-1922, newspaper clippings, 1870-1940, legal papers, 1836-1889, diaries, ca. 1875, and other materials relating to personal affairs, farm life and the Civil War. Correspondents include: Myron and Susan Field Buck, Sylvester Field and Flora Bennett.

[Finding Aid](#)

Frey, John E.

- John E. Frey papers 1930-1951.
- 10 items.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, banker.

Letters received from U.S. Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, largely concerning financial legislation pending before Congress and Republican Party politics; also newspaper clippings describing the funeral of Vandenberg.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Furniture Manufacturers Association of Grand Rapids.

- Furniture Manufacturers Association of Grand Rapids records 1912-1948.
- 2 reels microfilm: positive and negative.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, manufacturers association.

Constitutions and by-laws, and minutes of meetings.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Gill, Lillian.

- Lillian Gill papers 1950s-2007.
- 6 linear feet.

African American businesswoman from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Lillian Gill was active in the Order of the Eastern Star and in African American Baptist Church organizations, particularly New Hope Baptist Church of Grand Rapids.

The Lillian Gill collections is comprised of the following series: Biographical and personal; Business career; Political and community interests; Order of Eastern Star, Free and Accepted Masons; New Hope Baptist Church and other Baptist organizations; and Photographs. The great bulk of the collection details her Masonic responsibilities and her activities with her church and with her denomination's regional bulletins, brochures, programs, announcements, and the like. A smaller portion of the collection relates to her varied business endeavors as an insurance underwriter and as a salesperson with Amway. Photographs documenting her activities within the Order of the Eastern Star and as a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Grand Rapids; also photos of Amway meetings.

[Finding Aid](#)

Goebel, Paul Gordon.

- Paul G. Goebel papers 1942-1964.

- 11 linear ft.
Businessman and Republican mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1950-1954 and 1956-1958, delegate to the 1961 constitutional convention, and regent of University of Michigan.
Correspondence, mayoral topical files, campaign materials, and scrapbooks concerning his activities in opposition to the political leadership of Frank D. McKay and George Welsh, the Republican National Convention of 1960, the work of the constitutional convention, and the founding of WZZM-TV; also photographs. Correspondents include: Frederick M. Alger, Gerald R. Ford, and Clare E. Hoffman. Portraits, photos used in his mayoralty campaigns, photos showing Goebel voting and at various mayoralty and other public functions.

[Finding Aid](#)

Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce.

- Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce records 1887-1946.
- 17 microfilm reels : positive.
Board of directors minutes, committee minutes and reports, and newsletters; include materials concerning the Chamber's efforts on behalf of civic and local economic improvements.

[Finding Aid](#)

Gunnar Birkerts & Associates.

- Gunnar Birkerts and Associates records 1960-2005.
- 82 linear ft. and 10,000 drawings and prints.
Architectural firm headed by Gunnar Birkerts and headquartered in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.
Project files consisting of textual records, architectural and engineering drawings, and photographs for fourteen of the structures designed by the firm of Gunnar Birkerts & Associates in Michigan, Indiana, Mississippi, and Minnesota, including residences, churches, and public buildings. Notable designs include the Federal Reserve Building in Minneapolis, the University of Michigan Law Library addition, and the Freeman Residence, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Photographs, mainly views of construction, and other visual materials maintained as part of the project files for ten of the structures designed by the firm of Gunnar Birkerts Associates. Buildings include the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis and the University of Michigan Law Library addition.

[Finding Aid](#)

Hart, Richard P.

- Richard P. Hart plat book [ca. 1836-1849].
- 1 v.
Land dealer in southwestern Michigan.
Record of his land holdings including a plat of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a record of the types of trees growing on his land.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Heyda, Marie.

- Claude O. Taylor and the furniture strike of 1911 in Grand Rapids 1984.
- 1 item.
Professor of history at Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Iron Molders' Union, Local 213.

- Iron Molders' Union, Local 213 records 1878-1940.
- 23 v. (3 boxes).
Minutes to 1909 and financial records.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Kosten, Laurel.

- Laurel Kosten interview January 1963.
- 1 item (10 p.)
Michigan state factory inspector, 1937-1951.
Transcript of interview relating to her work investigating working conditions for women in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Lawrence, Howard Cyrus.

- Howard Cyrus Lawrence papers 1916-1966.
- 25 linear ft. and 2 v.
Grand Rapids, Michigan businessman and Republican politician.
Correspondence, appointment books, business records, and other papers relating to personal affairs, the Grand Rapids Varnish Corporation, the Michigan Trust Company of Grand Rapids, and the Ypsilanti-Reed Furniture Company of Ionia, Michigan; also materials on Albion College, the Methodist Church, the Ionia Free Fair, and Republican Party in Michigan. Photos of Grand Rapids Varnish Corporation; and photos of Lawrence with other state and national public figures.
[Finding Aid](#)

Mead, James A.

- James A. Mead letterbooks 1890-1894.
- 2 v.
Grand Rapids (Mich.) businessman.
Business correspondence relating to the Michigan Marble Company.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Meints, Graydon M.

- Graydon M. Meints papers 1981-1985.
- 1 v.
Kalamazoo, Michigan, railroad historian.
Historical essays concerning the Grand Trunk Western Railroad, the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad, the New York Central Railroad System in Michigan, railroad construction, and the railroad history of Van Buren County, Michigan.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Merriam family.

- Merriam family papers 1914-1964.
- 2 linear ft., 1 oversize photograph, and 3 oversized volumes.

Grand Rapids and Holland, Michigan family.

Papers of Warren Sturtevant Merriam, plant manager of the Baker Furniture Company of Holland and member of the Macatawa Bay Yacht Club, and his wife, Helen Bell Merriam; scattered papers of Charles W. Merriam, Congregational minister in Grand Rapids, and his wife, Julia Bemis Sturtevant Merriam; and photographs. Family photos, and photo of Baker Furniture Company in Holland, Michigan; also photos concerning church activities.

[Finding Aid](#)

Norris family.

- Norris family papers 1815-1960.
- 3 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.

Norris family of Ypsilanti and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Papers of Mark Norris, Ypsilanti businessman and postmaster, concerning banking, milling, and railroads, and including letters from his son, Lyman, concerning his studies in the 1840's at Marshall Academy, the University of Michigan, and Yale University, travels in Europe, and his participation in the Dred Scott slavery case; papers of his wife, Roccena Vaill Norris, local teacher and woman's rights advocate, relating in part to the Civil War, her interest in the cause of coeducation and suffrage for women and her involvement in the First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti; papers of their son, Lyman, attorney and regent of the University of Michigan, 1883-1884, concerning business matters, family matters, post-Civil War politics, especially his campaign for state supreme court justice in 1875, and his work on the board of regents, particularly as relates to the School of Dentistry; papers of Lyman's son, Mark Norris, Grand Rapids attorney and Grand Master of the Knights Templar in the United States largely concerning Freemasonry activities, but also including University of Michigan student notebook, 1877, of course taught by Charles K. Adams, and scrapbook, 1875-1876, of University life; papers of Lyman's daughter Maria Norris, Grand Rapids physician; papers of Mark's son, Abbott Norris, concerning his interest in political issues, 1936-1946, as reflected in correspondence with the state's congressional delegation. Also includes related papers of other family members, notably the Whittelsey family of Connecticut, and photographs. Portraits of Lyman and Mark Norris, and group portrait of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity at the University of Michigan (ca. 1879).

[Finding Aid](#)

Richmond, Rebecca L.

- Rebecca L. Richmond report 1881.
- 1 item.

Superintendent of Division Street school in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Report to Union Benevolent Association on the industrial sewing school in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Rumsey, James A.

- James A. Rumsey papers 1838-1848.
- 5 items.

Grand Rapids, Michigan millwright.

Correspondence and other papers concerning his early career, with comments on the use of local currency, and family correspondence.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Sligh family.

- Sligh family papers 1842-1967.

- 27 linear ft., 30 v. [outsized] and 1 folder [outsized]. Visual Materials 3 linear ft.

Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan, family whose members include James Wilson Sligh, Grand Rapids businessman and officer in Michigan Engineers and Mechanics in the Civil War; James May Sligh, physician and officer in the Michigan Engineers and Mechanics during the Civil War; Charles Robert Sligh, Grand Rapids furniture manufacturer, Republican state senator, and gubernatorial nominee; and Charles Robert Sligh, Jr., Grand Rapids businessman, past president and executive vice-president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Series I : papers, 1842-1865, including correspondence and three diaries relating to James W. Sligh's Civil War service, seven volumes of his business records, and his notebooks on Masonic affairs; also letters dealing with James M. Sligh's Civil War service. Series II : papers, 1866-1927, of Charles R. Sligh, including eight volumes of account books and ledgers, three scrapbooks, one letterbook, forty-nine diaries and small notebooks, four feet of correspondence, speeches, clippings, pamphlets, legal documents, and biographical notes dealing with the furniture industry, family affairs, Grand Rapids, Michigan, business enterprises in California, Arizona, and elsewhere, World War I activities (preparedness movement, Plattsburg training camp, National Security League, and airplane production) and politics on the local, state and national level, especially bimetallism, 1893-1897, the election of 1896, Michigan Senate activities, 1922-1924, and the Michigan primary election of 1924. Series III : papers, 1928-1967, of Charles R. Sligh, Jr., consisting of two feet of correspondence and speeches, forty-seven volumes of scrapbooks, and three feet of tape recordings, phonograph records, pamphlets, and clippings dealing with family affairs, the National Association of Manufacturers, the furniture industry, and politics. Series IV : records, 1880-1948, of the Sligh Furniture Co. and related family businesses, including two feet and one outsized volume of minutes, legal papers, and reports. Correspondents include: Civil War soldiers Sidney Abbott, Charles H. Cudney, Edson P. Gifford, Enos Hopkins, William P. Innes, David A. Jewell, Dow L. Lighthall, John W. McGrath, Clement F. Miller, William S. Nevins, George D. Walker, Walter Warner, Albert Wells, and George W. White. Other correspondents include: Russell A. Alger, Frederick A. Baker, William P. Belden, Aaron T. Bliss, Wilber M. Brucker, William J. Bryan, Julius C. Burrows, Marion L. Burton, Martin J. Cavanaugh, William E. Curtis, Byron M. Cutcheon, Richard L. Drake, John G. Emery, Woodbridge N. Ferris, Thomas W. Ferry, Mark Foote, Clyde H. Geerlings, John A. Hannah, Ebenezer G. D. Holden, Samuel W. Hopkins, Frank Knox, Cyrus G. Luce, James McMillan, Lee Mantel, George Meany, Henry Morgenthau, Allen B. Morse,

Chase S. Osborn, Hazen S. Pingree, D. A. Reynolds, John T. Rich, George F. Richardson, Alexander C. Sly, William A. Smith, Francis B. Stockbridge, Arthur E. Summerfield, Charles A. Towne, James M. Turner, Arthur H. Vandenberg, Fred M. Warner, Charles W. Watkins, Erwin C. Watkins, Frederick M. Wheeler, and Justin R. Whiting. Photographs, chiefly of the activities of Charles R. Sligh, Jr., but also including activities of Charles R. Sligh, Sr., and James W. Sligh; also films of television appearances by Charles R. Sligh, Jr., including debate with Walter Reuther and film of Sligh water skiing.

[Finding Aid](#)

Stevens, Frederick W.

- Frederick W. Stevens papers 1920-1923.
- 40 items.

Teacher from New York and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Correspondence and newspaper clippings concerning his activities as a representative of American banking interests, including J. P. Morgan and Company, China.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Stiles, John R.

- John Richardson Stiles papers 1958-1965.
- 2 linear ft.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, businessman and Republican campaign official.

Correspondence, reports, newspaper clippings and campaign materials concerning the Warren Commission's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the writing of the book, Portrait of the Assassin with Gerald Ford, and his activities as campaign manager for Paul Bagwell for governor in 1958, and as field director of the Richard Nixon for President campaign in 1960.

[Finding Aid](#)

Trades and Labor Council of Grand Rapids.

- Trades and Labor Council of Grand Rapids 1926-1927.
- 1 item.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Uhl, Edwin Fuller.

- Edwin Fuller Uhl papers 1878-1917.
- .3 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.

Grand Rapids, Michigan businessman, Ambassador to Germany, and U.S.

Undersecretary of State.

Correspondence of Uhl, his wife, and his son Marshall, including eleven letters from Grover Cleveland and sixty-three telegrams of condolence upon the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Uhl; also guest book, notebook, manuscript address, biographical sketch, resolutions, legal papers, and photographs.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Welch, Kenneth Curtis.

- Kenneth Curtis Welch papers 1915-1972.
- 13.6 linear ft. (15 boxes). Photographs 1.6 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, architect and planner.
Correspondence, writings, working files, and photographs for out-of-state and Michigan projects, primarily in Grand Rapids, Lansing, Flint, and East Lansing; professional materials relating to problems of urban planning, the design of department stores and shopping centers, his general interest in lighting designs, traffic patterns, and parking areas, and to his work with the Lake Michigan Region Planning Committee, the American Institute of Architects and the Michigan Society of Architects; also Welch family materials, including record, 1915-1925, of the Welch Manufacturing Company of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Photographs of Welch's architectural projects throughout the United States, especially shopping centers, including Northland (Southfield, Michigan) and Breton Village (Grand Rapids, Michigan); also a variety of projects in Grand Rapids, Michigan, including photos of downtown buildings and streets and Fountain Street Church; photographic studies of downtown and shopping center businesses in various cities; and aerial photos of several Michigan localities.
[Finding Aid](#)

Weston, Isaac M.

- Isaac M. Weston papers 1859-1899.
- 6 linear ft. and 3 v. [outsize].
Grand Rapids, Michigan, businessman and newspaperman, Democratic politician, mayor of Grand Rapids, and president of the Michigan Board of World's Fair managers. Correspondence, topical files, and business and legal papers; include scrapbook and other papers, concerning Michigan's exhibit at the World's Fair; papers concerning lumbering and land interests in Michigan and Wisconsin; also business papers of father, William Weston, and brother, B. F. Weston; and photographs. Portraits; photographs and drawing of O-Wash-ta-Nong Boat Club (Grand Rapids, Mich.) and group of Club officers; and photograph of timber hauled from the Upper Peninsula to the Chicago World's Fair (1893).
[Finding Aid](#)

Wheeler, Frederick.

- Frederick Wheeler papers 1859-1941.
- 2.4 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
President of the Michigan Forestry Association, resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Business papers, articles, and correspondence, Wheeler family papers, and other materials concerning family affairs, conservation, Michigan Forestry Association, and the Wheeler genealogy; and twenty-one volumes of miscellaneous notebooks; also photographs. Album photographs (ca. 1907) of forestry projects throughout Michigan; photographs of Michigan forests, including University of Michigan's Saginaw Forest; group portrait (1905) of Michigan Forestry Association; and Wheeler family photographs.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Wheeler, Reuben.

- Reuben Wheeler records 1835-1891.
- 4 v. (1 box) and 1 oversize folder.
Grand Rapids, Michigan builder.
Account books for his building concerns in Amherstburg, Ontario, and Detroit and Grand Rapids, Michigan, also newspaper clippings concerning the women's rights movement and temperance campaign; and front elevation of a building.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

White, Peter.

- Peter White papers 1848-1915.
- 30 linear ft. and 15 oversize volumes.
Marquette, Michigan businessman, Democratic state senator, and Republican regent of University of Michigan.
Twenty-nine letterbooks and extensive correspondence relating to the Democratic Party in Michigan, particularly in the Northern Peninsula, the state legislature, and state and national elections, 1876-1896; also correspondence and forty-five volumes of bound records, legal documents, and miscellaneous papers concerning his extensive business interests that include Northern Michigan iron, insurance, banking, and general investments; and correspondence after 1900 about University of Michigan; also photographs.
[Finding Aid](#)

Wykes, Roger Irving.

- Roger Irving Wykes papers 1889 and 1907-1938.
- 3 linear feet.
Attorney General of Michigan, 1912.
Briefs and other legal papers relating to the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic Railroad case and the Grand Rapids Gas Company case; correspondence, 1907-1908, on his campaign and activities in the Michigan Constitutional Convention; scrapbooks on the Constitutional Convention and Michigan politics, 1907-1920. Correspondents include: Charles A. Blair, Chase S. Osborn, and Arthur H. Vandenberg.
[Finding Aid](#)

Ethnic

Durper, M.

- M. Durper reminiscences 1900.
- 1 item.
Resident of Holland, and Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Reminiscences of his immigration from the Netherlands and his life in Michigan including an account of the Holland fire of 1871.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Ebenezer Holland Presbyterian Church.

- Ebenezer Holland Presbyterian Church records 1905-1907.
- 1 v.
Presbyterian Church located in Grand Rapids.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Emigrantinstitutet

- Emigrantinstitutet papers 1869-1932.
- 1869-1932.
Letters from Swedish immigrants in Michigan and Indiana to their friends and families in Sweden; include letters from throughout Michigan, including Benton Harbor, Calumet, Chippewa Lake, Custer, Elk Rapids, Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Hancock, Iron Mountain, Ironwood, Kalkaska, L'Anse, Ludington, Manistee, Marquette, Menominee, Michigamme, Montague, Muskegon, Rapid River, Tustin, and Vulcan, and Michigan City, Indiana; also immigrant daybook recounting travels in America in 1890, and letter, 1922, from Johan G. R. Baner of Ironwood, Michigan.
[Finding Aid](#)

Helmecke family.

- Helmecke family papers 1908-1914.
- .3 linear ft.
Helmecke family of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Letters from Carl Albert Helmecke and his sister Marie Gertrud Helmecke while students at the University of Michigan; and photographs. Photograph of Carl A. Helmecke and postcard photographs of the University of Michigan Cross Country Club, 1908-1909, and the Engineering Class of 1912 (taken in 1908) of which Helmecke was a member.
[Finding Aid](#)

Michigan Historical Collections.

- Immigration Sources Project (Netherlands) records ca. 1850-1933.
- 1 linear ft.
Papers collected in the Netherlands under the auspices of the Immigration Sources Project of the Michigan Historical Collections.
Copies of letters and other materials of Dutch immigrants to Michigan written to friends and relatives in the Netherlands. Due to its large population of Dutch immigrants, many of the letters originate from the Grand Rapids area.

[Finding Aid](#)

Van Zoeren, Tom.

- Tom Van Zoeren oral history collection. 1993-2010.
- 1 linear foot.

Ranger at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Cassette tapes of oral history interviews with his father, Jay Van Zoeren, of Vriesland, Mich., 1948 graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School; and with John Lanham of Burdickville, Mich., and Laura (Oleson) Basch of the Port Oneida, Mich., area. The Lanham and Basch tapes are accompanied by summary indexes. Oral interviews (on compact disc) with Leonard Thoresen and Alfred and Loraine (Olsen) Mason relating to their families, the family farms and the Port Oneida community; with Jack DeKorne and Trudy Van Noord relating to the family of Boudewyn and Kate DeKorne of Grand Rapids and Glen Lake, Mich.; with Judy Carole Fargo and Ruth Ann Doan Jones, relating to the Frank and Alma Doan family of Crosswell, Mich.; with George Burfiend relating to Burfiend farm and Port Oneida; with Dottie Lanham relating to her life and to Burdickville and surrounding area; and to the Frederick and Margretha Werner farm in Port Oneida. The interviews include accompanying scanned photos and summary transcriptions.

[Finding Aid](#)

Political and Social Reform and Activism

Belen, Elizabeth L.

- Elizabeth L. Belen papers 1935-1969.
- .4 linear ft.
State legislator and Democratic Party leader from Lansing, Michigan. Correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and campaign material concerning Belen's political career; and material concerning activities of other members of the Belen family. Correspondents include: James A. Farley, January 12, 1940, Murray D. Van Wagoner, January 13, 1937 and November 8, 1940. Family photographs; photos of Democratic Party groups, Grand Rapids women's suffrage parade, and 1944 Lansing Democratic Party headquarters.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Grand Rapids Urban League.

- Grand Rapids Urban League records 1941-1986.
- 4 linear ft.
Affiliate of the National Urban League. Historical information file, administrative files, topical files, and photographs. Photos of activities of the Grand Rapids Urban League, especially its activities with children (ca. 1950), later activities of the League, and portraits of its secretary, Paul Phillips.
[Finding Aid](#)

Greene, Perry W.

- Perry W. Greene papers 1918-1974.
- .3 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, pharmacist, city commissioner (1934-1944), and Republican State Senator (1944-1962). Scrapbook of photographs and memorabilia relating to his service during World War I; notebook of pharmaceutical formulas; newspaper clippings and other materials relating to his legislative career; and photographs. Photographs of World War I Europe showing death and devastation; photographs of Grand Rapids, Michigan, civic events (1930s) and Greene drugstore; also photographs of Michigan political figures (1950-1970).
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Institute for Global Education.

- Institute for Global Education records 1971-2008.
- 5 linear feet.
Grand Rapids, Michigan organization working to achieve peace and social justice through education and outreach events and programs. The organization's records document the development and programs of a peace and justice community organization. The series include: Administrative and Related Records; Events; Publications; Affiliated Groups and Committees; Photographs; and scrapbooks. Photographs of events, social gatherings, demonstrations, and organization leadership; also snapshots of the Wagbo Peace Center in East Jordan, Michigan; and photo of civil rights activist Walter Bergman.

[Finding Aid](#)

Kleiner, A. Robert.

- A. Robert Kleiner papers 1949-1982 (bulk dates, 1961-1982).
- 14 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, attorney and political activist.
Subject files relating to his interest in state legislative apportionment, Democratic Party affairs, and Citizen Action, a Grand Rapids, Michigan, non-partisan good government organization; also photographs. Photos of the members of the Michigan Commission on Legislative Apportionment; also photos of delegates taken on the floor of the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

[Finding Aid](#)

League of Women Voters of the Grand Rapids Area.

- League of Women Voters of the Grand Rapids Area records 1972, 1998 and 2006-2008.
- 1 folder.
Published history covering the period of 1921-1971; scattered meeting minutes, and voter guide for the May 2008 Grand Rapids Board of Education election.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Michigan Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

- Michigan Woman's Christian Temperance Union records 1874-2006.
- 16 linear feet (in 17 boxes) and 3 oversize volumes.
Papers of early W.C.T.U. workers, Alice E. H. Peters and Ella Eaton Kellogg, both including correspondence with Frances Willard and Anna A. Gordon; also minutes and other records of individual Michigan W.C.T.U. districts and chapters. Included are substantial records for Grand Rapids and Owosso chapters.

[Finding Aid](#)

Norris family.

- Norris family papers 1815-1960.
- 3 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
Norris family of Ypsilanti and Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Papers of Mark Norris, Ypsilanti businessman and postmaster, concerning banking, milling, and railroads, and including letters from his son, Lyman, concerning his studies in the 1840's at Marshall Academy, the University of Michigan, and Yale University, travels in Europe, and his participation in the Dred Scott slavery case; papers of his wife, Roccena Vaill Norris, local teacher and woman's rights advocate, relating in part to the Civil War, her interest in the cause of coeducation and suffrage for women and her involvement in the First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti; papers of their son, Lyman, attorney and regent of the University of Michigan, 1883-1884, concerning business matters, family matters, post-Civil War politics, especially his campaign for state supreme court justice in 1875, and his work on the board of regents, particularly as relates to the School of Dentistry; papers of Lyman's son, Mark Norris, Grand Rapids attorney and Grand Master of the Knights Templar in the United States largely concerning Freemasonry activities, but also including University of Michigan student

notebook, 1877, of course taught by Charles K. Adams, and scrapbook, 1875-1876, of University life; papers of Lyman's daughter Maria Norris, Grand Rapids physician; papers of Mark's son, Abbott Norris, concerning his interest in political issues, 1936-1946, as reflected in correspondence with the state's congressional delegation. Also includes related papers of other family members, notably the Whittelsey family of Connecticut, and photographs. Portraits of Lyman and Mark Norris, and group portrait of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity at the University of Michigan (ca. 1879).

[Finding Aid](#)

Patton, John.

- John Patton papers 1888-1905.

- .4 linear ft.

Lawyer at Grand Rapids, Michigan and Republican U.S. Senator, 1894-1895.

Manuscript speeches mostly on patriotic or political subjects, scattered items of correspondence, and newspaper clippings, concerning his activities in the Republican Party. Correspondents include: Junius E. Beal, Henry B. Brown, Joseph M. Carey, Cushman K. Davis, James McMillan, Orville H. Platt, John T. Rich, W. R. Shafter, and Francis B. Stockbridge.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Rood, Arthur Raymond.

- Arthur Raymond Rood papers 1847 and 1876-1902.

- .4 linear ft. (24 items and 3 v.).

Grand Rapids, Michigan, lawyer and Republican politician.

Correspondence and two scrapbooks covering his student life at University of Michigan and later political activities in Grand Rapids, Michigan; also his University of Michigan Master's thesis, "The Development of Political Parties in England"; biographical sketch; and other miscellanea.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Journalism: Newspapers, Radio, and Television

Booth, George G

- George G. Booth papers 1892-1894, 1897-1918 and 1924-1926.
- .5 linear ft.
Founder of Booth Newspapers, Michigan newspaper chain.
Correspondence concerning operation of the Booth newspaper chain, with material on the South African War, elections of 1910 and 1912, Michigan state politics, prohibition, and public issues in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Elsworth, Ralph Henry.

- Ralph H. Elsworth papers 1893-1903.
- .4 linear ft. (5 v. and 1 folder).
1902 graduate of the University of Michigan.
Correspondence and graphs concerning women students at the University of Michigan and graduates of the University who became missionaries; also scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings of articles he wrote on the University and its students principally for Ludington, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, newspapers.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Johnson, Axel Petrus.

- Axel Petrus Johnson papers 1908-1912, 1921 and 1934-1951.
- .3 linear ft.
Chicago, Illinois and Grand Rapids, Michigan journalist.
Material relating to his activities as advertising manager of the Chicago Record-Herald and publisher of the Grand Rapids News; also articles written for the Michigan Tradesman (Grand Rapids) and other periodicals; materials used in teaching courses in advertising and creative writing; and personal papers relating to his Masonic membership. Correspondents include: Arthur H. Vandenberg.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Miller, Philip F.

- Philip F. Miller papers 1932-1938 and 1954-1970.
- 6 linear ft.
Editor and publisher of The Oakland Tribune, South Oakland County, Michigan, newspaper.
Scrapbooks, 1932-1970, with clippings of newspaper columns in The Daily Tribune and The Grand Rapids Press, and miscellaneous correspondence, photographs, speeches and printed material. Photographs used in Business Week article, February 1955, about the operation of his local newspaper; various other photographs of meetings attended and other newspaper functions; portraits of Miller and family members.
[Finding Aid](#)

Mudge, James Maxwell.

- James M. Mudge papers 1951-1970.

- 1.2 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
Newspaper reporter and columnist for Grand Rapids Herald, Grand Rapids, Michigan, bureau chief for Detroit Free Press, and press aide to Congressmen Gerald R. Ford and Guy Vander Jagt.
Correspondence, certificates, drafts of speeches, and clippings of his newspaper articles and columns, including material on Detroit, Michigan, mayor Jerome Cavanagh, especially his campaign for U.S. Senate in 1966. Correspondents include: Robert Griffin, John B. Swainson and G. Mennen Williams.
[Finding Aid](#)

Saunders, Carl M.

- Carl M. Saunders papers 1915-1964.
- 1 linear ft. and 1 v. [outsized].
Editor of Michigan newspapers, the Grand Rapids Herald and the Jackson Citizen Patriot. Correspondence, including many letters from Arthur Vandenberg, 1919-1951, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and photographs concerning his newspaper career.
[Finding Aid](#)

Smith, Ralph Lawes.

- Ralph Lawes Smith papers 1928-1961.
- 3 linear ft. and 22 v.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, journalist.
Twenty-two scrapbooks relating to the career of Republican U.S. Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg; also complete file of Vandenberg's remarks as they appeared in the Congressional Record, press releases, copies of speeches and campaign literature, twenty letters from Vandenberg and other letters about him.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Wurz, John Francis.

- John Francis Wurz papers 1947-1966.
- .3 linear ft.
Editor of the Grand Rapids Herald.
Correspondence, 1962-1965, concerning the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Historical Commission, particularly relating to activities of Albert Hyma; articles reviewed for publication, papers on Grand Rapids fluoridation project, and the relationship between the newspaper and the city manager's office; agreements, 1947-1957, between Federated Publications, Inc., publisher of the Herald, and the Grand Rapids Newspaper Guild; and miscellaneous personal material and correspondence; and photographs.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Politics, Government, and City Services

Belen, Elizabeth L.

- Elizabeth L. Belen papers 1935-1969.
- .4 linear ft.
State legislator and Democratic Party leader from Lansing, Michigan.
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and campaign material concerning Belen's political career; and material concerning activities of other members of the Belen family. Correspondents include: James A. Farley, January 12, 1940, Murray D. Van Wagoner, January 13, 1937 and November 8, 1940. Family photographs; photos of Democratic Party groups, Grand Rapids women's suffrage parade, and 1944 Lansing Democratic Party headquarters.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Campbell, Caroline Belzora.

- Caroline Belzora Campbell papers 1910-1925.
- .2 linear ft. and 1 outsize folder.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, civic leader.
Correspondence, papers, and photographs, concerning the state seal of Michigan, physical restoration of the Michigan constitution of 1835, and replacement of the Michigan plaque in the Washington monument. Pictures and samples of the Michigan State Seal, illustrating its development.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Comstock, Charles C.

- Charles C. Comstock memoir 1887.
- 1 reel microfilm : negative.
Mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Democratic U.S. Congressman, 1885-1887.
Reminiscences of his congressional experiences, the furniture business, his term as mayor, and Greenback and Democratic party politics; also recollections by his wife Cornelia telling of her family's coming to Michigan in 1837 via the Great Lakes.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Creswell, Cordelia.

- Cordelia Creswell papers 1886-1935 and 1950.
- 1.5 linear ft.
Special education coordinator in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Budgets, payrolls, annual and individual reports on students, program, delinquency, and education for the retarded.
[Finding Aid](#)

Dregge, John Wright.

- John Wright Dregge letters 1949 and 1961.
- 3 items.
President of the Grand Rapids, Michigan, Rotary Club.

Letters from Dwight Eisenhower and Arthur Vandenberg in 1949, and from Dean Acheson in 1961.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Goebel, Paul Gordon.

- Paul G. Goebel papers 1942-1964.
- 11 linear ft.

Businessman and Republican mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1950-1954 and 1956-1958, delegate to the 1961 constitutional convention, and regent of University of Michigan.

Correspondence, mayoral topical files, campaign materials, and scrapbooks concerning his activities in opposition to the political leadership of Frank D. McKay and George Welsh, the Republican National Convention of 1960, the work of the constitutional convention, and the founding of WZZM-TV; also photographs. Correspondents include: Frederick M. Alger, Gerald R. Ford, and Clare E. Hoffman. Portraits, photos used in his mayoralty campaigns, photos showing Goebel voting and at various mayoralty and other public functions.

[Finding Aid](#)

Grand Rapids Kindergarten Training School.

- Grand Rapids Kindergarten Training School records 1891-1919.
- 6 linear ft. (108 v.).

School for the training of kindergarten teachers. The school was originally established in 1891 as the Grand Rapids Kindergarten Association to promote kindergarten education. Articles of incorporation and minutes; student registers and alumni rosters; performance records of students; student and teacher's notebooks, mostly those of Clara Wheeler; patterns and other teaching devices; financial records; and scrapbooks containing photographs of teachers, students, and facilities.

[Finding Aid](#)

Greene, Perry W.

- Perry W. Greene papers 1918-1974.
- .3 linear ft.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, pharmacist, city commissioner (1934-1944), and Republican State Senator (1944-1962).

Scrapbook of photographs and memorabilia relating to his service during World War I; notebook of pharmaceutical formulas; newspaper clippings and other materials relating to his legislative career; and photographs. Photographs of World War I Europe showing death and devastation; photographs of Grand Rapids, Michigan, civic events (1930s) and Greene drugstore; also photographs of Michigan political figures (1950-1970).

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Hanchett, Benjamin Sawtell.

- Benjamin S. Hanchett papers 1888-1958.
- 3 linear ft.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, farmer, businessman, and regent of University of Michigan.

Correspondence relating to politics and his activities as regent; also material concerning the depression and impact of the New Deal on agriculture in Michigan.

[Finding Aid](#)

Hoffius family.

- Hoffius family papers 1919-2003.
- 5 linear feet, 1 oversize folder, and 1 film reel (16mm).
Cornelius Hoffius (1881-1943) and Stuart Hoffius (1914-), his son, practiced law in Grand Rapids. Both served as Kent County prosecuting attorneys and Kent County Circuit Court judges. Stuart Hoffius served as chief judge from 1976 until his retirement in 1988.
Personal correspondence, campaign files, speeches, and files documenting involvement with civic, service, and professional organizations, as well as some case files, judicial opinions, photographs, and 1 motion picture film of Stuart Hoffius.

[Finding Aid](#)

Hyde, Wesley W.

- Wesley W. Hyde papers 1902-1913 and undated.
- 1.0 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, attorney, member of the Michigan Commission on Uniform Legislation, and organizer of the Civic Club of Grand Rapids.
Correspondence, speeches, articles and legal documents relating to his interest in municipal reform; includes speeches on social issues presented to Grand Rapids church groups, and manuscript volume entitled "Social Guides."

[Finding Aid](#)

Hyma, Albert.

- Albert Hyma papers 1928-1970s (scattered dates).
- 0.3 linear feet.
Professor of history at University of Michigan.
Correspondence and papers on religion in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and George Welsh, Grand Rapids politician; draft of biography of Michigan politician Frank Murphy; also transcriptions of letters of Vera Hyma to family and friends describing European travels, 1928-1929; and photographic portraits and group photos of Albert and Vera Hyma.

Search [Mirllyn](#)

Jonkman, Bartel J

- Bartel J. Jonkman papers 1908-1952.
- 1 linear ft. and 2 v. [outside].
Kent County, Michigan, prosecuting attorney, 1928-1936, and Republican U. S. Congressman from Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1940-1948.
Programs, clippings, photographs, campaign materials and scattered correspondence and speeches concerning his career. Portraits of Jonkman and of a colleague.

[Finding Aid](#)

Kleiner, A. Robert.

- A. Robert Kleiner papers 1949-1982 (bulk dates, 1961-1982).
- 14 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, attorney and political activist.
Subject files relating to his interest in state legislative apportionment, Democratic Party affairs, and Citizen Action, a Grand Rapids, Michigan, non-partisan good government organization; also photographs. Photos of the members of the Michigan Commission on Legislative Apportionment; also photos of delegates taken on the floor of the 1964 Democratic National Convention.
[Finding Aid](#)

Kosten, Edward A.

- Edward A. Kosten papers 1913-1963.
- .3 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan labor official.
Correspondence, dues books, radio scripts and other materials, 1913-1954, on Michigan labor unions, the aged, job discrimination, the Community Chest, and school integration in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

League of Women Voters of the Grand Rapids Area.

- League of Women Voters of the Grand Rapids Area records 1972, 1998 and 2006-2008.
- 1 folder.
Published history covering the period of 1921-1971; scattered meeting minutes, and voter guide for the May 2008 Grand Rapids Board of Education election.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Mapes, Carl Edgar.

- Carl Edgar Mapes scrapbook. 1908-1939.
- 1 v.
Republican state senator from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and U.S. congressman, 1913-1939.
Newspaper clippings and other material relating largely to his death.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Maynard, Fred Augustus.

- Fred A. Maynard scrapbook 1894-1900.
- 1 v.
Michigan Attorney General.
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings and scattered items of correspondence relating to his political career, Republican politics and election campaigns, including those in Grand Rapids. Correspondents include: Thomas M. Cooley, Thomas W. Ferry, Claudius B. Grant, Mark A. Hanna, Walter J. Hunsaker, William McKinley, James McMillan, Chase S. Osborn, John Patton, John T. Rich and William A. Smith.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

McAllister, Dorothy Smith.

- Dorothy Smith McAllister papers ca. 1932-1967.
- 1.5 linear ft. and 2 reels microfilm : positive and negative.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, civic leader, director of the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee, 1937-1941, later member of various state and local commissions.
Files relating to Democratic Party activities (largely on microfilm); files relating to her interest in civil rights, fair employment practices, and her involvement with the Michigan and National Consumers League.
[Finding Aid](#)

McKay, Frank D.

- Frank D. McKay papers 1909-1965.
- 3 linear ft. and 2 v.
Republican politician and Michigan state treasurer, 1925-1931.
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks concerning Republican politics (particularly the elections of 1940, 1952 and 1958) and the activities of the Republican National Committee, 1940-1944; also miscellaneous business and financial papers; and photographs. Correspondents include: Sherman Adams, D. Hale Brake, Wilber M. Brucker, William A. Comstock, Thomas E. Dewey, Luren D. Dickinson, James A. Farley, Frank D. Fitzgerald, Alexander J. Groesbeck, Philip A. Hart, Clare E. Hoffman, Guy Jenkins, Lyndon B. Johnson, Carl E. Mapes, Joseph W. Martin, Chase S. Osborn, Arthur E. Summerfield, Arthur H. Vandenberg, and Wendell Willkie. Photographs of downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan (1880s and 1920s); and albums of photographs of guests and activities at Bal Harbor Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida (1955-1959).
[Finding Aid](#)

Michigan Municipal League.

- Michigan Municipal League records 1928-1977.
- 2 linear ft.
Advisory organization to Michigan local governments.
Correspondence of league director with city officials, 1928-1929, including Laird J. Troyer, mayor of Lansing, Alvah P. Cady, Benton Harbor city attorney, Earnest C. Brooks, mayor of Holland, and Ganson Taggart, Grand Rapids city attorney; staff field reports, 1934-1947; correspondence, 1944, of the Michigan Municipal Finance Commission, Tax Study Advisory Committee, including letters of D. Hale Brake, Harry F. Kelly, George P. McCallum, and E. Blythe Stason; and scrapbooks of clippings on league activities.
[Finding Aid](#)

Parks, Lyman S.

- Lyman S. Parks papers 1962-1977.
- 4 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
Pastor of the Grand Rapids A. M. E. First Community Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, city commissioner, acting mayor, and later mayor, 1971-1975
Mayoralty files, political materials, scrapbooks of career activities, and photographs. In photograph series: portraits; photographs of Parks with various public figures, and of

Parks at numerous official functions, including Mayor Exchange days at Warren, Southfield, and Saginaw, Michigan.

[Finding Aid](#)

Patton, John.

- John Patton papers 1888-1905.
- .4 linear ft.

Lawyer at Grand Rapids, Michigan and Republican U.S. Senator, 1894-1895.

Manuscript speeches mostly on patriotic or political subjects, scattered items of correspondence, and newspaper clippings, concerning his activities in the Republican Party. Correspondents include: Junius E. Beal, Henry B. Brown, Joseph M. Carey, Cushman K. Davis, James McMillan, Orville H. Platt, John T. Rich, W. R. Shafter, and Francis B. Stockbridge.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Sligh family.

- Sligh family papers 1842-1967.
- 27 linear ft., 30 v. [outsize] and 1 folder [outsize]. Visual Materials 3 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan, family whose members include James Wilson Sligh, Grand Rapids businessman and officer in Michigan Engineers and Mechanics in the Civil War; James May Sligh, physician and officer in the Michigan Engineers and Mechanics during the Civil War; Charles Robert Sligh, Grand Rapids furniture manufacturer, Republican state senator, and gubernatorial nominee; and Charles Robert Sligh, Jr., Grand Rapids businessman, past president and executive vice-president of the National Association of Manufacturers.
Series I : papers, 1842-1865, including correspondence and three diaries relating to James W. Sligh's Civil War service, seven volumes of his business records, and his notebooks on Masonic affairs; also letters dealing with James M. Sligh's Civil War service. Series II : papers, 1866-1927, of Charles R. Sligh, including eight volumes of account books and ledgers, three scrapbooks, one letterbook, forty-nine diaries and small notebooks, four feet of correspondence, speeches, clippings, pamphlets, legal documents, and biographical notes dealing with the furniture industry, family affairs, Grand Rapids, Michigan, business enterprises in California, Arizona, and elsewhere, World War I activities (preparedness movement, Plattsburg training camp, National Security League, and airplane production) and politics on the local, state and national level, especially bimetallism, 1893-1897, the election of 1896, Michigan Senate activities, 1922-1924, and the Michigan primary election of 1924. Series III : papers, 1928-1967, of Charles R. Sligh, Jr., consisting of two feet of correspondence and speeches, forty-seven volumes of scrapbooks, and three feet of tape recordings, phonograph records, pamphlets, and clippings dealing with family affairs, the National Association of Manufacturers, the furniture industry, and politics. Series IV : records, 1880-1948, of the Sligh Furniture Co. and related family businesses, including two feet and one outsized volume of minutes, legal papers, and reports. Correspondents include: Civil War soldiers Sidney Abbott, Charles H. Cudney, Edson P. Gifford, Enos Hopkins, William P. Innes, David A. Jewell, Dow L. Lighthall, John W. McGrath, Clement F. Miller, William S. Nevins, George D. Walker, Walter Warner, Albert Wells, and George W. White. Other correspondents

include: Russell A. Alger, Frederick A. Baker, William P. Belden, Aaron T. Bliss, Wilber M. Brucker, William J. Bryan, Julius C. Burrows, Marion L. Burton, Martin J. Cavanaugh, William E. Curtis, Byron M. Cutcheon, Richard L. Drake, John G. Emery, Woodbridge N. Ferris, Thomas W. Ferry, Mark Foote, Clyde H. Geerlings, John A. Hannah, Ebenezer G. D. Holden, Samuel W. Hopkins, Frank Knox, Cyrus G. Luce, James McMillan, Lee Mantel, George Meany, Henry Morgenthau, Allen B. Morse, Chase S. Osborn, Hazen S. Pingree, D. A. Reynolds, John T. Rich, George F. Richardson, Alexander C. Sly, William A. Smith, Francis B. Stockbridge, Arthur E. Summerfield, Charles A. Towne, James M. Turner, Arthur H. Vandenberg, Fred M. Warner, Charles W. Watkins, Erwin C. Watkins, Frederick M. Wheeler, and Justin R. Whiting. Photographs, chiefly of the activities of Charles R. Sligh, Jr., but also including activities of Charles R. Sligh, Sr., and James W. Sligh; also films of television appearances by Charles R. Sligh, Jr., including debate with Walter Reuther and film of Sligh water skiing.

[Finding Aid](#)

Smith, Ansel Brooks.

- Ansel Brooks Smith papers 1932-1962.
- .2 linear ft.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, physician.

Correspondence largely with Senator and Mrs. Arthur H. Vandenberg discussing Vandenberg's health and other personal matters, and including some mention of politics and the 1948 Republican nomination; also films and videocassette (U-matic) of films.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Sweet, Edwin F.

- Edwin F. Sweet scrapbooks 1900-1906.
- .3 linear ft. and 4 v. in 3 boxes.

Mayor of Grand Rapids, 1904-1906, U. S. Congressman, 1911-1913, and assistant secretary of commerce, 1913-1921.

Clippings largely concerning Grand Rapids, Michigan, politics and his activities as mayor; and campaign leaflets and scattered correspondence.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Taggart family.

- Taggart family papers 1860-1960.
- 3 linear ft.

Moses and Ganson Taggart, Grand Rapids, Michigan attorneys.

Correspondence, 1867-1959, including letter, Dec. 1931 purporting to be from the Mafia threatening Ganson Taggart; newspaper clippings, 1890-1935; legal briefs, and opinions; and speeches; University of Michigan student notebook, 1865-1866, of Moses Taggart on the law lectures of James V. Campbell, Thomas M. Cooley, Ashley Pond, and Charles I. Walker, and his law thesis, 1867; student notebook, 1895-1896, of Ganson Taggart on the lectures of Levi T. Griffin; account of the capture of Jefferson Davis and Spanish American War memorabilia; scrapbooks, 1919-1941, concerning Ganson Taggart, Grand Rapids history, 1919-1945, Michigan history, 1929-1939, and the development of the

Michigan Pipe Line; account books, 1888-1915, of the Taggart family law firms; and docket books, 1896-1947, recording cases in which the Taggart law firm was involved in the courts of Kent County, Michigan; also photographs. Correspondents include: Harry Emerson Fosdick, Gerald R. Ford, John D. Hamilton, Carl Hayden, Bartel J. Jonkman, Harry F. Kelly, Robert McCormick, Carl Mapes, William Potter, Eddie Rickenbacker, Arthur E. Summerfield, and Arthur H. Vandenberg.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Todd, Stanton W.

- Stanton W. Todd papers 1942-1984.
- 0.5 linear ft.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, businessman, and participant in the Home Front, a reform group within the Republican Party of Grand Rapids.

Reminiscences and biographical material; Home Front files, including correspondence, and newsletters; and topical files relating to other political and civic activities.

[Finding Aid](#)

Treat, Lucretia Willard.

- Lucretia Willard Treat papers 1892-1904.
- 1 linear ft.

Founder of the Grand Rapids, Michigan, Kindergarten Training School.

Lecture notes, school materials, address book, 1899, newspaper clippings, and correspondence concerning kindergarten education, including letter, 1901, from Henry R. Pattengill.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Vandenberg, Arthur H.

- Arthur Hendrick Vandenberg papers 1891-1974.
- 11 microfilm reels : positive, master negative, print master negative
Republican member of the U.S. Senate from Michigan, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and delegate to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco in 1945. Lifelong resident of Grand Rapids.

Microfilm of major portions of the Vandenberg papers (excluding 24 volumes of scrapbooks), but including all correspondence, diaries, speeches, newspaper clippings, and subject files. Portraits of Vandenberg, his wife, Hazel, and his son, Arthur H. Vandenberg, Jr.; informal photographs of family members and activities; and photographs documenting Vandenberg's political career; cartoons.

[Finding Aid](#)

Vandenberg, Arthur H.

- Arthur Hendrick Vandenberg papers 1884-1974.
- 8 linear ft. and 25 v.

Republican member of the U.S. Senate from Michigan, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and delegate to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco in 1945. Lifelong resident of Grand Rapids.

Extensive correspondence, diaries, and scrapbooks detailing his political career; and photographs. Portraits of Vandenberg, his wife, Hazel, and his son, Arthur H. Vandenberg, Jr.; informal photographs of family members and activities; photographs documenting Vandenberg's political career; cartoons; and film (1945) and video tape copy about the United Nations Conference in San Francisco.

[Finding Aid](#)

VerMeulen, Willard B.

- Willard B. VerMeulen papers 1942-1958.
- .2 linear ft.

Dentist and politician from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Campaign leaflets, form letters and newspaper clippings concerning campaigns of the Republican Home Front organization against the supporters of Frank D. McKay for control of the Kent County, Michigan, Republican Committee; also papers concerning political activities of Gerald R. Ford, Sr. and Grand Rapids, Michigan, mayors George Welsh and Paul Goebel.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Wanty, George Proctor.

- George Proctor Wanty papers 1900-1906.
- 100 items and 3 v. in 1 box.

Judge of U.S. District Court for Western Michigan.

Seven memorial addresses and biographical sketch; correspondence with John Patton concerning memorial services for Wanty; correspondence relating to the Michigan railroad tax case; scrapbook containing telegrams and letters concerning his appointment as U.S. Judge; two scrapbooks of newspaper clippings concerning Wanty, Michigan politics, and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Correspondents include: Julius C. Burrows, Byron M. Cutcheon, Henry S. Dean, Benjamin F. Graves, Harry D. Jewell, Loyal E. Knappen, Robert M. Montgomery, Amos S. Musselman, William A. Smith, William H. Taft, Edwin F. Uhl, and James R. Wylie.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Welsh, George Wilson.

- George Wilson Welsh papers ca. 1950s.
- 17 items.

Lieutenant Governor of Michigan and Mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Speeches, clippings, and miscellaneous papers concerning Grand Rapids, Michigan municipal issues; also biographical sketch.

West Michigan Environmental Action Council.

- West Michigan Environmental Action Council records 1968-2005.
- 19.5 linear ft.

Grand Rapids, Michigan-based environmental protection organization.

Administrative, educational, legislative, and litigation files relating to various environmental issues, notably the Pigeon River Country State Forest oil drilling controversy, the problem of solid waste disposal, land and water use, and nuclear energy;

contain files of executive directors Joan Wolfe, Roger Conner, Kenneth Sikkema, Frank Ruswick, Jr., Robert Newberry, and Thomas Leonard.

[Finding Aid](#)

Weston, Isaac M.

- Isaac M. Weston papers 1859-1899.
- 6 linear ft. and 3 v. [outsize].

Grand Rapids, Michigan, businessman and newspaperman, Democratic politician, mayor of Grand Rapids, and president of the Michigan Board of World's Fair managers.

Correspondence, topical files, and business and legal papers; include scrapbook and other papers, concerning Michigan's exhibit at the World's Fair; papers concerning lumbering and land interests in Michigan and Wisconsin; also business papers of father, William Weston, and brother, B. F. Weston; and photographs. Portraits; photographs and drawing of O-Wash-ta-Nong Boat Club (Grand Rapids, Mich.) and group of Club officers; and photograph of timber hauled from the Upper Peninsula to the Chicago World's Fair (1893).

[Finding Aid](#)

Wheeler, Clara Marian.

- Clara Marian Wheeler papers 1874-1948.
- 6 linear ft.

Grand Rapids, Michigan educator, principal of the Grand Rapids Kindergarten Training School, and advocate of kindergarten education.

Correspondence, lecture and class notes, programs, photographs, and miscellaneous scrapbooks, ledgers, and account books; and other papers relating to the Froebel Club, the Kent County Sunday School Association, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the First Methodist Church of Grand Rapids. Correspondents include: Susan Blow, Delos Fall, Charles W. Garfield, Elizabeth Harrison, Fred L. Keeler, Patrick H. Kelley, the National Association for the Promotion of Kindergarten Education, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the National Kindergarten Association, Lucretia W. Treat, Kate D. Wiggin, Frances Willard, and Luther L. Wright. Portraits; photographs of Wheeler with students of a petting farm and with colleagues at Parent-Teacher Association fiftieth anniversary; and group photographs of the International Kindergarten Union (ca. 1900) and the Junior American Citizens Club.

[Finding Aid](#)

Professional: Educators, Physicians, etc.

Butler, Irene Linda Lather.

- Irene L. L. Butler papers 1923-1991.
- 3 linear ft.

Registered nurse and artist from Grand Rapids, Michigan and Tucson, Arizona.

Letters exchanged with William Butler during their courtship and the first months of their marriage, 1923-1925; diaries, 1915-1979, detailing daily life and observations; subject files relating in part to her interest in nursing and sculpture.

[Finding Aid](#)

Chamberlin, Edwin J

- Edwin J. Chamberlin interview 1960.
- 15 p.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, dentist.

Transcript of interview concerning dental legislation in Michigan.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Frantz, Charles H.

- Charles H. Frantz autobiography 1975.
- 1 v.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, orthopedic surgeon; University of Michigan M.D., 1932.

Entitled, "Doctor, where Were You?" containing description of his medical school education at the University of Michigan, and his later post-graduate training at University Hospital.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Hulst, Henry.

- Henry Hulst casebook 1893.
- 1 v.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, physician.

Casebook of patients hypnotized by him.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Manny, Frank Addison

- Frank Addison Manny papers 1890-1955.
- 6 linear ft.

Progressive educator at Grand Rapids, Michigan, Chicago, Illinois, and Boxford, Massachusetts.

Correspondence, 1890-1953, largely concerning the progressive education movement, including extensive correspondence with John Dewey; journal, 1922-1950, diary, 1932-1934 and 1937, articles, newspaper clippings, and a memorial address, June 25, 1955, by Rolland Emerson Wolfe in tribute to Manny and his wife, Annette; also photographs.

[Finding Aid](#)

Studley, Wilber A.

- Wilber A. Studley papers 1907.
- 8 p.
Biographical sketch of Ezra Sprague Holmes, 1819-1914, early Grand Rapids, Michigan, dentist.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Thurber, Gene.

- Gene Thurber papers 1967-1990.
- 4 linear feet.
Gene D. Thurber (1926-2010) was a special education administrator and consultant. In the 1970s he was a consultant in the Special Education Division of the Michigan State Department of Education. He also served as a member of the Michigan Special Olympics Board of Directors (1969-1982) and as Director of Special Education for Kent County (1978-1990).
Reports, studies and other materials received on the topic of special education in Michigan. A significant portion of the collection concerns his work with the Kent Intermediate School District.
[Finding Aid](#)

Wheeler, Clara Marian.

- Clara Marian Wheeler papers 1874-1948.
- 6 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan educator, principal of the Grand Rapids Kindergarten Training School, and advocate of kindergarten education.
Correspondence, lecture and class notes, programs, photographs, and miscellaneous scrapbooks, ledgers, and account books; and other papers relating to the Froebel Club, the Kent County Sunday School Association, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the First Methodist Church of Grand Rapids. Correspondents include: Susan Blow, Delos Fall, Charles W. Garfield, Elizabeth Harrison, Fred L. Keeler, Patrick H. Kelley, the National Association for the Promotion of Kindergarten Education, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the National Kindergarten Association, Lucretia W. Treat, Kate D. Wiggin, Frances Willard, and Luther L. Wright. Portraits; photographs of Wheeler with students of a petting farm and with colleagues at Parent-Teacher Association fiftieth anniversary; and group photographs of the International Kindergarten Union (ca. 1900) and the Junior American Citizens Club.
[Finding Aid](#)

Religion: Churches and other Organizations

Burlingame Congregational United Church of Christ.

- Burlingame Congregational United Church of Christ, Wyoming, Mich., records 1924-2009.
- 12 linear feet.

Church established as Burlingame Congregational Church in Wyoming, Michigan in 1924. The church disbanded in 2009.

The records of Burlingame Congregational United Church of Christ have been arranged into the following series: Church Registers; Annual Reports; Church Newsletter; Church Bulletins; Scrapbooks; Miscellaneous; Women's Organizations; and Men's Organizations. The church registers contain minutes of annual meetings and record of baptisms, marriages, funerals, and membership lists.

[Finding Aid](#)

Ebenezer Holland Presbyterian Church.

- Ebenezer Holland Presbyterian Church records 1905-1907.
- 1 v.

Presbyterian Church located in Grand Rapids.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Episcopal Church. Diocese of Western Michigan.

- Episcopal Church, Diocese of Western Michigan records 1851-2007.
- 116.5 linear ft., 18 oversize vols., 1 drawer, and 2 oversize folders.

Includes records of Episcopal parishes in Grand Rapids.

The record group contains files of bishops and other diocesan officers. Bishops represented include George D. Gillespie, Lewis Whittemore, Charles E. Bennison, Howard S. Meeks, Edward L. Lee, and Robert R. Gepert. The record group also contains committee files, publicity files, photographs, and records of different diocesan organizations. Within the papers of individual bishops, there are extensive files of correspondence, reports, and background information pertaining to the diocese's relationship with individual churches. Records of defunct diocese parishes or missions are included in this record group. Types of these records include registers, minute books, and record of services. Included here are the diaries (8 volumes) of the Rev. William C. White of Hastings, Michigan, for the period of 1897-1921. Photographs of churches within the diocese; photos of diocesan bishops and officers, and of convention and conference participants; and scrapbook, 1941-1948, of diocesan churches and church activities; also videotapes of church consecration services.

[Finding Aid](#)

First Presbyterian Church.

- First Presbyterian Church subscription list 1840.
- 1 item.

First Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids.

Subscription list for erecting church; lists building rationale that includes preparing the way for establishment of a branch of the University of Michigan.'

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Fountain Street Church.

- Fountain Street Church records 1856-1978.
- 16 linear ft.

Fountain Street Church of Grand Rapids.

Minutes and other records of the church's governing board; pastors' files, including sermons, addresses and publications; and administrative records of the church office, including reports, publications, treasurer's files, correspondence, and subject files; also photographs. Photos of 1917 church fire, and 1950 church construction; also photos of Albert Schweitzer visiting church in 1949.

[Finding Aid](#)

Grand Rapids Elementary Sunday School Association.

- Grand Rapids Elementary Sunday School Association records 1902-1913.
- 2 v.

Constitution, class rolls, minutes of organization, kept in part by Clara Wheeler.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Heyda, Marie.

- The Dominican Sisters in the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan 1877-1982, 1982.
- 1 v. (38 p.).

Professor of history at Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Lutheran Church in America. Michigan Synod.

- Lutheran Church in America, Michigan Synod records 1917-1987.
- 46 linear ft., 2 oversize volumes, and 1 oversize folder.

President's correspondence, executive committee minutes, and minutes of annual conventions; also files on individual churches in the Synod, including clippings, reports, church histories and programs; contain information on Lutheran Churches in Adrian, Albion, Allegan, Allen Park, Alpena, Ann Arbor, Baroda, Battle Creek, Bay City, Benton Harbor, Berkley, Berrien Springs, Big Rapids, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Brown City, Cadillac, Charlotte, Clarkston, Coldwater, Constantine, Dearborn, Detroit, East Detroit, East Tawas, Farmington, Fenton, Flat Rock, Flint, Garden City, Gowan, Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Grandville, Grayling, Greenville, Grosse Ile, Hillsdale, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kaleva, Kent City, Lake City, Lake Orion, Lansing, Leroy, Livonia, Ludington, Madison Heights, Manistee, Manton, Marlette, Marshall, Mason, Midland, Monroe, Montcalm County, Mottville, Mount Clemens, Mount Hope, Muskegon, Niles, Oak Park, Olivet, Orchard Lake, Oscoda, Plymouth, Pontiac, Rochester, Roseville, Saginaw, Saline, St. Clair Shores, St. Joseph, St. Joseph County, Sidney, Southfield, Southgate, Stevensville, Sterling Heights, Sturgis, Taylor, Tecumseh, Temperance, Three Rivers, Traverse City, Trenton, Troy, Tustin, Walled Lake, Warren, Waterford, Westland, Whitehall, Wyoming, and Ypsilanti. Photographs of church buildings, personnel, and activities.

[Finding Aid](#)

Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Presbytery of Grand Rapids.

- Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Presbytery of Grand Rapids records 1870-1944.
- 1 linear ft. (7 v. and 1 item).
Minutes, 1870-1944; treasurer's records, 1889-1944; historical sketches of the presbytery, compiled by George Ransom, and of the women's work, compiled by Mrs. Frank E. Stroup.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Reconciliation Metropolitan Community Church.

- Reconciliation Metropolitan Community Church collection 1980-2005.
- 1 folder and 1 CD-ROM.
Church established in 1980 to serve the religious needs of the gay community in Grand Rapids, Mich.
Church history and CD-ROM of photos taken throughout the first 25 years of the church's existence.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

- St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Cascade, Michigan, records 1976-2007.
- 2 linear feet.
St. Michael's Episcopal Church was established in 1960 as a mission of Grace Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids. The church became a parish in 1980, but was merged with Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Kentwood, Mich., in 2007. The church's mailing address was in Grand Rapids, Mich.
Vestry records include agendas, minutes of meetings, minutes of annual parish meetings, financial records, and miscellaneous reports.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

- St. Paul's Episcopal Church records 1870-2005.
- 8 linear feet and 6 oversize volumes.
Episcopal Church established in 1869 serving the west side of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The church was closed in 2006 after years of dwindling membership which had followed a split over church doctrine.
Registers of births, burials, marriages, confirmations, and communicants, 1870-1994; minutes and other records of the church vestry; records of annual parish meetings; reports to the diocese; history and anniversary materials; albums with clippings and photographs; topical files documenting church administration and activities, including files pertaining to the church's schism and related litigation.
[Finding Aid](#)

Wealthy Park Baptist Church records

- Wealthy Park Baptist Church. 1892-1985.
- 16 linear ft.

Church originally established as a Sunday school mission of Fountain Street Baptist Church in 1875. The Church was officially incorporated as Wealthy Street Baptist Church in 1886. In 1988, following the move of the church to the Grand Rapids suburbs, the name was changed to Wealthy Park Baptist Church.

The record group has been arranged into the following series: Church Administration (2 linear ft.; 1892-1975); David Otis Fuller correspondence and sermon files (9.5 linear ft.; 1928-1985); Missionary correspondence (4.5 linear ft.; 1923-1980); and Photographs (.1 linear ft.; ca. 1920s-1980s). The missionary correspondence consists of letters and circulars from church-sponsored missionaries serving throughout the world. Photographs of David O. Fuller family and their missionary friends; album of photographs from the 1920s and 1930s taken by missionaries stationed in China, India, Eastern Europe, Africa, and South America.

[Finding Aid](#)

Westminster Presbyterian Church.

- Westminster Presbyterian Church records 1931-1933.
- 1 v. and 4 items.

Westminster Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids. Compiled by Florence McCutcheon McKee and others.

Historical accounts and extracts from records of the church; and report, 1932, on conditions of the church.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Wyoming Park Trinity Presbyterian Church.

- Wyoming Park Trinity Presbyterian Church records 1923-1924.
- 1 v.

Wyoming Park Trinity Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids.

Brief historical sketch, membership roll, and minutes.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Religion: Clergy and Other Persons

Bingham family.

- Bingham family papers 1817-1910.
- 2 linear ft.
Baptist missionary family among the Indians at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, 1828-1855. Family correspondence, sermons of Abel Bingham, and miscellanea; include diaries, 1817-1868, of Hannah Bingham reflecting her daily activities and religious convictions, papers concerning the Fountain Street Baptist Church in Grand Rapids during the 1850's; also photographs. Portraits of Abel (photo of a painting) and Hannah Bingham.
[Finding Aid](#)

Field family.

- Field family papers 1836-1940.
- 2 linear ft.
Residents of Englishville and Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Business and family correspondence of Abby Field, worker with the Church of Christ of Englishville and Grand Rapids, Michigan, also correspondence, 1848 and 1852-1922, newspaper clippings, 1870-1940, legal papers, 1836-1889, diaries, ca. 1875, and other materials relating to personal affairs, farm life and the Civil War. Correspondents include: Myron and Susan Field Buck, Sylvester Field and Flora Bennett.
[Finding Aid](#)

Hyde, Wesley W.

- Wesley W. Hyde papers 1902-1913 and undated.
- 1.0 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, attorney, member of the Michigan Commission on Uniform Legislation, and organizer of the Civic Club of Grand Rapids.
Correspondence, speeches, articles and legal documents relating to his interest in municipal reform; includes speeches on social issues presented to Grand Rapids church groups, and manuscript volume entitled "Social Guides."
[Finding Aid](#)

Hyma, Albert.

- Albert Hyma papers 1928-1970s (scattered dates).
- 0.3 linear feet.
Professor of history at University of Michigan.
Correspondence and papers on religion in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and George Welsh, Grand Rapids politician; draft of biography of Michigan politician Frank Murphy; also transcriptions of letters of Vera Hyma to family and friends describing European travels, 1928-1929; and photographic portraits and group photos of Albert and Vera Hyma.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Kapenga, Gladys.

- Gladys Kapenga papers 1860-2010, bulk 1985-2007.
- 8 linear feet.

Gladys Kapenga was a life long resident of Michigan and was heavily involved with the United Church of Christ and Church Women United. She was especially involved in United Church of Christ women's associations

Collected records relating to her involvement with Burlingame Congregational Church, UCC Women of Michigan, the UCC Michigan Conference, the Grand West Association, and Church Women United; included are such records as annual reports, publications, newsletters, directories, handbooks, various topical files, and some personal materials.

[Finding Aid](#)

Olert, Frederick H.

- Frederick H. Olert papers ca. 1956-1972.
- 5 items.

Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Detroit, Michigan, and Central Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Sermons.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Parks, Lyman S.

- Lyman S. Parks papers 1962-1977.
- 4 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.

Pastor of the Grand Rapids A. M. E. First Community Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, city commissioner, acting mayor, and later mayor, 1971-1975

Mayoralty files, political materials, scrapbooks of career activities, and photographs. In photograph series: portraits; photographs of Parks with various public figures, and of Parks at numerous official functions, including Mayor Exchange days at Warren, Southfield, and Saginaw, Michigan.

[Finding Aid](#)

Swift family.

- Swift family papers 1834-1921.
- .25 linear ft.

Swift-Lapham-Barker family of New York state and southeastern Michigan.

Papers, 1834-1845, of the Rev. Marcus Swift, Methodist circuit rider, including some letters concerning his anti-slavery convictions; papers, ca. 1840's, of his son, Orson Ross Swift, Wesleyan Methodist circuit rider, including notes on places preached, sermons on temperance and notes on other sermons; papers, 1836-1845, of William G. and A. S. Lapham, largely concerning the building of a bridge in New York, and Northville, Michigan, business affairs; papers, 1844-1852, of the Barker family of Manchester and Grand Rapids, Michigan, concerning politics, religion, problems of women, medicine, and farming, and including an account of trip to California in 1850; minute book, 1834-1921, of School District No. 7, Novi, Oakland County, Michigan; and miscellaneous newspapers; also photographs. Also petition (1841) of Methodists in Nankin, Mich., withdrawing from the Methodist Episcopal Church in Michigan for failure of the denomination to condemn slavery. Portraits of John (copy print) and Marcus Swift.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Titus, Sam W.

- Sam W. Titus marriage record books 1845-1907.

- 3 v.

Baptist clergyman.

Record of marriages performed in Flint, Grand Rapids, and Detroit, Michigan.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Accounts of Everyday Life

Butler, Irene Linda Lather.

- Irene L. L. Butler papers 1923-1991.
- 3 linear ft.

Registered nurse and artist from Grand Rapids, Michigan and Tucson, Arizona.

Letters exchanged with William Butler during their courtship and the first months of their marriage, 1923-1925; diaries, 1915-1979, detailing daily life and observations; subject files relating in part to her interest in nursing and sculpture.

[Finding Aid](#)

Garrick, William.

- William Garrick letter 1862.
- 1 item.

Railroad bridge inspector in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Letter to his brother David, in Ontario, describing his family life in Grand Rapids, Michigan, food prices, housing, and the Civil War.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Hayes, Hector.

- Hector Hayes autobiography 1881-1886.
- 1 v.

Farmer.

Autobiography recording his boyhood and youth in New York and later life in the vicinity of Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Visual Materials

Beach, William Edward.

- William Edward Beach photograph collection 1931-1948.
- 1.4 linear ft.
Howell, Michigan photographer.
Photonegatives of buildings, monuments, people, and events in Howell and numerous other Michigan cities including Grand Rapids.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Belen, Elizabeth L.

- Elizabeth L. Belen papers 1935-1969.
- .4 linear ft.
State legislator and Democratic Party leader from Lansing, Michigan.
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and campaign material concerning Belen's political career; and material concerning activities of other members of the Belen family. Correspondents include: James A. Farley, January 12, 1940, Murray D. Van Wagoner, January 13, 1937 and November 8, 1940. Family photographs; photos of Democratic Party groups, Grand Rapids women's suffrage parade, and 1944 Lansing Democratic Party headquarters.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Bentley Historical Library

- Postcard collection 1890s-[ongoing].
- 9.5 linear feet (12 boxes) and 1 oversize folder.
Postcard views of Michigan scenes, including Grand Rapids.
[Finding Aid](#)

Bradley, Harriet Wyman.

- Harriet Wyman Bradley painting collection 1800s?
- 1 envelope.
Watercolor entitled, "Ohio Landing, Grand Rapids, Michigan," by K. L. B.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Gill, Lillian.

- Lillian Gill papers 1950s-2007.
- 6 linear feet.
African American businesswoman from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Lillian Gill was active in the Order of the Eastern Star and in African American Baptist Church organizations, particularly New Hope Baptist Church of Grand Rapids.
The Lillian Gill collections is comprised of the following series: Biographical and personal; Business career; Political and community interests; Order of Eastern Star, Free and Accepted Masons; New Hope Baptist Church and other Baptist organizations; and Photographs. The great bulk of the collection details her Masonic responsibilities and her activities with her church and with her denomination's regional bulletins, brochures, programs, announcements, and the like. A smaller portion of the collection relates to her

varied business endeavors as an insurance underwriter and as a salesperson with Amway. Photographs documenting her activities within the Order of the Eastern Star and as a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Grand Rapids; also photos of Amway meetings.

[Finding Aid](#)

Grand Rapids Urban League.

- Grand Rapids Urban League records 1941-1986.
- 4 linear ft.

Affiliate of the National Urban League.

Historical information file, administrative files, topical files, and photographs. Photos of activities of the Grand Rapids Urban League, especially its activities with children (ca. 1950), later activities of the League, and portraits of its secretary, Paul Phillips.

[Finding Aid](#)

Grand Rapids Young Lawyers Section.

- Say something [videorecording] / created and produced by David C. Sarnacki, Mary McCafferty Douglass [1991?].
- 1 videocassette (25 min.) : sd., col. ; 1/2 in.

Residents of Grand Rapids, Michigan, discuss the meaning of freedom of speech.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Greene, Perry W.

- Perry W. Greene papers 1918-1974.
- .3 linear ft.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, pharmacist, city commissioner (1934-1944), and Republican State Senator (1944-1962).

Scrapbook of photographs and memorabilia relating to his service during World War I; notebook of pharmaceutical formulas; newspaper clippings and other materials relating to his legislative career; and photographs. Photographs of World War I Europe showing death and devastation; photographs of Grand Rapids, Michigan, civic events (1930s) and Greene drugstore; also photographs of Michigan political figures (1950-1970).

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Institute for Global Education.

- Institute for Global Education records 1971-2008.
- 5 linear feet.

Grand Rapids, Michigan organization working to achieve peace and social justice through education and outreach events and programs.

The organization's records document the development and programs of a peace and justice community organization. The series include: Administrative and Related Records; Events; Publications; Affiliated Groups and Committees; Photographs; and scrapbooks. Photographs of events, social gatherings, demonstrations, and organization leadership; also snapshots of the Wagbo Peace Center in East Jordan, Michigan; and photo of civil rights activist Walter Bergman.

[Finding Aid](#)

JJR Inc.

- JJR Inc. photographic slides. 1960s-1990s.
- 35 linear feet.

Ann Arbor, Mich. based national landscape architectural firm noted for urban design, campus planning, environmental analyses, community development, and historic preservation.

Photographic slide collection documenting Michigan projects only. Included are project slides, site plans, conceptual drawings, etc. Many of the projects relate to projects at colleges and universities, especially the University of Michigan. There are projects from throughout the state, but especially from Ann Arbor, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, and Saginaw.

[Finding Aid](#)

Loomis, Albertine.

- Albertine Loomis photograph collection 1890s.
- 1 envelope.

Photographs relating to Grand Rapids, Michigan; include exterior of Western Union Telegraph Office, photo of a telephone switchboard, and photo of parade in downtown Grand Rapids during the Spanish-American War.

Search [Mirllyn](#)

Lorch, Emil.

- Emil Lorch photograph series 1870-1950s.
- 1.2 linear ft. and 1 outsize folder.

Dean of the College of Architecture and Design at the University of Michigan.

Photographs of buildings in many areas of Michigan, especially Ann Arbor, Detroit, Fort Wilkins, and Mackinac Island, but also Grand Rapids; also an album of the work of George DeWitt Mason and a watercolor by Lorch.

[Finding Aid](#)

McKay, Frank D.

- Frank D. McKay papers 1909-1965.
- 3 linear ft. and 2 v.

Republican politician and Michigan state treasurer, 1925-1931.

Correspondence, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks concerning Republican politics (particularly the elections of 1940, 1952 and 1958) and the activities of the Republican National Committee, 1940-1944; also miscellaneous business and financial papers; and photographs. Correspondents include: Sherman Adams, D. Hale Brake, Wilber M. Brucker, William A. Comstock, Thomas E. Dewey, Luren D. Dickinson, James A. Farley, Frank D. Fitzgerald, Alexander J. Groesbeck, Philip A. Hart, Clare E. Hoffman, Guy Jenkins, Lyndon B. Johnson, Carl E. Mapes, Joseph W. Martin, Chase S. Osborn, Arthur E. Summerfield, Arthur H. Vandenberg, and Wendell Willkie. Photographs of downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan (1880s and 1920s); and albums of photographs of guests and activities at Bal Harbor Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida (1955-1959).

[Finding Aid](#)

Michigan Bell Telephone Company.

- Michigan Bell Telephone Company photograph collection 1949-1983.
- ca. 63 linear ft. (92 boxes).
Photographs (positive and negative), slides, and transparencies taken by the company's photographers to document company activities, products, services, employees at work and at leisure, company exhibits and commemorations, and the response of the company to natural disasters and civil disturbances. Includes images of Grand Rapids.
[Finding Aid](#)

Parks, Lyman S.

- Lyman S. Parks papers 1962-1977.
- 4 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
Pastor of the Grand Rapids A. M. E. First Community Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, city commissioner, acting mayor, and later mayor, 1971-1975
Mayoralty files, political materials, scrapbooks of career activities, and photographs. In photograph series: portraits; photographs of Parks with various public figures, and of Parks at numerous official functions, including Mayor Exchange days at Warren, Southfield, and Saginaw, Michigan.
[Finding Aid](#)

Penrod/Hiawatha Company.

- Penrod/Hiawatha Company postcard collection 1950s-1998.
- 5.5 linear ft. (ca. 5000 postcards and 1 linear ft.).
Business established by John Penrod, a photographer from Berrien Springs, Michigan, for the production of Michigan postcards and other photographic items for tourists.
Postcards manufactured by Penrod/Hiawatha and other postcard companies purchased by John Penrod, including Michigan tourist views and attractions, main street views of various Michigan cities (including Grand Rapids), and postcards of commercial firms such as motels and restaurants; also collection of tourist brochures, calendars, and other items using photographic images.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Peterson, Merle R.

- Merle R. Peterson photograph collection 1910-1930.
- 1 envelope.
Son of a cook at Camp Bogardus (later renamed Camp Davis), the summer engineering camp of the University of Michigan.
Group portraits of staff and students, and views of the camp; also photos of the construction of Hardy Dam on the Muskegon River, near Oxbow, Michigan; and photo of a parade and Liberty Bond rally in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Stoner, Claude Thomas.

- Claude Thomas Stoner photograph series 1870s-1972.
- 7 linear ft. (11 boxes).
Dexter, Michigan, collector of materials relating to the history of railroading in Michigan.

Photographs of locomotives, railroad stations, train wrecks, car ferries, street railroads, logging railroads, railroad and tunnel construction, and other subjects related to railroads; also views of Frankfort, Michigan and other Michigan cities and towns. Includes photos of Grand Rapids railroads.

[Finding Aid](#)

Uhl, Edwin Fuller.

- Edwin Fuller Uhl papers 1878-1917.
- .3 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
Grand Rapids, Michigan businessman, Ambassador to Germany, and U.S. Undersecretary of State.
Correspondence of Uhl, his wife, and his son Marshall, including eleven letters from Grover Cleveland and sixty-three telegrams of condolence upon the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Uhl; also guest book, notebook, manuscript address, biographical sketch, resolutions, legal papers, and photographs.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Williams, Gardner Stewart.

- Gardner S. Williams photograph series ca. 1900-1945.
- 3 linear ft.
Ann Arbor, Michigan, construction engineer specializing in hydraulics and water power. Albums and other photographs of dam construction projects in Michigan and elsewhere, especially the Argo, Barton, French Landing, Geddes, and Superior Dams on the Huron River, but also Grand Rapids; photos of rivers and riverside areas as they existed before dam construction began; and portraits of Williams.

[Finding Aid](#)

Women

Belen, Elizabeth L.

- Elizabeth L. Belen papers 1935-1969.
- .4 linear ft.
State legislator and Democratic Party leader from Lansing, Michigan. Correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and campaign material concerning Belen's political career; and material concerning activities of other members of the Belen family. Correspondents include: James A. Farley, January 12, 1940, Murray D. Van Wagoner, January 13, 1937 and November 8, 1940. Family photographs; photos of Democratic Party groups, Grand Rapids women's suffrage parade, and 1944 Lansing Democratic Party headquarters.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Blake family.

- Blake family papers 1836-1926.
- 1 linear foot, 1 oversize folder, and 1 oversize volume.
William F. Blake, Grand Rapids tea merchant, and his wife Alde L.T. Blake, campaign secretary for the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association
Scrapbook, ca. 1872-1915, of William F. Blake largely concerning family history and business interests; scrapbook, ca. 1876-1920, and other papers of Alde L. T. Blake, including correspondence with Jane Addams, Ben Lindsey, Woodbridge N. Ferris, and Anna Howard Shaw; and volume (1872-1875) containing copies of letters sent by Robert Blake in his capacity as U.S. Consular Agent serving in Canada, including detailed commercial report about London, Ontario in 1873; and photographs. Include photos of Anna Howard Shaw, Jeanette Rankin, and others following a lecture by Dr. Shaw; also group photos, possibly of woman suffrage groups; and portraits.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Butler, Irene Linda Lather.

- Irene L. L. Butler papers 1923-1991.
- 3 linear ft.
Registered nurse and artist from Grand Rapids, Michigan and Tucson, Arizona. Letters exchanged with William Butler during their courtship and the first months of their marriage, 1923-1925; diaries, 1915-1979, detailing daily life and observations; subject files relating in part to her interest in nursing and sculpture.
[Finding Aid](#)

Butler, Leslie A.

- Leslie Anderson Butler papers 1922-1960.
- .5 linear ft.
Educator and superintendent of schools in Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Correspondence and other materials relating to activities in education.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Claytor, Helen Jackson.

- Helen Jackson Claytor papers 1924-2005 bulk 1955-1985.
- 6 linear feet, 1 oversize volume, and 1 oversize folder.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, club woman, officer in the Grand Rapids chapter of the Young Women's Christian Association, president of the national YWCA, 1967-1973.
Biographical files include clippings and award materials; files relating to her work with the Young Women's Christian Association, both national organization and Grand Rapids branch. Files relating to her community work in Grand Rapids and her participation in national conferences/committees. The Grand Rapids files relate to education, housing, issues of urban renewal, and other topics. Speeches delivered on topics relating to the YWCA, civil rights, citizenship, and the family; speeches reflect in part her thoughts as a black woman on questions of school and housing segregation.

[Finding Aid](#)

Cole, Emma J.

- Emma Jane Cole collection 1910-1911.
- 0.1 linear feet.
Grand Rapids, Michigan Central High School teacher and botanist.
Testimonials about Cole by The Ladies Literary Club and M. O. Barkley of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Creswell, Cordelia.

- Cordelia Creswell papers 1886-1935 and 1950.
- 1.5 linear ft.
Special education coordinator in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Budgets, payrolls, annual and individual reports on students, program, delinquency, and education for the retarded.

[Finding Aid](#)

Daughters of the American Revolution of Michigan.

- Daughters of the American Revolution, Michigan Society records 1893-2009.
- 45.5 linear feet and 24 oversize volumes.
Records of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Michigan, including files and photographs of the Grand Rapids chapter.
Minutes of the state executive board, proceedings of the Michigan state conferences, publications, reports, and scrapbooks; also papers concerning their genealogical work, record of activities during World War I and II; historical files for individual chapters of the Michigan D.A.R.; and photographs. Photos of the work of Michigan D.A.R. chapters, primarily during World War I, including parades; also photos of the Menominee D.A.R. Boys Club; Fort Wayne, Detroit; the Blind Babies Home of Monroe; Starr Commonwealth, Albion; and miscellaneous monuments and cemeteries.

[Finding Aid](#)

Daughters of the American Revolution. Sophie de Marsac Campau Chapter.

- Daughters of the American Revolution, Sophie de Marsac Campau Chapter records ca. 1914-ca. 2007.

- 0.5 linear feet.
This Grand Rapids chapter was organized May 18, 1896.
The records include subject files relating to the activities and interests of the chapter on issues of history, patriotism, and community involvement. One file consists of statements and other materials distributed by the national office relating to the dispute over the intended concert by Marian Anderson at Constitution Hall.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Denison family.

- Denison family papers 1848-1907.
- 1 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, family.
Correspondence and business and legal papers of Julius Coe Denison; diaries, 1886-1890 and 1897-1907, of Julius' wife, Cornelia Carter Denison, describing daily life; and diaries, 1879-1889, of their son, Arthur Carter Denison, concerning in part his activities as student at the University of Michigan in the 1880s.
[Finding Aid](#)

Field family.

- Field family papers 1836-1940.
- 2 linear ft.
Residents of Englishville and Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Business and family correspondence of Abby Field, worker with the Church of Christ of Englishville and Grand Rapids, Michigan, also correspondence, 1848 and 1852-1922, newspaper clippings, 1870-1940, legal papers, 1836-1889, diaries, ca. 1875, and other materials relating to personal affairs, farm life and the Civil War. Correspondents include: Myron and Susan Field Buck, Sylvester Field and Flora Bennett.
[Finding Aid](#)

Froebel Study Club of Grand Rapids.

- Froebel Study Club of Grand Rapids records 1891-1953.
- 1 linear ft.
Women's organization that studied the writings of Friedrich Froebel on education.
Minutes, scrapbooks and miscellanea.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Gill, Lillian.

- Lillian Gill papers 1950s-2007.
- 6 linear feet.
African American businesswoman from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Lillian Gill was active in the Order of the Eastern Star and in African American Baptist Church organizations, particularly New Hope Baptist Church of Grand Rapids.
The Lillian Gill collections is comprised of the following series: Biographical and personal; Business career; Political and community interests; Order of Eastern Star, Free and Accepted Masons; New Hope Baptist Church and other Baptist organizations; and Photographs. The great bulk of the collection details her Masonic responsibilities and her

activities with her church and with her denomination's regional bulletins, brochures, programs, announcements, and the like. A smaller portion of the collection relates to her varied business endeavors as an insurance underwriter and as a salesperson with Amway. Photographs documenting her activities within the Order of the Eastern Star and as a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Grand Rapids; also photos of Amway meetings.
[Finding Aid](#)

Hinsdale family.

- Hinsdale family papers 1857-1963.
- 2 linear ft.

Family of Burke A. Hinsdale, professor of education at the University of Michigan and president of Hiram College.

Papers, 1857-1900, of Burke A. Hinsdale, including correspondence dealing with family affairs, business and professional activities, and European travels; also papers of Mary Louisa Hinsdale, 1891-1892 and 1903, including diaries containing descriptions of her tours throughout Europe, particularly Germany and Italy; papers of Mildred Hinsdale, 1962-1963, founder of the Grand Rapids (Kent County) Alumnae Club of University of Michigan, including transcriptions of oral interviews describing life at the University and in Grand Rapids; papers of other members of the family including Albert Hinsdale and Ellen C. Hinsdale; and photographs. Correspondents include: Randolph G. Adams, John R. Alden, James B. Angell, Denis W. Brogan, Nicholas M. Butler, Donald J. Cawling, William E. Dodd, James A. Garfield, Lucretia Rudolph Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, Albert B. Hart, Anne O'Hare McCormick, Alice Freeman Palmer, Theodore Roosevelt, Henry Stimson, and Charles Sumner. Portraits of Burke A. Hinsdale, his wife Mary Turner Hinsdale, and their children Ellen Clarinda, Mary Louisa, and Mildred.

[Finding Aid](#)

Hulst, Cornelia Steketee.

- Cornelia Steketee Hulst papers 1898-1949.
- .3 linear ft.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, high school teacher.

Correspondence concerning her studies of classical subjects, poems, publications and excerpts from reviews. Correspondents include: Harry B. Hutchins, and John A. Scott.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Judd, Dorothy Leonard.

- Dorothy Judd papers 1935-1974.
- 9 linear ft.

Resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan, delegate to the Michigan Constitutional Convention (1961-1962), chairwoman of the Michigan State Advisory Committee to the U.S.

Commission on Civil Rights, and member of the Michigan Civil Service Commission.

Correspondence and topical files relating to her public activities; also materials concerning her interest in site planning for a Kent County airport; and photographs. Color slides of Constitutional Convention meetings.

[Finding Aid](#)

Kapenga, Gladys.

- Gladys Kapenga papers 1860-2010, bulk 1985-2007.
- 8 linear feet.

Gladys Kapenga was a life long resident of Michigan and was heavily involved with the United Church of Christ and Church Women United. She was especially involved in United Church of Christ women's associations

Collected records relating to her involvement with Burlingame Congregational Church, UCC Women of Michigan, the UCC Michigan Conference, the Grand West Association, and Church Women United; included are such records as annual reports, publications, newsletters, directories, handbooks, various topical files, and some personal materials.

[Finding Aid](#)

Kosten, Laurel.

- Laurel Kosten interview January 1963.
- 1 item (10 p.)

Michigan state factory inspector, 1937-1951.

Transcript of interview relating to her work investigating working conditions for women in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

League of Women Voters of the Grand Rapids Area.

- League of Women Voters of the Grand Rapids Area records 1972, 1998 and 2006-2008.
- 1 folder.

Published history covering the period of 1921-1971; scattered meeting minutes, and voter guide for the May 2008 Grand Rapids Board of Education election.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

League of Women Voters of the Grand Rapids Area.

- League of Women Voters of the Grand Rapids Area records 1972, 1998 and 2006-2008.
- 1 folder.

Published history covering the period of 1921-1971; scattered meeting minutes, and voter guide for the May 2008 Grand Rapids Board of Education election.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

McAllister, Dorothy Smith.

- Dorothy Smith McAllister papers ca. 1932-1967.
- 1.5 linear ft. and 2 reels microfilm : positive and negative.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, civic leader, director of the Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee, 1937-1941, later member of various state and local commissions.

Files relating to Democratic Party activities (largely on microfilm); files relating to her interest in civil rights, fair employment practices, and her involvement with the Michigan and National Consumers League.

[Finding Aid](#)

Merriam family.

- Merriam family papers 1914-1964.
- 2 linear ft., 1 oversize photograph, and 3 oversized volumes.
Grand Rapids and Holland, Michigan family.
Papers of Warren Sturtevant Merriam, plant manager of the Baker Furniture Company of Holland and member of the Macatawa Bay Yacht Club, and his wife, Helen Bell Merriam; scattered papers of Charles W. Merriam, Congregational minister in Grand Rapids, and his wife, Julia Bemis Sturtevant Merriam; and photographs. Family photos, and photo of Baker Furniture Company in Holland, Michigan; also photos concerning church activities.

[Finding Aid](#)

Michigan Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

- Michigan Woman's Christian Temperance Union records 1874-2006.
- 16 linear feet (in 17 boxes) and 3 oversize volumes.
Papers of early W.C.T.U. workers, Alice E. H. Peters and Ella Eaton Kellogg, both including correspondence with Frances Willard and Anna A. Gordon; also minutes and other records of individual Michigan W.C.T.U. districts and chapters. Included are substantial records for Grand Rapids and Owosso chapters.

[Finding Aid](#)

Norris family.

- Norris family papers 1815-1960.
- 3 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.
Norris family of Ypsilanti and Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Papers of Mark Norris, Ypsilanti businessman and postmaster, concerning banking, milling, and railroads, and including letters from his son, Lyman, concerning his studies in the 1840's at Marshall Academy, the University of Michigan, and Yale University, travels in Europe, and his participation in the Dred Scott slavery case; papers of his wife, Roccena Vaill Norris, local teacher and woman's rights advocate, relating in part to the Civil War, her interest in the cause of coeducation and suffrage for women and her involvement in the First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti; papers of their son, Lyman, attorney and regent of the University of Michigan, 1883-1884, concerning business matters, family matters, post-Civil War politics, especially his campaign for state supreme court justice in 1875, and his work on the board of regents, particularly as relates to the School of Dentistry; papers of Lyman's son, Mark Norris, Grand Rapids attorney and Grand Master of the Knights Templar in the United States largely concerning Freemasonry activities, but also including University of Michigan student notebook, 1877, of course taught by Charles K. Adams, and scrapbook, 1875-1876, of University life; papers of Lyman's daughter Maria Norris, Grand Rapids physician; papers of Mark's son, Abbott Norris, concerning his interest in political issues, 1936-1946, as reflected in correspondence with the state's congressional delegation. Also includes related papers of other family members, notably the Whittelsey family of Connecticut, and photographs. Portraits of Lyman and Mark Norris, and group portrait of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity at the University of Michigan (ca. 1879).

[Finding Aid](#)

Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Presbytery of Grand Rapids.

- Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., Presbytery of Grand Rapids records 1870-1944.
- 1 linear ft. (7 v. and 1 item).
Minutes, 1870-1944; treasurer's records, 1889-1944; historical sketches of the presbytery, compiled by George Ransom, and of the women's work, compiled by Mrs. Frank E. Stroup.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Richmond, Rebecca L.

- Rebecca L. Richmond report 1881.
- 1 item.
Superintendent of Division Street school in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Report to Union Benevolent Association on the industrial sewing school in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Russell, Clara C.

- Clara C. Russell engagement books 1903-1935.
- 24 v. (2 boxes).
Grand Rapids, Michigan civic leader; wife of Huntley Russell.
Engagement and account books with brief notes on daily events.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Wheeler, Clara Marian.

- Clara Marian Wheeler papers 1874-1948.
- 6 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan educator, principal of the Grand Rapids Kindergarten Training School, and advocate of kindergarten education.
Correspondence, lecture and class notes, programs, photographs, and miscellaneous scrapbooks, ledgers, and account books; and other papers relating to the Froebel Club, the Kent County Sunday School Association, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the First Methodist Church of Grand Rapids. Correspondents include: Susan Blow, Delos Fall, Charles W. Garfield, Elizabeth Harrison, Fred L. Keeler, Patrick H. Kelley, the National Association for the Promotion of Kindergarten Education, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the National Kindergarten Association, Lucretia W. Treat, Kate D. Wiggin, Frances Willard, and Luther L. Wright. Portraits; photographs of Wheeler with students of a petting farm and with colleagues at Parent-Teacher Association fiftieth anniversary; and group photographs of the International Kindergarten Union (ca. 1900) and the Junior American Citizens Club.
[Finding Aid](#)

Wheeler, Jeanette.

- Jeanette Wheeler correspondence 1946.
- 4 items.
Official within the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Business Women's Club.

Correspondence with Republican Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg containing his reasons for not campaigning in the coming election, and mention of his work at the Paris Peace Conference.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Wheeler, Reuben.

- Reuben Wheeler records 1835-1891.
- 4 v. (1 box) and 1 oversize folder.

Grand Rapids, Michigan builder.

Account books for his building concerns in Amherstburg, Ontario, and Detroit and Grand Rapids, Michigan, also newspaper clippings concerning the women's rights movement and temperance campaign; and front elevation of a building.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Family Papers and Other

Brecken family.

- Brecken family papers 1894-1937 and 1965 (bulk 1913-1918).
- 1 linear ft.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, family.

Brief family history; letters to Clarence Brecken, also his journal, while stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison during World War I; journal of Jennie Brecken, 1965; legal documents; and photographs. Family photos; photos of Clarence Brecken in uniform during World War I; photos of family farm and other residences; photo of interior of Brecken ice cream fountain in Grand Rapids in 1934; photos of family on vacation and at camp sites.

[Finding Aid](#)

Cline Switzer Beurmann diary

- Cline Switzer Beurmann diary 1919.
- 1 v.

Grand Rapids, Michigan dentist.

Description of service with the American Expeditionary Force in France following World War I.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Davis family.

- Davis family (Grand Rapids and Pontiac, Mich.) papers 1796-1891.
- .3 linear ft.

Early settlers to Grand Rapids and Pontiac, Michigan.

Letters from relatives in New York, New Jersey and Iowa discussing in part plans to migrate westward; letter, 1852, recounting missionary life in India; Civil War letters from Townsend M. Luce (Co. F., Third Michigan Infantry), Rufus Cheney (Co. D, 2nd Michigan Cavalry), Charles O. Reed (probably Co. A, 4th Michigan Cavalry), Philip Segur (Co. A, 7th Michigan Cavalry), and one tentatively identified as Albert H. Freeman (Battery B, 1st Michigan Light Artillery); and miscellanea.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Field, Frederick N.

- Frederick N. Field papers 1862-1865.
- 23 items and 1 oversize folder.

Soldier from Grand Rapids, Michigan who served as a lieutenant in Company A, First Michigan Cavalry and Company D, Tenth Michigan Cavalry during the Civil War.

Letters to his brother describing his wartime activities; also letter, 1863, from Captain George W. Lee concerning Field; and miscellaneous bank notes and printed material; also photographs.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Fitch, Milford L.

- Milford L. Fitch diary 1911-1915.

- 1 v.
Resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Scattered diary entries concern his opinions of sermons; also occasional poems about current events.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Fox family.

- Fox family correspondence 1863-1866.
- 10 items.
Perrin V. Fox family of Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Letters of Major Fox and his son, Newton, members of the Michigan Engineers and Mechanics during the Civil War, concerning wartime activities and including mention of Copperhead activity in Grand Rapids, Michigan; also letter from Major William A. Naylor of the 10th Indiana Artillery.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Grand Valley State Colleges Oral History Project.

- Grand Valley State Colleges Oral History Project 1976-1977.
- 61 sound tape reels 3 3/4, 7 1/2 ips ; 5, 7, 10 in.
Oral history project administered by professor John Tevebaugh and relating to the history of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The interviews were later used in the WUOM radio series, "Fitzgerald's Prophecy."
Sound tape reels of interviews (46 reels ; 7 in.), 1976, and recordings of "Fitzgerald's Prophecy" based on the interviews and broadcast on WUOM in 1977.
[Finding Aid](#)

Graves family.

- Graves family papers 1833-1874.
- 1 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan, family.
Letters of Albert and Martha Calhoun Graves, including letters written during Civil War while Graves was a member of Co. B, First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics; also family letter reflecting daily life.
[Finding Aid](#)

Innes, Robert Strachan.

- Robert Strachan Innes letters Dec. 12 and 13, 1862.
- 2 items.
Soldier from Grand Rapids, Michigan, who served in the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics during the Civil War.
Letter from the officers and men of his unit expressing their sorrow at his decision to leave their company.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Lyon family.

- Lyon family papers 1826-1940.

- 0.3 linear ft.
Grand Rapids, Michigan family.
Correspondence, 1826-1851, of Lucius Lyon; also papers of Esther Lyon Tabor and Lucretia Lyon, sisters of Lucius Lyon, and Julia Holman, niece of Lucius; also miscellaneous clippings, genealogical information, assorted cards, and photographs.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

Lyon, Sanford W.

- Sanford W. Lyon papers 1843-1864.
- 30 items.
Soldier from Grand Rapids, Michigan who served in companies A and B of the 21st Michigan Infantry during the Civil War.
Letters of Lyon and members of the Tracy family of Grand Rapids, Michigan and Civil War memorabilia; also photographs.
Search [Mirlyn](#)

McNitt, William H.

- William H. McNitt papers 1968-1976.
- 5 linear ft.
Democratic Party precinct captain from Ann Arbor, Michigan.
Newsletters, leaflets, campaign materials and newspaper clippings concerning state, county, and municipal politics, particularly the presidential campaigns of Eugene McCarthy in 1968 and George McGovern in 1972, Ann Arbor City Council and school board elections; the New Democratic Coalition of Michigan; the Human Rights Party; the state presidential primary in 1972; Democratic state conventions; state elections in 1968, 1970, 1972, and 1974; and the election campaign of Congressman Richard F. VanderVeen in 1974; also, three papers by McNitt, 1970, entitled "The Library Extension Movement in Grand Rapids", "Journalism and the Republican Party of Michigan, 1890-1920; A Study of the Michigan Republican Newspaper Association", and "Peace and American Society : Rebecca Shelley and the Peace Movement." Photoprints and photonegatives relating to the construction of the Bentley Historical Library, photos of library activities and ceremonies, and photos of the Gerald Ford 1976 presidential campaign.
[Finding Aid](#)

Michigan Historical Records Survey.

- Michigan Historical Records Survey records 1936-1942.
- 47 linear ft. and 68 microfilm reels.
Records survey of the U.S. Work Projects Administration, including records related to Grand Rapids.
Correspondence, drafts of guides to county archives, proceedings of county boards of supervisors, field reports of workers, and copies of land patents for some counties; also material relating to the history of Blacks in Michigan. Photographs, postal card, and clippings of Michigan courthouses and county buildings; and photos of exhibits and people working at museum exhibits as part of the statewide Museum Project.
[Finding Aid](#)

Richards family.

- Richards family papers 1833-1875.
- 6 items.

Residents of Washtenaw and Kent Counties, Michigan.

Letter of William Richards, 1833, to his brother, describing his arrival in the United States from Warwickshire, England, settling on a farm in Saline, Michigan, and comments on life and customs in the United States, including description of agricultural methods and prices; four letters of Charlotte A. Richards of Grand Rapids, Michigan, one of which describes reaction in Grand Rapids to President Abraham Lincoln's assassination, and letter of Alfred S. Richards expressing his hope of being mustered out of the army where he was serving on Company D, Engineers and Mechanics.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Rood family.

- Rood family papers 1879-1984.
- 0.5 linear ft. and 1 oversize folder.

Grand Rapids, Michigan family involved with Foster, Stevens & Company, a general store, and its successor E. A. Rood & Company, a china and glassware specialty store. Charles F. Rood was a partner in Foster, Stevens and a nephew of the founder; his son Edward A. Rood, Sr. was founder of E. A. Rood & Company.

Papers, primarily of Charles F. Rood and E. A. Rood, Jr., including Rood family history and photographs, papers regarding the C. F. Rood estate, and clippings documenting the histories of Foster, Stevens and Co. (1874-1926) and E. A. Rood and Co. (1926-1983); also two travel accounts, of E. A. Rood, Jr.'s trips through the Upper Peninsula to Chicago by car in 1928 and through Europe by bicycle in 1933.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Seibold, David R.

- Robert G. Ingersoll in Grand Rapids, Michigan 1972.
- 1 item (26 p.)

Student at the University of Michigan.

Student term paper.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Simpson, Charles Althen.

- Charles A. Simpson papers 1910-1932.
- 1 linear ft. and 1 outsize folder.

Resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who served with the 337th Ambulance Company during the American intervention at Archangel, Russia, in 1918-1919.

Diaries and reminiscences of his service in Russia and training at Fort Custer, Michigan; also his diaries of life in Grand Rapids, photographs, motion pictures, and miscellaneous. Photographs of activities at Fort Custer, Michigan; photographs and postcard views of American and Allied soldiers, people, cities, and countryside in Russia, and camp and battle scenes; also motion picture (with U-matic videocassette and DVD-R use copies) containing miscellaneous scenes of American soldiers in Archangel, Russia.

[Finding Aid](#)

Smith, Sidney.

- Sidney Smith papers 1826-1867.
- 23 items.

Kent County, Michigan, attorney.

Personal correspondence, including letters of his wife, Laura Richardson Smith, and other members of his family; letter, 1853, describing a large fleet of ships off Detroit and convention of the "Female State (New York) Temperance Society" at which Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone spoke; Civil War letter by Albert S. Smith written while serving in Company B, Michigan Engineers and Mechanics; also seven miscellaneous legal and business papers.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Starr, Raymond Wesley.

- Raymond Wesley Starr papers 1860s-1968. (bulk 1936-1947)
- 11 linear feet and 1 folder

Grand Rapids, Michigan attorney, state attorney general, 1937-1938, associate justice and chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, U.S. district court judge for the western district of Michigan.

Correspondence, newspaper clippings, and business and professional papers, including material, 1950-1968, relating to his interest in Ferris State College, Big Rapids, Michigan; and photographs. Correspondents include: W. Wallace Kent, and G. Mennen Williams. Portraits; photographs of Starr with colleagues and family members.

[Finding Aid](#)

Swift family.

- Swift family papers 1834-1921.
- .25 linear ft.

Swift-Lapham-Barker family of New York state and southeastern Michigan.

Papers, 1834-1845, of the Rev. Marcus Swift, Methodist circuit rider, including some letters concerning his anti-slavery convictions; papers, ca. 1840's, of his son, Orson Ross Swift, Wesleyan Methodist circuit rider, including notes on places preached, sermons on temperance and notes on other sermons; papers, 1836-1845, of William G. and A. S. Lapham, largely concerning the building of a bridge in New York, and Northville, Michigan, business affairs; papers, 1844-1852, of the Barker family of Manchester and Grand Rapids, Michigan, concerning politics, religion, problems of women, medicine, and farming, and including an account of trip to California in 1850; minute book, 1834-1921, of School District No. 7, Novi, Oakland County, Michigan; and miscellaneous newspapers; also photographs. Also petition (1841) of Methodists in Nankin, Mich., withdrawing from the Methodist Episcopal Church in Michigan for failure of the denomination to condemn slavery. Portraits of John (copy print) and Marcus Swift.

Search [Mirlyn](#)

Vande Vusse, Ray.

- Ray Vande Vusse letters [ca. 1834-ca. 1880].

- 28 items.
Letters collected by Ray Vande Vusse, Holland, Michigan stamp collector. Letters, 1838-1843, from Thomas Bradford of Niles discussing politics, religion, family affairs and business activities; letters, 1844-1846, from the Phelps family of Niles commenting on their journey to Michigan from New York, the Baptist Church, and manner of courtship; letters, 1861-1863, of the Stow family of Ypsilanti, Grand Rapids, and Lyons to Frederick A. Stow, lieutenant in the 3rd Michigan Infantry, Co. B; Civil War letter from a Dutch immigrant in service; and other miscellaneous letters from Allegan, Bedford, Bristolville, Charlotte, Holland, and Mackinac Island, Michigan. Search [Mirlyn](#)

Vandenberg family.

- Vandenberg family papers 1923-1965.
- 1 linear ft.
Vandenberg family of Grand Rapids, Michigan and Washington, D.C. Letters of Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg with family members John and Barbara Bailey; also papers of Arthur H. Vandenberg, Jr., aide to President Dwight Eisenhower, largely concerning Republican politics, 1948-1952, and election of 1952. Correspondents include: Thomas Dewey, Dwight Eisenhower, and Nelson Rockefeller.
[Finding Aid](#)

Vandeburgh, W. Joseph.

- W. Joseph Vandeburgh letter Aug. 13, 1865.
- 1 item.
Member of the Confederate First Texas Cavalry in the Civil War. Letter to his brother in Grand Rapids, Michigan asking for reconciliation with the family. Search [Mirlyn](#)

Walker, Bryant.

- Bryant Walker papers 1873-1931.
- 10 linear ft.
Detroit, Michigan attorney, shell collector and student of conchology. Correspondence relating primarily to his interest in shells; also Walker family correspondence, including copies of family letters, 1830-1841, written from Buffalo, New York, Grand Rapids and Detroit, Michigan; University of Michigan student notebook on course in physics, 1874; letterbook, 1877-1886; scientific maps, manuscripts, and catalogues. Sketches and prints of shells, also portraits and informal photos.
[Finding Aid](#)