

Grand Rapids History & Special Collections

Archives

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finding aid for the

Frank Lee DuMond Papers

Collection # 019

September 2009 version

Abstract

The Frank Lee DuMond (1898-1989) papers include correspondence, published papers & notes, and photographs reflecting his wide interests in conservation, as well as his professional activities while Director of Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan, from 1934 to 1964. Additionally, he was a research historian and active in numerous Grand Rapids, Kent County & Michigan organizations, including serving on the boards of directors of Historical Society of Michigan, the Kent County Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, and the Salvation Army Advisory Board. Some non-Grand Rapids & Michigan materials reflect DuMond's interest in Abraham Lincoln and other national topics.

Collection #: 019

Accession #: 1980.032 (8/11/2009) 1986.055

Donor: Frank DuMond, 1986

Span dates: 1926-1978

Original archival processing date: October 1986

Size: 4.48 linear ft. ; (53.75 inches)

Related Collections

Coll. 233 includes a letter from Dumond related to the Dedication of an historical marker honoring the Furniture Industry in Grand Rapids. This is a found item, which may have come from the former library person to which the letter is addressed, or may actually have been received with this collection and become separated during usage.

Box Summary

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Description of Contents</u>	<u>Box Description</u>
Box inventory 8/2009		
1	bio/correspondence/exhibit notes	standard
2	history notes	standard
3	history notes	standard
4	lecture series/magazine articles/newspaper clippings	standard
5	newspaper clippings/notes	standard
6	notes	standard
7	notes	standard
8	pamphlets	standard
9	papers/photographs	Standard
10	history notes/photographs	standard legal

Boxes 3-5 are gray. All others are old blue boxes & should be replaced. 2/26/2003

Biography

Frank L. DuMond (1898-xxxx) was born in West Hurley, New York. In 1916 he received his high school diploma from Ulster Academy in Kingston, New York. After his days at Ulster, he entered Cornell University. In the five years he was at Cornell he earned a Bachelor of Science and a master's degree in forestry. After his years at Cornell, he obtained a graduate fellowship at Yale University to conduct research, and received a master's degree in forestry from Yale.

While at Cornell and Yale he spent summers working in a sawmill, lumber camp, and as a fire warden in Lolo National Park in Western Montana. In the Cornell Forestry Camp, in the Adirondacks, he helped fight a ground fire. He also worked as a timber cruiser in the High Sierras, in the California and United States Forest Service. He left the Forest Service after six months, with the rating of forest ranger. At Yale, his summer days were spent in a Boy Scout camp in Maine, working as the camp naturalist and ScoutMaster.

After graduating he became an instructor in forestry extension at Cornell for one year when he learned about an opening at the Kent Scientific Museum (which in June 1925 became the Grand Rapids Public Museum). In 1923 he became curator of education for the museum. He held that position until 1932, when he was made acting director. After two years in that job he became director, a position he held for 31 years, until he retired in 1965.

Aside from his duties in connection with the museum, he served on the boards of directors of the Historical Society of Michigan, the Kent County Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, and the Salvation Army Advisory Board. He was president of the Michigan Audubon Society for five years and is a past president of the Grand Rapids Camera Club and the Midwest Conference.

He is an honorary life member of the Midwest Museum Conference, as well as of the Grand Rapids Museum Association, Grand Rapids Engineer Club and Grand Rapids Historical Society. In 1952 the Dwight Lydell Chapter of the Izaak Walton League named him its "Man of the Year in Conservation". In 1964 he received the Distinguished Service Award of the Grand Rapids Rotary Club and was named Ne gah - nee, which means "One - in - the - lead", by the Chippewa Tribe of Mt. Pleasant. And in 1966 he received the Historical Society of Michigan's Award of Merit.

A prolific writer, DuMond published "Tall Tales of the Catskills", "An Introduction to the Birds of Michigan", 47 articles in "Normal Instructor & Primary Plans", published by Owen; five articles in the Camp Fire Girls Magazine, and three articles published in the American Association of Museums Museum News. For six years he wrote a regular Sunday feature for the

Grand Rapids Herald and for six months, in 1933, he was editor of the junior department of the Michigan Sportsman Magazine.

In 1926 Frank married Margaret (Margie) Claire Thomas, who was born in Charlotte, Michigan, and majored in biology at what is now Western Michigan University. They have four children, Robert, Marion, Carolyn, and David.

Scope and Content

The series as currently defined here often contain only one or two folders of materials. However, there are some large subgroups, three being:

- Notes ...
- Historical notes ...
- Pamphlets ...

The bulk of the collection includes notes, correspondence & documents on Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, and Michigan topics. However, there are currently a number of publications & folders in the collection reflecting DuMond's larger & national interests. The notes, pamphlets, and programs consist of background information on topics pertaining to forestry, archaeology, geology, biology, history, and music. There are annual reports, exhibit notes, and general notes that describe the history and operation of the museum. The papers and photographs are most valuable in tracing the history of Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids Public Museum. The history of the city is portrayed through the booklets, history notes, magazine articles, newspaper clippings, newspaper column - "Those Were The Days", pamphlets, and photographs and arranged alphabetically.

Series Descriptions

Series I. WHO's Annual Reports, 1918 - 1964. Box 1, folders 1-2.

Arranged alphabetically.

This series contains note of transmission, history of Grand Rapids, act creating. The Art and Museum Commission, G. R. Scientific Museum History, financial statements, reports, rules governing the museum, order of business, and illustrations in regards to the Art and Museum Commission.

Series II. Biographical Note. Box 1, folder 3.

No arrangement.

This series contains biographical information on Ruth Abrams, former librarian in the Michigan Room at the Grand Rapids Public Library. They are most valuable in describing her retirement days.

Series III. Booklets. Box 1, folders 4-9.

Arranged alphabetically.

This series consist of booklets covering various topics such as: Abraham Lincoln, Grand Rapids, Michigan, printing, museum workers, and the furniture market. It contains the following titles: Lincoln, In Appreciation of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Museum Workers Notebook, The Kensington Runestone, The Awakening of Steve Randall, The Torchlight of Human Progress, and Wings of Wisdom.

Series IV. Certificate of Commendation. Box 1, folder 10.

No arrangement.

This series contains the Certificate of Commendation that Frank DuMond received from the Historical Society of Michigan, for his services to the Society as Trustee from 1951-1954.

Series V. Correspondence. Box 1, folders 11-14.

Arranged chronologically.

Consists of letters from patrons and associations pertaining to the museum services, DuMond projects, services to the community, paper presented, Museum collections, the museum centennial, and the operation of the museum. Most valuable in tracing the services of the museum and DuMond's work are incoming and outgoing letters from H.L. Ward, librarian from the Detroit Public Library; Ludlon Bull, Associate Director at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in

New York; Michigan National Bank; Uhl, Bryant, Snow & Slawson, Attorneys at Law; Mrs. Glendon A. Richards; Brown & Gregg, Attorneys at Law; P. A. Herbert, Professor of Forestry at Michigan State College; Henry W. Corning, Trustee at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History; Michigan Audubon Society; War Man Power Commission; Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences; Steve Nisbet; Ada Fuller and Jessie Stevenson; City of Grand Rapids Special Auxiliary Patrol Squad; Messmore Kendall; Ray Cannon; Michigan State College; and Henry Mastens.

Series VI. Exhibit Notes. Box 1, folders 15-25.
Arranged alphabetically.

This series contains research notes in regards to some of the exhibit collections that were held in the Museum. Most valuable in describing the history of the following: Whale, Mastodon, Columbian Peace Plow, East Grand Rapids Graffiti, East Grand Rapids History, Historical Dioramas, Gaslight Village, Gray Wolf - Timber Wolf, Horology (Time Keeping), Tobacco, and War Memorial.

Series VII. History Notes. Box 2-3, folders 26-59.
Arrangement: alphabetically.

This series contains history notes pertaining to Grand Rapids and the surrounding community, Michigan, Shrine Temple, Grand Rapids Public Museum, and American historical figures, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Most valuable in tracing the history of the following topics: Early Grand Rapids, East Grand Rapids, Furniture Industry, Ghost Towns in Kent County, Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Audubon Club, Grand Rapids Historical Commission, Grand Rapids Industry, Grand Rapids Museum Association, Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids Riding Club, Indian Burial Mounds and Culture, Kent County Centennial farms, Kent County Historical Landmarks, Kent Scientific Museum, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, History of Michigan, Calkins Law Office, and the Saladin Shrine Temple.

Series VIII. Lecture Series. Box 4, folder 60.
No Arrangement.

This series consists of notes pertaining to the Grand Rapids Museum Association Lecture Series. The lecture series includes: "Grand Ma", "Why Not Grand Rapids", "Nature - Film Lectures", and "This Amazing World".

Series IX. Magazine Articles. Box 4, folders 61-66.

Arranged alphabetically.

Contains notes pertaining to the history of Grand Rapids and Michigan. Most notable are the articles from the Peninsular Club Magazine, in regards to the history of Grand Rapids and the surrounding community. Furthermore, there is an article about the quasiquicentennial of Rockford, Michigan.

Series X. Maps. Box 4, folders 67 - 68.

Arranged alphabetically.

Contains maps pertaining to Metropolitan Grand Rapids, and the Shrine Temples in the United States. Most notable Grand Rapids maps are the following: Grand Rapids: Points of Interest in and around the city, official map of Grand Rapids, annexation map of Grand Rapids and Environs, Visitors map of Grand Rapids, and the surveyed map of August 28, 1833 by Chas Barnes.

Series XI. Newsletters. Box 4, folder 69.

No arrangement.

Contains the Grand Rapids Historical Society newsletters from March 25, 1969 - May 25, 1971. The newsletters contain information about the minutes of the meetings, speakers, newsworthy historical notes, and committees.

Series XII. Newspaper Clippings. Box 4-5, folders 70-84.

Arranged alphabetically.

Contains newspaper clippings pertaining to the history of Grand Rapids and the surrounding community, state of Michigan, Grand Rapids Public Museum, and clippings in regards to Abraham Lincoln.

Series XIII. Newspaper Column-"Those Were the Days'. Box 5, folder' 85.

No arrangement.

Newspaper column by Gordon Harrington. Most valuable in tracing the history of old Grand Rapids. Moreover, there are issues that pertain to historical events and figures in American history.

Series XIV. Notes. Boxes 5-7, folders 86-119.

Arranged alphabetically.

Contains general background notes on several topics. Most valuable in covering the following: archaeology, honey bee tree, insects, inventions, Jemex Indians, leather tanning, lighting, North American Indians, spiders, termite control, ticks, trees in Michigan, weeds, and whaling. It provides background knowledge on the following museums: Blandford Nature Center, Grand Rapids Furniture Museum, and Grand Rapids Public Museum. Moreover, it provides background information on the Grand Rapids Historical Society, and Michigan Historical Society. In addition, it includes the minute book of the Art and Museum Commission.

Series XV. Pamphlets. Box 8, folders 120-142.

Arranged alphabetically.

This series contain pamphlets which cover various topics in relation to the Museum, and the history of Grand Rapids. Most valuable in covering the history of Grand Rapids are the following: A Historical Guide of Grand Rapids New O-Wash-Ta-Nang Club, Glacial Grand River: Michigan; Grand Rapids and Michigan Grand Rapids As It Is, 1888, Grand Rapids: Its Points of Interest (Illustrated, 1897), Heritage Hill Historic Homes Tour, Mr. Garfield Talks on Early Grand Rapids, Old Mills, and One Hundred Years of Printing in Grand Rapids. Those most valuable in covering the history of the state are the following: History of Great Lakes Transportation, Indian Trade Silver Ornaments in Michigan, Michigan and the Old Northwest and Western Michigan: Colonial Period. And, those pamphlets that cover topics in relation to the museum are the following: A Century of Music in America, A Visit to the Whaling Museum, Blue Book, Common Insects of the Flower Garden, Directions for Collecting and Preserving Insects, Independence: National Historical Park Project, Preserving the Design for Americans, and Romance and History of Time. In addition, there is a pamphlet which relates to forestry; Big Trees of California.

Series XVI. Papers. Box 9, folders 143 - 147.

Arranged alphabetically.

Papers that contain information about the history of Grand Rapids Public Museum, and information on topics pertain to the fields of science and culture. Most valuable in covering the history of Grand Rapids and the Public Museum are the following: "A Narrative History of the Grand Rapids Public Museum, 1854 - 1970", "History of Museums", and "The New Grand Rapids Public Museum". Papers pertaining to culture and science includes "Science As An Aid to Post - War Reconstruction", and "The Carnegie Study of the Arts of the United States".

Series XVII. Paper Presented. Box 9, folders 148-152.

Arranged alphabetically.

Papers that were read at various clubs and associations includes: "A Plan For Popularizing the Muskegon County Museum", "A Plan of Exploitation for the Grand Rapids Public Museum", "Adventures in Community Cooperation", "The Museum - Focal Point for Youth", and "Wares Museums Have to Sell".

Series XVIII. Photographs. Box 9, folders 153 - 167.

Arranged alphabetically.

Photographs pertaining to the history of Grand Rapids, and museum exhibits. It includes the following: John Apsey; Drawing by Rowley Murphey; East Grand Rapids Grade School, 1910; Grand Rapids Public Museum; Honey Bee trees; Lakeside Club - Reeds Lake; lumber camp scene; Mastodon; San Ildefonso Pueblo; land oil burners; Farwell, Michigan Archaeological Society members, June 20, 1930; Milkman - George Young - 1930s; Mrs. Ralph Sasser Harletta, 1958; Previewing Topographic Relief map of Grand Rapids; and the Wreck of the Steamer' Walk - in - the - Water, 1821.

Series XIX. Photographic Prints. Box 9, folders 168-170.

No arrangement.

Contains prints pertaining to American historic figures and places, and European royalty figures. In addition, there are miscellaneous prints: Morning Chimes, A Kiss for Papa, Just Nine Pounds, Little Daisy, and Christ Walking on the Sea.

Series XX. Programs. Box 9, folders 171-173.

Arranged alphabetically.

Programs in regards to Musicals from 1903-1923. In addition, there are programs in regards to the Memorial Day of 1879, and the dinner given by the citizens of Grand Rapids, Michigan to the Honorary Commercial Commissioners from Japan, September 29, 1909.

Series XXI. Miscellaneous. Box 9, Folder 174.

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1	2	Notes, 1920-64.
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1	3	Ruth Abrams, 1957.
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	5	"In Appreciation of Grand Rapids."
	6	Michigan.
	7	Museum Workers Notebook.
	8	The Kensington Runestone. The Awakening of Steve Randall / Ben Dean, 1913.
1	9	The Torch light of Human Progress-Wings of Wisdom.
		Series IV. Certificates.
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| | 89-90 | Blandford Nature Center. |
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156 East Grand Rapids Grade School, 1910 (1 total 9/99).
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159 Lakeside Club - Reeds Lake (1 total 9/99).
160 Lumber Camp Scene (2 total 9/99).
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162 Michigan Archaeological Society Members, Norton Mounds, June 20, 1930 (1 total 9/99).
163 Milkman, George Young, 1930s (1 total 9/99).
164 Ralph Sasser Harletta, 1958 (1 total 9/99).
10 165 Museum Negatives – Index (1 total 9/99)
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