

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

Archives

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finding Aid for the

Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council  
Indian History Project. Records

Collection # 50

October 2007 version

Abstract

The Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council's Indian History Project was designed to develop a pamphlet of approximately 100 pages that would describe the history and current status of Native American people living in southwestern Michigan. The collection contains records of the project, along with 247 photographs, some of which were used in the pamphlet/publication. The result of the project was the book *People Of The Three Fires : the Ottawa, the Potawatomi and Ojibway of Michigan / James A. Clifton, George Cornell, and James M. McClurken. Grand Rapids : Michigan Indian Press, 1986.* The Council was first organized in 1972; the documents in this collection are primarily from the early 1980's.

Collection #: 50

Accession #: 1987.044

Donor: Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council

Span dates: 1982-1985.

Processor: William C. Black, September 1987; photo organizes and indexed by Richard H. Harms, March 1991; finding aid reformatted by Richard H. Harms, December 1996; Box Summary, Marcella Beck, August 31, 2000; Finding aid clarification & update, R. Mayne, June 6, 2001-2007.

Size: 1.3 cu.ft.

Related Collections

For reproduction copies of images which were once part of this collection, see Coll. 068-1-21

Ask staff for assistance in finding other sources of information on Grand Rapids and Michigan area Native Americans.

Box Summary

Box No.	Description of Contents	Box Description
1	correspondence/maps	standard
2	printing/photographs	standard
3	photographs	slim

Processing note:

In December 1988, Catherine Baldwin asked that all of the images in Coll. 50, which has been made from her personal collection, be removed and returned to her. The Grand Rapids Public Library and the Grand River InterTribal Council complied with this request. Thus, Coll. 50, Box 2, Folder 20 and contents have been removed from this collection.

Through subsequent research, the Library was able to find other sources for some of the images previously included in 50-2-20. These later facsimilies have been processed as part of the GRPL Native American Photo Collection, Coll. 68, and are located in Box 1, folder 21 of that collection.

For those who have bibliographic references to the original Baldwin prints in 50-2-20, the following images can now be found in 68-1-21:

Baldwin No	Copy Negative number
30	1460
31	1471
32	1472
33	1463
36	
37	1473
39	1459
40	1465
41	1455
42	1474
43	1453
44	1454
45	1456
46	1457
47	1458
51	1466
52	1461
54	1464
55	1462
56	1468
57	1467
58	1469
59	1475

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<u>Baldwin No</u>	<u>Copy Negative number</u>
60	1476
61	1477
61?	1470
62	1478

## History

The Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council was a non-profit organization servicing the Indian people in southwestern Michigan. The Council was first organized in 1972, and covered five southwest Michigan counties with an estimated (1980) population of about 5,000. The Council sponsored programs in education, employment, nutrition, culture, substance abuse, and Indian child welfare.

The Council, recognizing that "one of the major problems of Indian people is their inability as a group to analyze their own cultural heritage. With the break-up of the extended family, the dispersal of the Indian people throughout the region and the passing away of the elders who understood and lived the culture, Indian people have lost contact with their past. This is particularly true of the youth. At the same time, the non-Indian population does not realize that there are a significant number of Indian people living in the area."

The purpose of the project was to develop a book that would describe the history and current conditions of the Indian people that inhabit southwest Michigan. The book was to assist Indian people in analyzing their own needs in relationship to their own history, culture, and traditions, while helping non-Indian people to understand Indian people.

## Scope and Content

Consists of grant requests, correspondence, drafts of the book, maps, printing instructions and costs, Kingman Museum project, drawings and photographs. The drafts are especially helpful in understanding the development of the book's tone, while the photographs not used in the book are also useful in understanding the history, culture and traditions of the Indian peoples of southwest Michigan.

Series Descriptions

**Series I. Grand Requests.**

No arrangement.

Consists of the grant requests to the Michigan Council for the Humanities and the Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs.

**Series II. Correspondence.**

Arranged chronologically.

Consists of research and grant correspondence, July, 1982 to August, 1986.

**Series III. Drafts.**

Arranged alphabetically by author.

Consists of the drafts and revisions of the three authors, Clifton, Cornell, and McClurken, on the Potawatomi, Ojibwa, and Ottawa respectively.

**Series IV. Maps.**

Arranged chronologically.

Consists of maps, supplied by McClurken and Tambouliau, used in the book.

**Series V. Printing.**

No arrangement.

Consists of price quotes, proof sheets, and credits for illustrations for the printing of the project's book, **People of the Three Fires**.

**Series VI. Miscellaneous**

No arrangement.

Consists of information provided by the Kingman Museum of Natural History, Battle Creek, Michigan. The primary information is contained in a catalog from the Museum's "Potawatomi Exhibition." Also includes the drawings of R. Bushewicz.

**Series VII. Photographs.**

Arranged alphabetically by supplier of photos. Little description of image contents.

Consists of 248 photographs obtained from personal or institutional sources. Some of the images were taken ca. 1970's or 1980s, documenting late 20<sup>th</sup> century Indian life, or reenactments of Native American rituals and dances by members of their community. Other images document Native American people and places from different time periods and places, primarily within Michigan, taken from the collections of several Michigan or other research institutions. A few of these images are believed to document Native American's from the Grand Rapids area. Copyright for most of these images are owned by other institutions, not the Grand Rapids Public Library.

From these research photographers were chosen the illustrations used in the "People of the Three Fires" book. Photographs not used provide visual information on the culture and traditions of Indian people, and document through inclusion and non-inclusion, the theme attempted in the book. However, several of the photos are not identified.

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
		<b>Series I. Grant Request.</b>
1	1	Michigan Council for the Humanities.
1	2	Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs.
		<b>Series II. Correspondence.</b>
1	3	1982-1986.
		<b>Series III. Drafts.</b>
1	4-7	Clifton, James B., "The Potawatomi of Michigan."
1	8-9	Cornell, George, "The Ojibwa of Western Michigan."
1	10-12	McClurken, James, "The Ottawa of Western Michigan."
		<b>Series IV. Maps.</b>
1	13	Maps.
		<b>Series V. Printing.</b>
2	14	West Michigan Printing: Price Quotes.
2	15	Illustrations/Credits.
2	16	Proof sheets.
		<b>Series VI. Miscellaneous.</b>
2	17	Kingman Museum's Potawatomi Exhibition.
2	18	Drawings of R. Bushewiez.

**Series VII. Photographs.** (26 + 185 = 211 unverified 5/8/2007)

Note: Usage permission should be sought from the individual or library named, when using these images in publications or on the Internet.

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| 2 | 19 | Alexis, Philip. #1-26 (26, 12/13/1999, 7/17/2007)   |
| 2 | 20 | Baldwin, Catherine. Photos #27-63 removed from Collection, Dec. 1988. See facsimiles of some of these images in Coll. 68, Box 1, Folder 21. See the list of Baldwin photo numbers matching the copy negative numbers for this collection, in this folder and in this finding aid above. See also the copy negative database list, in this folder. |
| 2 | 21 | Bentley Historical Library. #64 Potawatomi Village on Grand Traverse Bay(1)   |
| 2 | 22 | British Library. #65 "Village Ottawa" Ottawa Village, Mackinac Island. Temporary Fishing Village.(1)  |
| 2 | 23 | Burton Collection. #66, Unidentified couple (1)   |
| 2 | 24 | Canada Public Archives. #67, Two Ottawa Chiefs from Michillimachinace, Lake Huron. Joshus Jebb watercolor. (1)  |
| 2 | 25 | Chicago Historical Society. #248, Shabonna's Grandson, Little Smoke, from a daguerreotype.  |
| 2 | 26 | Clarke Historical Library. #68-79 (12 copy photos of 6 images, i.e. 2 each) Unidentified institution, buildings, students, etc., including one bird's eye view of site.   |
| 2 | 27 | Connolly, Jeremy Thomas. #80-116 (37 color snapshots) Later reinactors in tribal dress  |
| 2 | 28 | Connolly, Jeremy Thomas. #117-164 (48 8x10 b/w, including some duplicates) most ca. 1981 views, with some historical copy image.  |
| 2 | 29 | Field Museum of Natural History. #165 (1 printed image from unknown source)   |
| 2 | 30 | Grand Rapids Press. #166 (Missing 12/13/1999 believe found in folder 37, 7/17/2007, and returned to this folder. ) This image is identified as Gladys Sands, and shows a basket weaver at work, with a selection of baskets in the foreground. These same baskets are seen in images in folder 50-3-37 below.                                     |

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- 3 31 Grand Rapids Public Library. #167-182.(15 b/w 8x10 copy photos + 1 Photographic reproduction of a handdrawn map #167), + one historical printed image from unknown source (no number))
- 3 32 Grand Rapids Public Museum. # 183 (1) Naumke Ching Um Ie
- 3 33 Harbor Springs School. #184-198 (14 b/w copy photos)
- 3 34 Michigan Indian Legal Services. Leelanau Indian Housing #199-200 (2 b/w 8x10)
- 3 35 Michigan State Archives. #201-237 (37 b/w copy photos) Various locations and time periods within Michigan. Chief Blackbird, one photo of an historical drawing of Sugar Camp.
- 3 36 Northern Indiana Historical Society. #238 (1) Portrait of Leopold Pokagon, Pottawatomie Chief, by Van Danden.
- 3 37 Woodland Craft Workshop, GRITC. #239-248 (10 b/w copy photos)  
Note: An extra unnumbered image found in this folder has the following stamp on the verso "Original G.R. Press Photo. Not for Publication", and is believed to be the item previously listed as missing from 05-3-31. The content of the image appears to be from the same photo shoot as the images in this folder, however, and some, though not all, of the images in this folder also have Grand Rapids Press stamps. Permission to use photos in folders 50-2-30 or 50-3-37 should be sought from the Grand Rapids Press.

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