

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

Archives

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finding Aid for the

Harlan P. Colby Recollections of the Village of Grand Rapids

Collection # 013

September 2009 version

Abstract

Colby records a history of Grand Rapids, Michigan from 1833 through 1855, in which he provides descriptions of people, places, events, and some statistical data on the village's development. Colby was a partner in a local carriage manufacturer. Harlan P. Colby (1841-1925) was a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1865, along with James McKee, Colby opened Colby, Sons & Company, a carriage maker. Shortly afterward, the firm became Colby, Wood & Company, with Wood buying out the partners on 1 February 1868. Thereupon Colby open his second carriage shop, Colby, Craig & Company.

Subject term: Colby, Harlan P.

Collection #: 013

Span dates: 1833-1855

Accession #: 1986.236

Donor: Georgia Ansonge, 1986

Processor: Original processor, Bruce Lee Siebers, November 1986. Inventory, Andrea Stadt, Sept. 1999.

Box Summary, Marcella Beck, August 25, 2000.

Revisions, R. Mayne, Aug 2002.

Size: Approx. .5 linear ft. (5.5 inches), including all collections in box

Box Summary

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Description of Contents</u>	<u>Box Description</u>
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	Box inventory 8/2009	
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NOTE: This collection consists of one folder, and is boxed in the same box with collections #009,010,011,012 and 014, in one standard legal box.

Biography

Harlan P. Colby (1841-1925) was a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1865, along with James McKee, Colby opened Colby, Sons & Company, a carriage maker. Shortly afterward, the firm became Colby, Wood & Company, with Wood buying out the partners on 1 February 1868. Thereupon Colby opened his second carriage shop, Colby, Craig & Company.

Scope and Content

Contains the original manuscript, written in 1855, and one copy, on acid free paper, of Colby's recollections of the Village of Grand Rapids. It provides descriptions of people, places, events, and some statistical data on the village's development. It details the daily hardships in a mid-19th century frontier community.

Contents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	Recollections, 1855.