

Finding Aid for the John Whalen McGee collection Collection 088

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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October 1988
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	McGee, John Whalen, 1916-1987
Title	John Whalen McGee collection of church history publications, photographs and genealogical research
Date [inclusive]	circa 1950-1976
Extent	0.46 Linear feet Two boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The John Whalen McGee Collection consists of pictorials used in his book <i>The Catholic Church in the Grand River Valley</i>. A copy of the book is included with the collection. The views depict prominent people in the Catholic Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and also include church buildings, such as interior and exterior views of St. Andrews Cathedral. Several images are associated with Louis Campau, who is credited as the founder of Grand Rapids. In May 2003, genealogical materials related to the McGee family and their Irish roots, were added to his collection. John Whalen McGee was born on October 14, 1916 and died in 1987. His family immigrated from Ireland in 1845. Whalen entered religious study in 1934, and ended up at Catholic University of American. See the online library catalog for other titles authored by McGee.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

John Whalen McGee was born on October 14, 1916, and baptized at St. Andrew's Cathedral. His parents were Ivan Emmet McGee and Mary Ellen McGee. They arrived from Ireland in 1845. Reverend McGee had three siblings, brother Richard, and sisters, Mary Jane and Sheila. All three of the children attended Catholic schools. In 1934 John McGee entered St. Stephens Seminary where he was tutored in Greek and Rhetoric. In 1937 John attended Old St Mary's on Paca St. in Baltimore for philosophy, and then at new St. Mary's for theology to finally end up in Washington at the Catholic University of America.

John's first assignment was at St. James' Parish on Bridge Street where he began the sick calls, the youth work, the preaching, the weddings and baptisms and funerals. In 1945, at the Centennial of St. James' Parish, John was assigned the task of researching and writing a parish history, where he also began his work on local history.

Scope and Contents note

The photos in this collection were compiled for the publication of the book *The Catholic Church in the Grand River Valley* written by Father John W. McGee; published by Franklin Dekleine Co., Lansing, Michigan, 1950. This finding aid includes the page number in the book where the image is shown. Further descriptions of the image can be found in the image captions, and within the book in general. Other images are included in the book that are not found in this collection, but may exist in other archival collections in the department.

Images related to Louis Campau include a photo of the tombstones for Louis and his wife, Sophie; the church he built in 1837 and the iron cross taken from this old church. Early views of Monroe Ave., a main street in Grand Rapids, are included. The images of buildings and streets may be actual photos or photos of renderings and drawings. In many cases, the source and creator of these graphics is not given, and may no longer be known.

Several of the images are photographs of documents, including maps and signed manuscript items related to the areas history. Images in this collection provide information on the Native American history of this region, as well.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department October 1988

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Unknown, Scott Crowley. Accession numbers include 2000.051.

Controlled Access Headings

Family Name(s)

- McGee

Genre(s)

- photographs

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Church history
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- Photographs

Subject(s)

- Catholic Church -- Michigan -- Grand River Valley
-

Alphabetical Index

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St. Andrews Church. Interior - 26, 27
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Item List

No./Description

- 01 People. Baraga, Frederic
- 01a Catholic Church (built by Louis Campau in 1837)
- 02 Document showing the establishment of St. Patricks Parish, Grattan, Mich.
- 03 Graves of Louis and Sophie (DeMarsac) Campau
- 04 People. Gregoria, Mary / People. Gabriella, Mary
- 05 People. Haas, Francis J. Bishop of Grand Rapids
- 06 Drawing-"Indian Chapel at the Rapids"
- 07 Indian equipment
- 08 Indian clothing and weapons
- 09 Iron cross taken from the old Campau Church
- 11 Letter addressed to President Andrew Jackson, signed by leading Indians of the Grand River Valley region
- 12 Letter sent by John Almy, surveyor, to Messrs Isaac Turner and Willard Sibley
- 13 Letter sent to Mr. Harris of the War Dept. By Bishop Reese, April 20, 1834
- 14 People. McManus, Patrick Joseph
- 15 People. Malone, Dennis E.
- 16 Map of Indian Lands and Grand Rapids, 1836
- 17 Map of Mission Reserve
- 18 "Memorial" address to President Tyler by Grand Rapids Citizens
- 19 Memorial to the Rev. Fr. Baraga and Rev. Fr. Viszosky
- 20 Monroe Avenue View, 1874
- 21 Monument to Fr. Viszosky
- 22 Old Stone Church (architect's sketch)
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- 24 People. Richter, Henry J.
- 25 St. Andrews Church
- 25a St. Andrews Church
- 26 St. Andrews Church. Interior

- 27 St. Andrews Church. Interior (reconstructed)
- 28 St. Andrews Church, 1883
- 29 St. Andrews Church, 1855
- 30 St. Andrews Church
- 31 St. Andrews School
- 32 People. Schmitt, John A.
- 33 Stained glass windows in St. Andrews Cathedral
- 33a Stained glass windows in St. Andrews Cathedral
- 34 People. Van Paemel, Edward
- 35 Old Yellow Warehouse
- 36 Replica of La Framboises' trading post on the Flat River near Ada, Mich.

Photographs

Collection Inventory

Photographs		
	Box	Folder
1. Rt. Rev. Frederic Baraga Original, 'The Camera Shop' (p.15),	1	1
1A. Rev. Frederic Baraga, Enlarged and cropped	1	1
1B. Church built by Louis Campau in 1837 (p.91)	1	1
2. Document showing the establishment of St. Patrick's Grattan, Mich. (p.120)	1	1
3. Graves of Louis and Sophie De Marsac Campau (p.137)	1	1
4. Gregoria Sr. Mary and Sr. Mary Gabriella (p.166)	1	1
5. Haas. Most Rev. Francis J., Bishop of Grand Rapids (p.viii)	1	1
6. Absent from collection, May 2003.	1	1
7. Indian Equipment	1	1
8. Indian garments and weapons sent by Fr. Baraga (p.47)2 copies	1	1

Photographs

9. Iron Cross taken from the old Campau Church (p.139) 2 copies	1	1
10. Absent	1	1
11. Letter addressed to Pres. Andrew Jackson Signed by leading Indians of the Grand River Valley region (p.101)	1	2
11A. Letter addressed to Pres. Andrew Jackson (p.101)	1	2
12. Letter sent by John Almy surveyor to Messrs Isaac Turner and Willard Sibley	1	2
12A. Letter sent by John Almy	1	2
13. Letter sent to Mr. Harris of the War Dept. by Bishop Reese Ap. 20. 1834 (p.103)	1	2
13A. Letter sent to Mr. Harris of the War Dept. by Bishop Reese Ap.20. 1834 (p.103)	1	2
13B. Letter sent to Mr. Harris of the War Dept.	1	2
14. McManus Rev. Patrick Joseph (p.184)	1	2
15. Malone. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Dennis E. (p.326)	1	2
16. Map of Indian Lands and Grand Rapids-1836 (p.64)	1	2

Photographs

16A. Map of Indian Lands-1836	1	2
17. Map of Mission Reserve	1	2
18. "Memorial" addressed to Pres. Tyler by G.R. citizens (p.109)	1	2
18A. "Memorial" (p.109)	1	2
18B. "Memorial" (p.109)	1	2
19. Memorial to the Rev. Fr. Baraga and Rev. Fr. Viszosky (p.126)	1	3
20. Monroe Ave. in 1864 (p.133)	1	3
20A. Monroe Ave. in 1864 Original (p.133)	1	3
21. Monument to Fr. Viszosky (p.142)	1	3
22. Old Stone Church (Architect's Sketch-p.135)	1	3
22A. Old stone Church (p.135)	1	3
22B. Old STONE Church (p.135)Original	1	3
23. Old Stone Church on Monroe Ave. at Ottawa St. (p.124)	1	3
24. Richter. Rt. Rev. Henry J. (p.224)	1	3

Photographs

25. St. Andrew's Cathedral (p.266)	1	3
25A.St. Andrew's Cathedral	1	3
26. St. Andrews Cathedral	1	3
27. St. Andrews Cathedral- Interior View (p.281)	1	3
28. St Andrew's Church-1883 (p.214)	1	3
29. St. Andrew's church-1855. (P.vi)	1	3
30. St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church (p.208)	1	3
30A.St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church	1	3
31. St. Andrew's School (p.194)	1	3
32. Schmitt. Rev. John A. (p.251)	1	3
33. Stained Glass Windows in St. Andrew's Cathedral (p.309)	1	3
33A.Stained Glass Windows in St. Andrew's Cathedral (p.309)	1	3
34. Van Paemel. Rev. Edward (p.147)	1	3

Documents

34A. Viszosky, Rev. Andreas First Pastor of Grand Rapids 1835-1853 (p.82)	1	3
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35. Yellow Warehouse (p.89)	1	3
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36. Trading post on the Flat River near Ada. (p.16)	1	3
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Contact photo prints of handwritten documents to President Tyler (p. 105) and "Memorial" address to Pres. Tyler by G.R. Citizens. (p. 109). Items numbered 2-5, 6 and 6a, 7 and 7a, 8-13 (14 items 10/25/2007)	1	7
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Documents

	Box	Folder
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Drawing. "Indian Chapel at the Rapids", book (54) Dedicated April 20, 1834.	1	4
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Historic Photographs: 733 Division Ave. S. Named After Phil Graham	1	5
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Book Jacket for the Book, "The Catholic Church in the Grand River Valley"...	1	6
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Genealogy Publications	2	1
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The search for our ancestors	2	1
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The Family Tree of the Descendants of Brian McGee and Brigid Wynne	2	2
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Documents

Fermanagh to Parnell, "The McGee Story"

2

3