

Finding Aid for the Catherine (Kay) Swanlund postcards and photos and Colby family memorabilia Collection 089

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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November 1988
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Swanlund, Catherine, 1911-2001
Title	Catherine (Kay) Swanlund postcards and photos and Colby family memorabilia
Date [inclusive]	1890-1985, n.d.
Extent	1.4 Linear feet Four boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>This collection is named for its donor, Catherine (Kay) Swanlund (1911-2001). The bulk of the materials here represent her postcard collecting interests, including Grand Rapids views from 1890-1985. Shown are streets, churches, parks, hospitals, and businesses. Also found is a section of Grand Rapids business cards, 1870-1940. Documents and photographs found in the collection provide personal and family history. A Colby Genealogy is included, as well as photos of the Colby family and a family residence in Amesbury, Mass.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Catherine Louise Vanderhoff was born July 23, 1911 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, daughter of Frances Louise Wood Vanderhoff and Ray Vanderhoff. She had 3 children Barbara, Virginia, and Ray. The girls from a previous marriage. Her marriage was ending when she began studying a home course in interior design while working an interior decorating studio the last year in New York. She left New York and returned to Grand Rapids in July 1947. Subsequently, she supported herself and her children for a number of years as Kay Hanger A.S.I.D.

She returned to Grand Rapids in Aug. 1947 to work for the Inez White Huyge Decorating Studio. In 1955, she opened her own studio at 841 Wealthy St. S.E., later 2176 Wealthy Street. Later she was manager of the interior design department at Wurzburg Department Store, until it closed downtown in 1971.

Kay Hanger met and married Vincent G. Swanlund, (January 21, 1912 - April 28, 1985) in April 1951. It is said that they had an antique shop together late in life, and that the postcards gathered there are the collection that is included in this Grand Rapids Public Library archival collection.

Kay Swanlund had an interest in family and genealogy. A portion of this collection includes photos and genealogical notes on the Colby family. Ms. Swanlund may have used the Colby family name during her lifetime. Colby was Catherine (Kay) Swanlund's great grandmother's maiden name (Sarah Colby Wood), but never appears to have actually been Catherine (Kay) Swanlund's legal name, per the evidence here. Margaret Josephine Savage married the son of Sarah Colby Wood, Ernest Arthur Wood in Jan. 1892. Their daughter Frances, born Nov. 2, 1892, was Kay Swanlund's mother. The reminiscences, added to this collection in 2002, after Kay Swanlund's death on Nov. 8, 2001, provide more genealogical information on the Savage family. Kay Swanlund was a personal friend of City Historian Emeritus Gordon Olson. She is shown with Olson in one of the photographs in this collection.

Scope and Contents note

The bulk of the collection consists of postcards collected by Catherine Swanlund depicting the history of Grand Rapids (Mich.) from c.1890 to 1985. Of special interest are the business cards, some of which are from firms owned by family members. Included in the collection is the Colby family genealogy, and photographs of the Colby family. Also noteworthy in the correspondence portion of the collection is the stationary from Grand Rapids hotels, 1916.

Of interest is patent information for "Antifriction Bearing for Wheels" filed by Harlan Page Colby, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, dated Apr. 10, 1900. In 2002, a draft of Ms. Swanlund's reminiscences and family history was added to the collection, including the Savage family who moved to Grand Rapids,

Michigan from Chicago, Ill, in 1883. A few periodical articles in the collection also document her career as an interior designer, early under the name Kay Hanger.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Catherine Swanlund: March 1986, April 1988; Estate, 2002

Accession numbers 1986.135, 1988.011, 1986.067, 2002.077.

Controlled Access Headings

Family Name(s)

- Colby
- Savage

Genre(s)

- personal papers

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Postcards -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

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Series I. Documents

Collection Inventory

Series I. Documents		
	Box	Folder
Colby Genealogy, c.1983	1	1
Colby Genealogy	1	2
Correspondence, January - September 1916	1	3
“For the Benefit of My Posterity”, 1997 draft of the reminiscences and family history of Kay Hanger Swanlund, with handwritten additions and annotations. Includes Savage family genealogical notes.	1	4
Computer diskette of reminiscence	1	5
Series II. Postcards, c. 1890-1985		
	Box	Folder
Administration Bldg., Aquinas College	2	1
American Red Cross Canteen Station	2	2
American Seating Company	2	3

Series II. Postcards, c. 1890-1985

Baker Furniture Company	2	4
Bauman's Cafe	2	5
Bauman's Cafe. Interior	2	6
Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company	2	7
Blodgett Children's Home	2	8
Blodgett Memorial Hospital	2	9
Bridge Street Bridge	2	10
Burleson Hospital	2	11
Burton High School	2	12
Butterworth Hospital	2	13
Campau Park	2	14
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Campau Square Panoramic views (2)	2	14.75
Cascade Country Club	2	15

Series II. Postcards, c. 1890-1985

Central High School	2	16
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City Hall	2	19
City Hospital	2	20
City Markets	2	21
Cody Hotel	2	22
Coliseum	2	23
College Ave. Views	2	24
Commerce Bldg.	2	25
County Court House	2	26
Crescent Park	2	27
Davenport College of Business	2	28
Design Quest	2	29

Series II. Postcards, c. 1890-1985

Division Ave. Views	2	30
Elk's Temple	2	31
Federal Square Bldg.	2	32
Fire Engine House	2	33
Fish Hatcheries	2	34
Foster-Stevens and Company Bldg.	2	35
Fountain Street Church	2	36
Fox Deluxe Brewing Company	2	37
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Friant House	2	39
Furniture City Showcase, Kent Co. Airport Exhibit	2	40
Gardens	2	41
Gilbert Bldg.	2	42
Grand Rapids Art Museum	2	43

Series II. Postcards, c. 1890-1985

Grand Rapids Boat and Canoe Club	2	44
Grand Rapids Fancy Furniture	2	45
Grand Rapids Homecoming	2	46
Grand Rapids Post Office	2	47
Grand Rapids Press Bldg.	2	48
Grand Rapids Public Library	2	49
Grand Rapids Public Museum	2	50
Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music	2	51
Grand Rapids Views (8)	2	51.5
Grand River Views	2	52
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Series II. Postcards, c. 1890-1985

Hall St. Blvd. Views	2	57
Hall of Justice	2	58
Hermitage Hotel	2	59
Highland Park	2	60
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Imperial Furniture Company	2	62
Interstate Bldg.	2	63
Interurban Bridge	2	64
John Ball Park	2	65
Johnson, C.J. Cigar Company	2	66
Kendall School of Design	2	67
Kent Country Club	2	68
Kent County Airport	2	69
Kent County International Airport	2	70

Series II. Postcards, c. 1890-1985

Klingman's Furniture Company	2	71
Ladies Literary Club	2	72
Lafayette Ave. Views	2	73
Lakeside Club House	2	74
Leonard Fountain Exposition Bldg.	2	75
Leonard St. Bridge	2	76
Lincoln Park	2	77
Little Sisters of the Poor Hospital	2	78
Livingston Hotel	2	79
Luce Furniture Company	2	80
Macatawa, Mich.	2	81
Macy Company	2	82
Madison Square	2	83
Martin Luther King Park	2	84

Series II. Postcards, c. 1890-1985

Masonic Home	2	85
Masonic Temple	2	86
McKay Tower	2	87
Merten's Hotel	2	88
Metcalf Funeral Home	2	89
Michigan Ave. Views	2	90
Michigan National Guard Armory	2	91
Michigan Trust company Bldg.	2	92
Michigan Veteran's Facility	2	93
Monroe Ave. Views	2	94
Monroe Center Views	2	95
Monument Park	2	96
Morton House (hotel)	2	97
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Series II. Postcards, c. 1890-1985

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Northern Refridgerator Company	2	101
Olds Manor	2	102
Orchard Hill	2	103
Oriel Cabinet Company	2	104
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Series II. Postcards, c. 1890-1985

Phoenix Furniture Company	2	113
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Pythian Temple	2	116
Ramona Park	2	117
Reeds Lake	2	118
Sigsbee School	2	119
Sligh Furniture Company	2	120
South Division St. School	2	121
South High School	2	122
Spanish-American War Memorial	2	123
St. Andrew's Cathedral	2	124
St. Andrew's Parish School	2	125
St. Augustine, Fla.	2	126

Series II. Postcards, c. 1890-1985

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St. John's Orphanage	2	128
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State Street Views	2	132
Stickley Brothers Furniture Company	2	133
Stratford Arms	2	134
Trade Center	2	135
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church	2	136
U.B.A. Hospital	2	137
Union High School	2	138
Union Station	2	139
Vandenburg Center	2	140

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Veteran's Memorial Park	2	141
Voigt Milling Company	2	142
Water Pumping Station	2	143
Waters Furniture Exposition Bldg.	2	144
Watson House	2	145
Welsh Civic Auditorium	2	146
West Bridge St.	2	147
West Gardener, Mass.	2	148
Westminster Presbyterian Church	2	149
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Young and Chaffee Furniture Company (2, 6/11/2001)	2	151
YWCA (1 item, 6/11/2001)	2	152
Business Cards (11 cards, 2 booklets)		

Cards

Cards		
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Bissell	2	153
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	Box	Folder

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Spring & Co.	2	153
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Series III. Ephemera, 1900-1941.		
	Box	Folder
Decorator's Forum. "Come Down to the Sea in My Ship" / by Kay Hanger, of Kray Interiors East. "Grand Valley Living". June-July, 1963, pg. 52-53	3	1
"No Short Cut" Typed manuscript of article for Grand Valley Living. 2 ½ sheets, poor quality paper.	3	2

Biographical clippings for William B. Banks and Mrs. William Banks.

Kray Kraft ... Exclusive Makers of Wall Tables. [Furniture Trade flyer] n.d.	3	3
Newspaper clipping, "Room Settings Share in Show Spotlight" / by Kay Kaukonis. "Detroit News" Feb. 23, 1962.	3	4
Newspaper clipping, "Room Shows GR Furniture in Detroit" "GR Press" and "Detroit Free Press", Feb. 1962.	3	4
"In search of the hard work America : Vincent Swanlund, a rat race eases out, sells only what he can bear to part with / by Dan Hager. "GR Press, Wonderland." Aug. 18, 1974.	3	5
United States Patent Office. Antifriction Bearing for Wheels / Harlan Page Colby, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 647,377, dated Apr. 10, 1900.	3	6
Menu. The Crathmore, opposite Union Depot, Grand Rapids, Mi. Thur. Jan. 24, 1907	3	7
Pictorial Guide to Historic Amesbury / compiled by The History Committee of the Town of Amesbury. Photography by Stanley O. Bean. Rosley, Mass. : Rowley Printing, Inc. 1975.	3	9
Biographical clippings for William B. Banks and Mrs. William Banks.		
	Box	Folder
Peninsular Club News. His Obit. Feb. 1941.	3	8

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GR Herald. Jan. 27, 1941. His obit.	3	8
Reflections of an Editor / by Frank M. Sparks. Jan. 27, 1941.	3	8
GR Woman has 3 audiences with Pope / by Robert W. Host. GR press. 1949.	3	8

Series IV. Photographs**Photos of Kay Swanlund (2)**

	Box	Folder
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Swanlund left, daughter Happy (Virginia) hanger Whitman right. Jan. 1989	4	1

Misc. photos (6)

	Box	Folder
William Bartholomew Banks	4	2
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Memorial to the first Settlers of Amesbury	4	2
Macy Colby House. Amesbury, mass. Photo postcard	4	2

Misc. photos (6)

Wood tombstone. Oaklawn.	4	2
Kendall stones.	4	2
	Box	Folder
b/w historical family copy photos (12)	4	2.1
color snapshots (10). Includes: Banks: Maria, William Bartholomew; Colby: Clytie, Harry, Mrs. Luther, Luther, Colby sisters; Clay: David P., Mrs. David P.; Wood: Arthur, Sarah Colby, Donna Belle, family; Spraker: Margaret	4	2.2
Small navy plastic photo album. Including Rose Hall, Beccles, England; Colby House, Amesbury, Mass.	4	3
Kay Hanger, Kray Kraft related furniture photos. (3)	4	4
Copy photoprints of postcards in this collection., including New YMCA Bldg. #270 [1918]	4	5