

# **Finding Aid for the Kent County Original Survey Collection Collection 099**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

May 1989

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Title</b>	Kent County original survey collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1826-1958, n.d.
<b>Extent</b>	1.1 Linear feet Three boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Kent County, Michigan Survey Collection is a study collection, the bulk of which is survey records duplicated from material at the State of Michigan Archives and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, both located in Lansing, Michigan. The photocopied material is from the original surveyors' reports for Kent County. The first reports delineate the exterior lines for the County and its townships. The second section of the reports delineates the interior, or section, lines. The reports contain extensive descriptions of the County's topography and flora at the time of the surveys, as well as maps plotting physical features such as Indian villages, trails and gardens, in addition to the requisite survey lines. The original manuscript material dates from 1826 to 1838. The manuscript maps on microfilm date from 1826 to 1958.</p>

## Biographical/Historical note

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The Public Land Survey System, also called the rectangular survey system, was the second survey system used in the United States. The original survey system used for the 13 colonies was based upon a British system that had some disadvantages. The rectangular system records a baseline (east and west) and a meridian (north and south). The townships and sections laid out under the system provide the structure into which specific legal land descriptions, used in land titles and deeds, are specified.

The first meridian baseline survey in Michigan was in 1815.

The surveyors listed in these Kent County records were, in order of number of surveys they performed:

Charles W. Cathcart

John Mullet

Lucius Lyon

Rasselas Witcomb

Noah Brookfield

Enoch Hammer

Robert Clark, Jr.

While surveying an exterior line of T.8 N., R.11 W. (Plainfield Township), Robert Clark died. His death and location of death is noted in the surveyor's report.

For additional historical information see the reference sources in Box 3 of this collection, and the Internet sites listed above.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The material in the Kent County Michigan Survey Collection consists of the original surveyors' reports for Kent County. The first reports delineate the exterior lines for the County and its townships. The second section of the reports delineates the interior, or section, lines. The reports contain extensive description of the county's topography (land forms, water courses and swamps) and flora at the time of the surveys, as well as maps plotting Indian villages, trails and gardens in addition to the requisite survey lines. The manuscript material dates from 1826 to 1838.

The manuscript maps on microfilm date from 1826 to 1958. The maps detail the entire southwest quarter of the Lower Peninsula and the Kent County maps will be found approximately two-thirds of the way into

the roll. Generally the townships are listed in order beginning with the northeastern most township in the county and proceed in alternating horizontal tiers of townships.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department May 1989

### **Revision Description**

2004

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Library purchase, 1989.

### **Existence and Location of Originals note**

The survey documents in the collection are facsimile copies of holdings at the Michigan States Archives and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. This material was provided to the Grand Rapids Public Library in 1989 for the purpose of creating convenient local access to this historical research material. Citations should always indicate that this data is a copy of material held by the Michigan States Archives and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

Coll. 279, Lucius Lyon Papers

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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**Genre(s)**

- government records

**Geographic Name(s)**

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Kent County (Mich.) -- History

**Subject(s)**

- Kent County (Mich.) -- Surveys
- Real property -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- Maps

## Exterior Lines, 1826-1837

## Collection Inventory

<b>Exterior Lines, 1826-1837</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
T.7-8 N., R.9-13 W., 1837	1	1
T.3-8 N., R.11 W., 1826	1	2
T.3-10 N., R.2-10 W., 1826	1	3
T.5 N., R.1-10 W., 1826	1	4
T.9 N., R.7-13 W., 1837	1	5
<b>Interior Lines, 1831-1838, 1826-1953, n.d.</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
T.5 N., R.9 W. (Bowne), 1831	1	6
T.6 N., R.9 W. (Lowell), 1831, 1837	1	7
T.7 N., R.9 W. (Vergennes), 1838	1	8
T.8 N., R.9 W. (Grattan), 1837	1	9

## Interior Lines, 1831-1838, 1826-1953, n.d.

T.9 N., R.9 W. (Oakfield), 1837	1	10
T.10 N., R.9 W. (Spencer), 1837	1	11
T.5 N., R.10 W. (Caledonia), 1830	1	12
T.6 N., R.10 W. (Cascade), 1831	1	13
T.7 N., R.10 W. (Ada), 1837	1	14
T.8 N., R.10 W. (Cannon), 1837	1	15
T.9 N., R.10 W. (Courtland), 1837	1	16
T.10 N., R.10 W. (Nelson), 1837	1	17
T.5 N., R.11 W. (Gaines), 1831	1	18
T.6 N., R.11 W. (Paris), 1830	1	19
T.7 N., R.11 W. (Grand Rapids), 1831	1	20
T.8 N., R.11 W. (Plainfield), 1831, 1837	2	1
T.9 N., R.11 W. (Algoma), 1837	2	2
T.10 N., R.11 W. (Solon), 1837	2	3



**Michigan Surveying Historical Reference Materials [added 11/2/2004]**

T.5 N., R.12 W. (Byron), 1832	2	4
T.6 N., R.12 W. (Wyoming), 1832, 1838	2	5
T.7 N., R.12 W. (Walker), 1831, 1837	2	6
T.8 N., R.12 W. (Alpine), 1838	2	7
T.9 N., R.12 W. (Sparta), 1837	2	8
T.10 N., R.12 W. (Tyrone), 1837	2	9
Fractionals, Meanders, Corrections, n.d.	2	10
		<b>Box</b>
35mm diazo film of manuscript survey maps, 1826-1953.		2

**Michigan Surveying Historical Reference Materials [added 11/2/2004]**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Historical Events Influencing Surveys of U.S. Public Lands [timeline] / source unknown	3	1
Surveys and Surveyors in Frontier Michigan / by Alan S. Brown, WMU. (Michigan History Division. Great lakes Informant. Series 1, no. 3, 1975)	3	2

## Michigan Museum of Surveying flyers

General Instructions to Deputy Surveyors / Office of the Surveyor General of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan.	3	4
“Workaday life of Early Surveyors” Ch. 5 from Public Land Surveys : history, instructions and methods / Lowell O. Stewart. Minneapolis, Mn. : Meyers Printing Co., 1975.	3	5
<b>Michigan Museum of Surveying flyers</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
A Brief History of Surveying	3	3
The Michigan Society of Registered land Surveyors Foundation presents Michigan Museum of Surveying.	3	3