

Finding Aid for the Josephene Bender family memorabilia collection Collection 114

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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May 1990
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Bender, Josephene, 1894-1996
Title	Josephene Bender family memorabilia collection
Date [inclusive]	1862-1980, n.d.
Extent	2.75 Linear feet Five boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Josephene Bender (1894-1996) was a lifelong resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan. This collection contains correspondence, photos and memorabilia from the Bender family, dating from 1862 to 1980. Of special interest is the 1862-1864 correspondence written by Theodore Knapp, who served in the Confederate Army. Also included are images of Great Britain during World War I, including photos of Civil Engineer and former Grand Rapids resident Zac Ellis Knapp giving a factory facilities tour to the King and other Royal Family members in 1918. Images of a family trip to Buffalo for the Pan Am Exposition are included. The collection also contains family genealogy and a history of the Kent Country Club.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

A lifelong resident of Grand Rapids, Josephene Bender (1894-1996), was the daughter of Charles H. Bender and Sallie Knapp. Bender began her school career at Wealthy Street Public School. She remained there only a year, entering Miss Moffett's private school, located on Jefferson Ave. Bender graduated from Grand Rapids Central High School in 1912. She then attended Vassar College, graduating in 1916. Upon her return to Grand Rapids, Bender enrolled at McLaughlin's Business College, where she learned shorthand, typing and bookkeeping. Miss Bender had a lifelong interest in the theater, in 1927 she was one of the founders of the Grand Rapids Civic Players, later to become the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre. In 1939 she became the Business Manager for the Civic Theatre, a position she held for the next ten years.

Bender was also an avid golfer. Her father was one of the founders of the Kent Country Club, and she began playing golf at the age of twelve. She won the city championship in 1928 and 1933. Bender played in many tournaments around the state, and was involved in forming the Western Michigan, State and other golf associations. More recently, Bender wrote the history of the Kent Country Club.

Bender was also one of the organizers of the Grand Rapids Junior League. She served as president in 1927-28. In addition to all these activities, she was a member of the Butterworth Hospital Diet Kitchen Guild, for many years.

For more biographical information on Josephene Bender and her family see the Michigan Room's Portrait and Biographical file. For further information on her father, Charles, Henry Bender, see also the Grand Rapids Public Library's manuscript collection #24.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains family photographs, correspondence, and memorabilia (1862-1980), collected by Josephene Bender. Items of interest in the collection are:

Correspondence between Knapp and his wife Nancy Ellis Knapp, 1862-64. These letters are unique because the Knapps, living in the South during the Civil War, provide information about civilian life in the towns and military life in the camps. Also in the series are copies of letters to and from Charles Bender, (1917, 1923). The Photograph series depict the British Royal Family (1918), and Bender family members. In the publication series is a scrapbook of photos of women working in a British factory during WWI. These British photos were collected by Zac Ellis Knapp, who worked in England, and conducted the tour of the factory for the Royal Family. Also of interest in the photograph series is a picture of Benjamin Hanchett's railway car "The Honolulu."

The originals of the "April Fools" letters are in manuscript collection #24.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department May 1990

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Josephene Bender, 1983-1984, no accession number

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 024, Charles H. Bender Correspondence.

Coll. 216, GRPL Ephemera Collection, under Clubs, includes another copy of Josephene Bender's history of the Kent County Club organization. Another copy is housed with Coll. 328.

Coll. 216-8 Has: Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, 1925-1945, which includes an image of Josephene Bender.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Kent Country Club. (Grand Rapids, Mich.)

Family Name(s)

- Bender
- Ellis

Genre(s)

- family papers

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- Confederate States of America -- Army -- Chaplains.
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Series I. Correspondence

Collection Inventory

Series I. Correspondence

Scope and Contents note

Includes historical family correspondence, mostly original items. The Charles H. Bender items noted in the abstract are copied of originals found in Coll. 024.

	Box	Folder
1862	1	1
1864-1866.	1	2
1864-1868.	1	3
1865	2	1
1871	1	4
1891	2	2
n.d.	1	5
Correspondence, Charles Bender, 1917, 1923. [photocopies, See Coll. 024 for originals]	1	6

Series II. Photographs

Series II. Photographs

Scope and Contents note

Includes images of individual family members, Grand Rapids groups, and family involved in activities in various parts of the U.S. and Great Britain.

	Box	Folder
People. Bender, Sallie Knapp, 1889, 1891, 1904, n.d. (7 5/16/2005)	1	7
People. Bender Charles, 1905, n.d. (4 5/16/2005)	1	8
People. Knapp, Zac Ellis, and Knapp, Donna, n.d. (4 5/16/2005)	1	9
People. Britain's Royal Family, ca. 1918. (3 5/16/2005)	1	10
		Box
People. Knapp, Rev. Theodore Judson, n.d. P.A. Miller's celebrated French Crystal Picture. Jackson, Mich. [GLASS] (1 5/16/2005)		4.5
	Box	Folder
People. Groups, Beta Theta Pi, Feb. 7, 1914, with David Hunting first left. Verso has large group identified as "2nd Assembly, 1914"	2	3
Group photos, unidentified, Charles Bender and Frederick Stevens families, Pan American exposition, Buffalo, N.Y., 1901. (13 5/16/2005)	1	11
Factory Interior, Britain, ca. 1910. (3 5/16/2005)	1	12

Series III. Ephemera

Headstone of Rev. Theodore J. Knapp, n.d. (3 5/16/2005)	1	13
Streetcar, "The Honolulu" owned by Benjamin Hanchett, n.d. (1 5/16/2005)	1	14
Theatrical productions, n.d. (4, 5/16/2005)	1	15
Zac Ellis Knapp Royal Family Factory Tour Album, 1918.	2	8

Series III. Ephemera

Scope and Contents note

Includes biographical information such as written biographies and a family genealogy, obituaries, wedding, certificates, a telegram and menu card. Also placed here is Dr. Knapps scrapbooks, evidently related to his sermons.

	Box	Folder
Menu Card, 1890, complimentary dinner for Charles Bender.	1	16
Response to toast given at a dinner for Charles Bender, 1890.	2	4
Sermon written by Rev. Theodore Knapp, 1892, News article, 1953.	1	17
Souvenir Program, the London United Tramways, 1913.	1	18
Telegram, 1920.	1	19

Series III. Ephemera

Inauguration of the Morden Extension and the Kennington Loop, Minutes of Proceedings of a Luncheon, held at the Morden Depot (City & South London Railway) on Sept. 13, 1926. [Great Britain] Mentions Mr. Knapp as Director of Construction, pg. 12.	2	5
Knapp, Zac Ellis, obituary, 1926.	1	20
Charles Bender, Announcement, 1931.	1	21
Certificate, To Charles H. Bender, Chairman, Michigan State Emergency Welfare Relief Commission, June 29, 1933. From William A. Comstock, Governor.	4	1
Broadside, T.O.T. Mutual Aid, ca. 1910. [Britain, WWI]	4	1
United States Journal of Elocution and Oratory. V. 4, no. 1, Jan. 1891.	4	1
Charles Bender obituaries and memorials, 1936.	1	22
Newsclippings, 1936, 1976.	1	23
Biography, Mrs. Charles (Sallie Knapp) Bender, 1945-1953.	1	24
Wedding invitation, Zac Ellis Knapp, n.d.	1	25
Family Genealogy "The Uprooting of Captain Ellis," 1978.	1	26
Rev. Dr. Knapp Scrapbook, n.d. [Poor condition]	2	9

Series IV. Publications

Detroit Fire and Marine Insurance Company Memorial to Charles H. Bender, 1936.	2	6
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Series IV. Publications**Scope and Contents note**

Notable among the publications are two items related to William Alden Smith and the sinking of the Titanic. Also included here is Josephene Bender's booklet on the history of the Kent County Club. Two books include historical images that may be valuable to researchers, the Colonial Club 1897, and the Nomination publication for William Alden Smith, which includes images of Michigan politicians, ca. 1907.

	Box	Folder
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The Colonial Club of Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1897. Includes images of members, most with signature identifications.	2	7
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The Nomination of a Senator, 1907. Inscribed by William Alden Smith. RE his nomination for US Senator. Reported and published by Bender & Brewer, Shorthand Reporters, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Includes images of many notables, from Grand Rapids and the State.	3	2
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The Titanic Disaster, Speech of Hon. William Alden Smith of Michigan in the Senate of the United States, May 28, 1912. Washington, D.C. : GPO.	3	3
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When Kent Was Young : an early history and reminiscences / Josephene Bender, 1980. RE: Kent Country Club.	3	5
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