

**Finding aid for the Grand Rapids Public
Library African American newspaper
clippings collection: Bajema collection
Collection 290**

Finding aid prepared by R. Mayne

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

September 27, 2014

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

October 2007

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503

616-988-5400

localhis@grpl.org

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	4
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Related Materials</u>	6
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	6
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	7
<u>Series I. Arranged by Date</u>	7
<u>Unprocessed</u>	9

Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Grand Rapids Public Library African American newspaper clippings collection: Bajema collection
Date [inclusive]	1836-1936
Extent	2.7 Linear feet Six boxes
Language	English
Abstract	This collection contains photocopies of newspaper clippings reporting the lives of African Americans in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The newspaper clippings cover a hundred year period, from 1830 to 1936. They include mostly Grand Rapids newspapers but are supplemented with clippings from Chicago and other Michigan newspapers. Review and collection of the articles was primarily done by the donor, Carl Bajema.

Biographical/Historical note

Dr. Carl Bajema is a Professor of Biology at Grand Valley State University, where he has been on the faculty since 1964. For the past 18 years he has studied the environmental history of Michigan, concentrating on the natural and cultural history of the Grand River Valley. As part of his research activities Professor Bajema has reviewed old newspapers on microfilm, for those published before 1930, for articles related to deforestation and reforestation, terrestrial and aquatic animal populations, transportation, recreation, pollution, floods and flood control. The contents of these articles provide information on the environmental impact of such activities during the first one hundred years of white settlement of the Grand River Valley.

During his newspaper research, Bajema began to notice other important articles on other topics, and was encouraged to print these out for placement in the Grand Rapids Public Library newspaper clipping files. This endeavor grew until Bajema derived clipping files developed in the several broad subject areas, including the Civil War, baseball, education and women.

This collection, the GRPL African American Newspaper Clippings Coll., is a result of Bajema's discovery of newspaper articles on this important ethnic group in U.S. History. The clippings are primarily from the local Grand Rapids newspapers of the era, but also in newspapers of other nearby cities. The addition of some information from other cities was prompted by the absence of local papers for certain time periods, or due to the value of the information found in the other papers. Dates missing from the local papers in the middle of a run are believed to have been published, unless otherwise noted, but disappeared before the microfilming was done in the mid-20th century.

Carl Bajema has been a local historian in the broader sense for a number of years, having been a member of the Grand Rapids Historical Commission, and an active member of the Grand Rapids Historical Society, winning the Baxter Award from that organization in 2006.

Scope and Contents note

An index for the collection is available on the library's website (African American Newspaper Clippings).

During the life of these clippings the term "Negro" was used, instead of the later "Black" or "African American" or other terminology. It is also possible that the individuals documented here were not all from Africa, though this data is unlikely to be provided in most cases via the clippings.

The newspaper articles are arranged by date. The newspapers included in this collection have different span dates. A list of these dates was compiled for the Civil War portion of the Bajema collection. This collection likely contains the same date spans, but there may be some variation.

Allegan Journal: 27 January 1862-15 Feb 1869.

Alcona Country Review: 28 February 1897.

Alpena Angus: 31 March 1886-18 September 1895.

Coopersville Observer: 03 January 1919.

Detroit Advertiser & Tribune: 07 May 1861-29 December 1863.

Detroit Free Press: 14 July 1864-02 Dec 1869.

Grand Haven Evening/Daily Tribune: 14 October 1893-17 November 1926.

Grand Haven News: 07 December 1859-03 February 1864.

Grand Rapids Daily Democrat: 13 December 1865-22 July 1897.

Grand Rapids Daily Eagle: 03 May 1858-27 September 1893

Grand Rapids Enquirer & Herald: 05 Jan 1856-02 July 1862.

Grand Rapids Evening Press: 12 January 1893-26 May 1925.

Grand Rapids Herald: 09 October 1886-11 October 1929.

Grand Rapids News: 02 May 1913.

Grand Rapids Times: 09 October 1875.

Ionia Standard: 09,23 September 1875, 20 January 1876, 11 January 1877.

Manistee Daily News: 27 January 1897.

Muskegon Daily Chronicle: 19 June 1891-03 July 1913.

Petoskey Record: 25 Nov. 1908

Reed City Clarion: 24 October 1884-04 August 1897.

Roscommon News: 08 June 1888.

Sault Saint Marie News: 17 December 1892

There is also one folder of miscellaneous and undated newspaper clippings.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department October 2007

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Carl Bajema, accession number 1999.035.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 244, Michigan Soldiers Reported in Civil War Era Newspapers : Bajema Collection. Index in preparation by volunteer John Gelderloos.

Coll. 113, Black History Exhibit Collection, 1984/1985. Funded by: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Coll. 249, Grand Rapids Public Library African American History Collection

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- newspapers

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Subject(s)

- African Americans -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Series I. Arranged by Date.

Collection Inventory

Series I. Arranged by Date.		
	Box	Folder
1830-1839	1	1
1840-1849	1	2
1859-1855	1	3
1856-1858	1	4
1859-1862	1	5
1863-1864	1	6
1865-1867	1	7
1868-1869	1	8
1870-1872	1	9
1873-1875	1	10
1876-1880	1	11

Series I. Arranged by Date.

1881-1883	1	12
1884	2	1
1885-1886	2	2
1887-1888	2	3
1889-1890	2	4
1891	2	5
1892-1893	2	6
1894-1895	2	7
1896-1899	3	1
1900-1901	3	2
1902-1904	3	3
1905-1907	3	4
1908-1910	3	5
1911-1914	3	6

Unprocessed

1915-1920			3	7
1921-1922			3	8
1923-1924			3	9
1925-1929			3	10
1930-1936			3	11
Unprocessed	Box	Box	Box	Box
	7	4	6	5