

Finding aid for the Captain Charles Eugene Belknap collection Collection 300

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History and Special Collections
Title:	Capt. Charles Eugene Belknap collection
ID:	Collection 300
ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::RESOURCE]:	309
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1860-2007
Date [bulk]:	1860-1931
Physical Description:	3.4 Linear Feet Seven boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Captain Charles Eugene Belknap (1846-1929) was a veteran of the Civil War and a well-known politician, businessman, fireman and historian from Grand Rapids, Michigan. This devised collection brings together several small accessions of material related to Belknap. The bulk of the collection consists of Belknap's writings on local history, usually handwritten copies. Also included is biographical information, correspondence, ephemera, a few photographs and programs from the dedication of the Belknap statue at Belknap Park.

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Biographical / Historical

As with many early Grand Rapids settlers, Belknap was born in New York in 1846, migrating west with his family to Grand Rapids in 1855. His parents were James A. and Mary A. Belknap. He was the second living son among 7 children listed in the 1860 Census. That year, at 16 he joined the military, rising through the ranks. He was made First Lieutenant by special orders from General P.H. Sheridan due to gallant service in the Battle of Chicamauga in the Civil War, and then Captain in January 1964 due to service at Chattanooga. He was with General Sherman in the "March to the Sea." He was known by the name Captain for the rest of his life and was locally known as an expert on the War.

After leaving the service in 1865, Belknap lived on a farm in Sparta until 1871. On Dec. 26, 1866 he married Chloe M. Caswell; they had four daughters. Chloe died

After 1871 the Belknaps moved to Grand Rapids where he became a blacksmith. As he prospered, he became more involved in public service, first as a fireman, then in several city positions including Mayor in 1884.

Today Belknap is most often remembered as an author of publications which inform the reader of the early history of Western Michigan and the Grand Rapids area.

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Scope and Contents

As with the Campau, Lyon and Rix Robinson collections, there may be a few items that actually belonged to or are of the era of these early Grand Rapids figures. But, there may also be other and later materials in these general historical pioneer collections, which provide additional information about their lives and importance to Grand Rapids, or service to the citizens of Grand Rapids, Michigan and the United States.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

localhis@grpl.org

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Various donors, accession numbers B20,1987.027, 1987.026, 00.[2073].1 and 00.[5029].1.

Fred DeYoung gift, photographs, 1987.026

Clara Bousfield gift, Boy Scouts, 1987.027

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Controlled Access Headings

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Politicians -- Michigan -- Biography
- personal papers
- Belknap, Charles Eugene

Collection Inventory

Series I. Biographical and Bibliographical

Scope and Contents

Draft Writings Note: Items in Box 4 were previously rolled, and have been humidified, flattened and put in folders. There are generally unprocessed, and items previously rolled together may not actually belong together in the folders where current housed. Oversized items continued to be housed in Box 4, while one legal folders is in Box 3, and the other folders of Drafts have been added to Box 2.

Biographical

Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical misc.	Box 1	Folder 1
Graphic Clipping of a younger Belknap. From "The Review". See Coll. 285 for this title.	Box 1	Folder 1
Graphic Clipping of an older Belknap. Source unknown.	Box 1	Folder 1
Flyer on photo paper for the Charles Belknap House, 455 Madison SE. Built in 1878 by Joseph Penney. Apr. 22, 2007 handwritten date, with asking purchase price.	Box 1	Folder 1

Belknap Statue

Title/Description	Instances	
Program. Dedication Services of the Memorial Statue to Capt. Charles Eugene Belknap, 1846-1929. Dec. 26, 1931. 00. [2073].1	Box 1	Folder 2
Rededication of the Charles E. Belknap Monument. Sept. 8, 2001. Belknap Park. [program] Moved from the Vertical File, 6/8/2009	Box 1	Folder 2

Unveiling of Belknap Statue / Elvin Swarouth, Dec. 26, 1931. Formerly MKG92.B41Sw2 00.[1535].1-2	Box 3	Folder 1
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Belknap's Writings

Title/Description	Instances
The Legend of the Trailing Arbutus / by Charles E. Belknap. GR : Dean-Hicks, c.1924. Handmade? Book. Formerly M398.B41. c. 1: 00.[2118].1 Inscribed by the author; c. 2: 00.[2839].1	Box 1
[History of the Michigan organizations at Chickamauga, Chattanooga and missionary Ridge, 1863 / Charles E. Belknap. Lansing : R. Smith Printing Co., 1899.] Original title page missing ; data from WorldCat. Formerly M973.7.B412 1899. 00.[2522].1	Box 1
The Legend of the Trailing Arbutus / by Charles E. Belknap, appears to be handmade with red suede cover [2021.016]	Box 1.5
Yesterdays in Grand Rapids / compiled by Edmond P. Gibson. 1951. Index to Belknap's book "TheYesterdays of Grand Rapids", 1922. 00.[5029].1	Box 1.5
Yesterdays of Grand Rapids / by Charles E. Belknap. G.R. : Dean Hicks Co., 1922, 1958 printing "For the benefit of Mayflower Congregational Church ..." Formerly M977.456.B412 1958. 00.[5171].1. Has inscription on front flyleaf.	Box 1.5
Yesterdays of Grand Rapids / by Charles E. Belknap. G.R. : Dean Hicks Co. [2021.016], 1922	Box 1.5
A Remembrance of Grand Rapids Michigan Historic Souvenir G.A.R Encampment, signed by Charles Belknap [2021.016], 1927	Box 1.5
The Legend of the Trailing Artubus / Dean-Hicks publisher [2021.016], 1924	Box 1.5

Handwritten drafts of Belknap's Writings?

Title/Description	Instances
Bear Sick	Box 1 Folder 4
Camp Fire Smoke (2)	Box 1 Folder 5
The Canal	Box 1 Folder 6
Dan in North Carolina	Box 1 Folder 7
Finn Baby	Box 1 Folder 8
Laughing Fish River	Box 1 Folder 9
In Michigan's North Woods	Box 1 Folder 10

My Captain ...	Box 1	Folder 11
Chief Ah Mik and his people	Box 1	Folder 12
Legend of Ah Mik	Box 1	Folder 13
Mill Creek / Ah Mik, The Beaver + Mill Creek	Box 1	Folder 14
Story of Ah-Mik, The Beaver.	Box 1	Folder 15
Ancestors of Nu on cee see be	Box 1	Folder 16
Nu on cee see be	Box 1	Folder 17
When the Indians lived on the O-WASH-Ta-Nong	Box 1	Folder 18
Misc. pages	Box 1	Folder 19
Madam Magdelina LaFramboise (1)	Box 1	Folder 20
Madam Magdelina LaFramboise (2)	Box 1	Folder 21
Pee-Nah, the Pigeon [the Mclean?], Point Betsy.	Box 1	Folder 22
Port Sheldon rewritten, Point Betsy	Box 1	Folder 23
Truman H. Lyon, first Master of Grand River Lodge.	Box 1	Folder 24

Belknap Writing

Title/Description	Instances	
Packet of writings, some Belknap, some other author(s) with some correspondence, including Alice R. Greiner. Also includes The Ottawa Legend and Kee-No-Shay, Plaster Creek.	Box 3	Folder 7

Original Manuscript Materials and Files.

Title/Description	Instances	
Generally unprocessed w no defined order. Formerly rolled manuscripts 1987.027	Box 2	Folder 1-34
Letters. (2) From Kate W. Ball Powers or Lucy Ball. Manuscript drafts. Handwritten or typed. Formerly rolled. 1987.027	Box 2	Folder 35
Carpenter	Box 2	Folder 36
Kenosay	Box 2	Folder 37
Gypsum	Box 2	Folder 38
Red Mill	Box 2	Folder 39
Fishing on the Kenosay	Box 2	Folder 40
Rumsey and Silver Creek	Box 2	Folder 41
Unidentified	Box 2	Folder 42

Clippings	Box 2	Folder 43
Formerly Rolled Oversized, 1987.027		
Title/Description	Instances	
John Ball Memorial Unveiling, Sept. 19, 1925	Box 4	Folder 1
Michigan Tradesman articles by Belknap. Mostly typed manuscripts	Box 4	Folder 2
Michigan Tradesman articles by Belknap. Mostly clippings, some manuscripts. Includes: September 23, 1920 letter from Stowe to Belknap RE position at Soldier's Home. October 9, 1925 letter to Stowe RE Belknap article RE a dinner.	Box 4	Folder 3
Origin of the Crane Tribe [author unknown] n.d. 7 typed pages.	Box 3	Folder 8
Indian Legend of the Plum Orchard. Typed, 3 legal pages. For Yesterdays of GR	Box 3	Folder 9
Carpenter. RE Mr. Carpenter. 1 typed legal page. Which accession.	Box 3	Folder 10
Carpenter Springs. Manuscript draft. 1987.027 (Formerly rolled)	Box 3	Folder 10.2
Big Hank, the Mule Packer. Clipping. Detroit Tribune, Sept. 13, 1891	Box 3	Folder 11
Various chapters		
Title/Description	Instances	
Roswell on the Chattahoochee	Box 3	Folder 12
Dan	Box 3	Folder 12
Haunted Mill 1	Box 3	Folder 12
Haunted Mill 2	Box 3	Folder 12
General Grant and Dan	Box 3	Folder 12
Packet of rewritten chapters	Box 3	Folder 12
Stories for Boys	Box 3	Folder 12
The Legend of the Soon	Box 3	Folder 12
The Scouts Baby	Box 3	Folder 12
The Flat of Truce	Box 3	Folder 12
?eaf, the Deserter!	Box 3	Folder 12
? "Part Missing"	Box 3	Folder 12
Dan in the Carolinas	Box 3	Folder 12

Another fragile document	Box 3	Folder 14
The Boy Scouts Park Enos Mills?	Box 3	Folder 14

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Series II. "Old Collection". B20.

Title/Description	Instances	
Civil War recollections, 1864, 1903, n.d.	Box 1	Folder 25
Original copy of birthday presentation to Camp Fire Girls, November 13, 1926.	Box 1	Folder 26

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Series III.

Photo Albums / Scrapbooks

Title/Description	Instances	
"Souvenir of a Beautiful Day, July 26, 1914, for Capt. Belknap and Mrs. Bliss. From Margaret Thompson." [1987.026]	Box 6	
Compliments of C.O. Tower [Clyde O. Tower]. 1921. Includes Manistee, Presque Island, Summer vacation types of images.[1987.026]	Box 6	
Two scrapbooks of mainly newspaper clippings, includes a few loose photographs [2021.016]	Box 4	

Certificates

Title/Description	Instances	
Silver Beaver Certificate. To Charles Eugene Belknap, for distinguished service to Boy Scouts of America, Dec. 15, 1931. [1987.026]	Box 4	

Biographical

Title/Description	Instances	
Statement of the Military Record of Charles E. Belknap, Captain, Company H, Twenty-First Michigan Infantry Volunteers / F.H. Ainsworth(?), Captain and Asst. Surgeon, U.S. Army. War Dept., Record & Pension Division, Mar. 3, 1891. [1987.026]	Box 3	Folder 2
Unprocessed correspondence [1987.026]	Box 2	

Scope and Contents

Includes: Library of Congress; Non-Michigan Cities, various; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Izaak Walton League of America, Chicago + Ribbon from 2nd Annual Conference, Lansing, Feb. 19, 1925.; Henry J. Craig (Sun Varnish Co.), Louisville, Kentucky, 1924-1926; Michigan Historical Commission, George N. Fuller; Michigan Cities, various; Nov. 22, 1891 from Fenton R. McGilley(?) + envelop; DAR, Stevens Thomson Mason Chapter, Ionia, Mi.; GR Correspondence, multiple; GR Assoc. of Commerce, 1925; Kent Scientific Museum, 1924-26; GR Lions Club, 1925.; Sligh Furniture Co., 1921, 1925 [Factory image]; Guy V. Henry Camp No. 3, United Spanish War Veterans, Dept. of Michigan, G.R.; GR Correspondence, mixed, 1923-1926; Correspondence RE War Memorial in Lookout Park, including letters ; from sculptors: Pompeo Coppini (2) Mar. 30, 1925 and May 9, 1928 (SAFE), Harry Lewis Paul; "To Uncle Chas", from Jim Auston, 1923, 1926; Moira Hill, Walloon Lake; Oct. 22, 1894 to C.B. Hibbard, Marquette, from G. Terhors; Dec. 4, 1894. To Geo. W. Hibbard, Marquette, from John Chebul.; Dec. 6, 1894. To Geo. W. Hibbard, Marquette, from John Chebul.

From Belknap's Library

Title/Description	Instances	
Grand Rapids Christmas Letter to her Boys in "The Service" / written by Carl M. Saunders, ill. By Ray Barnes. Publ. by Herpolsheimer Co.; designed and printed by Mills-Broderick Printing Co., n.d. Belknap mentioned. [1987.026]	Box 1.5	
In the Time That Was : being Legends of the Alaska Klingats ... / J. Frederic Thorne, c. 1909. Inscription: Compliment of Alice Carpenter to Captain Belknap. [1987.026]	Box 1.5	
Roadside Trees / by Henry R. Francis. Circular no. 17, NY State College of Forestry (Syracuse Univ.) v. 17, no. 7, Mar. 1919. [1987.026]	Box 1.5	
The Story of the "General" [locomotive] 1862 / issued by the Passenger Depts. Of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway and the Western & Atlantic Railroad. C. 1917. [1987.026]	Box 1.5	
The Times That Were / by Elizabeth Ballard Thompson ; illustrated by Helen E. Miller. GR : GR Engraving Co. ; Cargill Press, 1899. [1987.026]	Box 1.5	
[Native American Language study list] Ottawa [1987.026]	Box 3	Folder 3
Unidentified partial publication on monuments [1987.026]	Box 3	Folder 4

Boy Scouts Files

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence [1987.026]	Box 2	
GR Council. Headquarters Weekly Bulletin. [serial], including V. 3, no. 17, Oct. 19-24, 1925 and no. 18, Oct. 27-Nov. 3, 1925. [1987.026]	Box 3	Folder 5
Prospectus. [Plan for permanent local camp site] ca. 1925 [1987.026]	Box 3	Folder 6
Boy Scouts of America. Weekly Pictorial of National Activity. N.Y.: Elliott Service Co., n.d. Approx. 12 oversized sheets, currently rolled. [1987.026]	Box 4	
Unprocessed ephemera [1987.026]	Box 2	

Scope and Contents

Includes: Joint Resolution, S.J.R. no. 513, Senate no. 37. Introduced by Mr. Blakeslee. RE: His publication. History of Michigan Organizations at Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Missionary Ridge / by Captain Charles E. Belknap.; Formula to keep the heart young ... by Col. Perrin V. Fox. On Hotel; Marquette stationery, n.d.; Announcement. Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1925. Dental Luncheon Club presentation by Belknap; Announcement. Armistice Day, Nov. 9, 1923. Service in Fulton St. Park.; Elks Endorsement to Honorary Membership: Capt. Charles E.; Belknap. [3 sheets of signatures]; Program. Dedication Services of the Memorial Statue to Capt. Charles Eugene Belknap, 1846-1929. Dec. 26, 1931.; The Grand Rapids Scout, v. 1, no. 2, Feb. 15, 1925. Image of Belknap on 1st page. (2 copies) [serial]; War Memorial, the Cavalryman. Graphic clippings RE: planning for a sculptor of a soldier on horseback.; Graphic clipping, military, artist unknown. Caption: CEB. A fine sketch, an orderly with Sheridan, March 1863.; Graphic clippings, images from unidentified publication. Each has pencil number at left side.; GAR Encampment Programs: 59th, Aug. 30 to Sept. 5, 1925 / 61st, Sept.11-16, 1927; GAR Encampment Committee Luncheon ticket.; Recipe for Beer. Original and Photocopies; Certificate. Michigan National Guard, First Brigade, Company H.; Second Infantry. Honorary Membership #820. Belknap for the Grand Rapids battalion, Oct. 23, 1913.; Campau Centennial Celebration. Pageant of Progress program; The Call of the Rivers : a story of Old Fort Wayne. Dec. 1924; Aero View of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, National Military Park / Painted by

Rudolph J. Shutting, c. 1913. Folded Pictorial Map.;
Clippings

Memorial Day Parade, 1918. For Captain Belknap from Lafayette Kindergarten children. Paper booklet of childrens crayon drawings [1987.026]	Box 4
Rolled packet of correspondence, clippings, program documentation RE John Ball Memorial. Sept. 19, 1925. UNPROCESSED. [1987.026]	Box 4

Realia

Title/Description	Instances
Flag. U.S. [1987.026]	Box 4
"A piece of crepe from the casket of General Sherman?, ... Presented by Capt. Charles E. Belknap at the time of internment in New York by Miss Rachel Sherman." [Note on old envelope] Not found, 2008. [1987.026]	Box 3

Unprocessed photographs [1987.026]

Box 6

Scope and Contents

Box 5

Includes: Unidentified. Belknap with girl on his lap. "M. Bonsfield(?)—verso.; Alexander Butterfield, Bay City, Mich.—photographer. Deframed.; 3 unidentified Civil War solders. Gillett [studio], West Bridge St., G.R.; 4 images of monuments, mounted on greenish gray boards.; Wisconsin Memorial Orchard Knob.; New York 11th Army Corps, Orchard Knob; Georgia State Memorial Chickamauga Park; Illinois Memorial, Missionary Ridge.; 2 monuments on board, from Schmedline Photographer, Chattanooga, Tenn.; 10 Michigan Infantry; Loomis Battery A, First Artillery, Scribner's Brigade, Baird's; Division, Thomas Corps.; 2 monuments; 10 Michigan Infantry. Similar to image above, but no photographer ID.; Andrews Raiders Monument (with a locomotive on top); Compliments of J.B. Linn(?); 2 images of Belknap on a horse, in a parade; Belknap alone, with crowd and buildings behind "Buy War Savings; Stamps" sign on corner building; Belknap with other riders and onlookers at curb.; Group of male toddlers, listening to grammaphone; Group of men on a porch, Belknap far left, others unidentified.

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