



ArchivesSpace

Finding Aid for the Joseph Horner Family photographs Collection 473

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Source:	Nicola Horner Kaftan
Title:	Joseph Horner Family photographs
ID:	Collection 473
Date [bulk]:	bulk
Physical Description:	1 Linear Feet One Box
Physical Description:	Fair
Abstract:	Joseph Horner was born in England in 1861 and moved to Grand Rapids, Mich. in 1873. He became a prominent business man and raised a family of seven children. This material consists of two large family photo albums spanning 1895 through 1907. Mostly they contain family and vacation photos of West Michigan but the albums also contain photos of trains and shipping, the Ann Arbor 1907 Interscholastic Track and Field meet, and Consumer Ice Co. trucks and operations.

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Biographical / Historical

Joseph Horner moved to Grand Rapids, Mich. from England in 1873 at the age of 12 with his parents Rev. John and Emma Horner. In 1873 he returned to England where he was employed by the Northeastern Railroad, first as a telegraph operator and later as a ticket agent and then manager of freight. He returned to the United States in 1880 and for a short time was employed by the Berkey and Gay Furniture Co. He was then an associate with the Old First National Bank of Grand Rapids as a bookkeeper and as a manager of the clearinghouse. He also installed the first bookkeeping system in the Michigan Trust Co. of which he was the director. In 1892 Mr. Horner purchased the South Grand Rapids Ice and Coal Co. In 1894 the South Grand Rapids Ice and Coal Co. merged with Consumers Ice Co. and Joseph served as president and manager until 1930, when the business was sold to the City Ice & Fuel Co. of Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Horner was in charge of the Michigan properties of the latter company until his retirement in 1937 and remained on the board of directors after his retirement. During his time in the ice industry the yearly capacity of the Consumers Ice co. was 8,000 tons of natural ice and at the end of his tenure Consumers Ice Co. capacity had grown to 80,000 tons of artificial ice. He was the president of

the Schuller Ice Co., of Toledo Ohio, the Great Lakes Chemical Corporation and of the Manistee, Mich. Iron Works.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Commandery (K. T.) and Shrine, Rotary club, Grand Rapids Assn. of Commerce, Cascade Hills Country Club, YMCA, Citizens History Association, and First Methodist church. His hobbies were outdoor sports, especially golf, fishing, boating, and hunting. He owned a private lake known as "Twin Wood" located in Newaygo County, Mich. where he maintained a summer residence.

On Aug 12, 1884, Joseph Horner married Sara Elizabeth Knowlson who was born in Albany, N.Y. They had seven children together and their eldest, Abram Horner, was president and general manager of the Knowlson Fuel & Materials co., Grand Rapids, Mich. Joseph Jr. was the manager of the "Green Bay (Wis.) Gazette. Their next children Robert, Walter, and William died when they were children. Catherine married A. C. Hamilton of Grand Rapids, Mich. Their last child, Julia, married Charles Greenway of Kalamazoo, Mich. She had four children before passing away, Charles, James, Thomas, and William.

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Content Description

Two large photo albums mainly containing vacation and family photographs. There are also photos of the Boardman River, Lake Michigan, trains and shipping related to Joseph Horner's businesses, and the 1907 Ann Arbor Interscholastic Track and Field competition. Photographs are unique in that they are homemade snapshots often with the children doing hand stands or other tricks. Many of the photographs have an unexpected artistry.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift from Nicola Horner Kaftan

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Controlled Access Headings

- Portrait photography -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Nicola Horner Kaftan

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Photo Album, (bulk) <u>Date [bulk]</u> : bulk	Box 1	Folder 1
Photo Album, (bulk) <u>Date [bulk]</u> : bulk	Box 1	Folder 2