

Finding Aid for the Henry McConnell collection of Civil War era broadsides Collection 117

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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	McConnell, Henry
Title	Henry McConnell collection of Civil War era broadsides
Date [inclusive]	1861-1922
Extent	1.75 Linear feet One box
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Henry McConnell, born about 1852 or 1853, collected broadsides prevalent in Grand Rapids, Michigan during the Civil War. His transcribed letter of reminiscence, included in this collection, recalls the event of the 3rd Regiment leaving for that War, the first group to depart from Grand Rapids. The broadsides include recruiting posters, information for families, patriotic efforts on behalf of the war effort, and reunion communications. Some other types of information are also included in the collection, such as a political cartoon clipped from an unknown newspaper, and a couple of war related pamphlets.</p>

Henry McConnell biographical note

Henry McConnell (ca. 1852/1853-died after 1932) was the son of John McConnell, a hardware dealer, and Mary Escott McConnell. Henry spent his childhood on the near south end of Grand Rapids during the 1850s and 1860s. His letter of January 15, 1932, in this collection, provides some historical reminiscences on their life. He talks about his father's establishment on the site of what was later the Pantlind and then the Amway Grand Hotel, with remembrances of Grab Corners (Campau Square) and traffic on the Grand River. He also says that his grandfather McConnell established the first real bakery in Grand Rapids, later? Sears Bakery. Henry moved from Grand Rapids, probably in his 20s, and lived with his brother Joseph for a while. Later in life, he is believed to have been a hotel keeper in Emmet, Michigan, with his wife Emma. (See Census sheets). Ultimately he moved to Walloon Lake, Michigan.

Broadsides

The Society of American Archivist's Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology defines a broadside, also sometimes called a broadsheet, as ... "A single sheet with information printed on one side that is intended to be posted, publicly distributed, or sold."

The Library of Congress Thesaurus for Graphic Materials, 1995, states that broadsides "... provide information, commentary, proclamation, or other announcement or advertisement. Primarily posted but also distributed by hand. They are usually less pictorial than posters and have more extensive text than signs."

Many works referred to as broadsides are from the 19th century or earlier, before new graphic processes allowed for the wider use of images in posters. Many broadsides are likely to be black on a white background, as they were usually produced using the available local technology of the day, the printing press. Typography was important in many broadsides, since the lettering style used was the main graphic element. Many different font styles were developed, and sold in font type sets to the local printers. The lettering used in the broadside text might vary widely within one poster, in an attempt to draw the eye, and graphically separate one idea on the broadsheet from another. The term broadsheet was a reference to the broad sized sheet of paper on which the printers, often also the local newspaper publishers, printed the graphic message of the broadside.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Henry McConnell, 1932

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 224, GRPL Art & Graphics Collection, contains some examples of early broadsides of different sizes.

Coll. 216, GRPL Ephemera Collection, may also contain broadsides, some of which may be related to the political ephemera currently held in this collection. In particular see 216-4.5-x for the “Butter” broadside, and also 216-11 for two items from Connecticut on “axes”, which also appear to have been donated by McConnell.

Coll. 289, which contains a non-Civil War item which probably was received as part of the set documented in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- broadsheet (format)

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- 19th Century

Subject(s)

- **United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865**

Biographical information.**Collection Inventory**

Biographical information.		
	Box	Folder
Transcription of letter from McConnell RE Early Grand Rapids, to Miss Smith. Jan. 15, 1932.	1	1
Census information.	1	1
	Box	Folder
Clipping: "Two Pioneer Pals Recall....," Grand Rapids Herald, 12/10/1922.	1	2
Miscellaneous document forms.		
	Box	Folder
Grand La Crosse Game ... Dress Parade and Review of Military ... Sham Battle on Island no. 3 ... Grand Aerial Display. Reunion pamphlet (17x19 cm), n.d.	1	4
The Two Roads to Peace ... The Chicago Platform ... The Baltimore Platform. / (Verso) Who Is Responsible for the War? (Extract from a Speech by Alexander H. Stephens, delivered in the Secession Convention of Georgia, Jan. 31, 1861. (21x31 cm)	1	4
Secretary Welles cartoon [graphic clipping], RE delayed information, Nashville runs the blockade at Beaufort. (13x13 cm), n.d.	1	4

Broadsides

Broadsides			
			Drawer
United States Army! Recruiting Service! For the 16th Infantry. 100 Dollars Bounty! [1864] (41x56 cm)			FF.IX.A
		Box	Folder
Apportionment of Men Remaining to be Raised 1862. (19cmx25 cm)		1	3
Attention Sharpshooters , ... to be attached to the 27th Michigan Infantry Feb. 18, 1864. (31x46 cm)		1	3
Attention "Stonewall Regiment", Seventeenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry. Sept. 1, 1889. RE Annual reunion, Hartman's Hall, Grand rapids, Sept. 25, 1889. Lists names alphabetically by company, with city/state location.		1	3
Avoid a Draft ... Citizens of the Third Ward, July 29, 1864. (28x41 cm) Includes a "List of those liable to Draft in the Third Ward".		1	3
The Law relative to relief by Counties, of the families of volunteers mustered from the State into the military service of the ... United States or of the State of Michigan, approved May 10, 1861, and as amended January 1862. (15x31 cm)		1	3
Mr. Bill D.T. Travis, is on his sixth annual lecturing tour, and will be here to present his great national paintings, a grand official portraiture of the Cumberland Army ...(19x46 cm), ca. 1862. (3 items, including a list of illustrations and "Second Night".		1	3

Broadsides

Order of the Processions ... Funeral of Lieut. Thos. V. Mitchell [Thomas Mitchell], Feb. 8, 1863. (13x21 cm)	1	3
Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Kent County, Michigan, Oct. 18, 1861, relative to the Volunteers' Family Relief Fund. (28x40 cm), 1861 (2 copies)	1	3
Tea Party To-Night at Luce's Hall. Benefit of the Sick and Wounded Soldiers. Apr. 8, 1864. (20x14 cm)	1	3