

**Finding aid for the Woman's Committee
of the Council on National Defense,
Grand Rapids, Michigan unit records
Collection 174**

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
January 1995
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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Council of National Defense (Grand Rapids, Mich.). Woman's Committee.
Title	Woman's Committee of the Council on National Defense, Grand Rapids, Michigan unit records
Date	1918
Extent	19.5 Linear feet 28 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Grand Rapids Woman's Committee of the Council on National Defense was organized in the spring of 1917. The group contributed to the war effort by helping with home and allied relief, food conservation and the welfare of children. The bulk of this collection is a large group of note cards containing data about women who registered for home front service during World War I. The cards include the greater Grand Rapids, Michigan area, covering much of Kent County and occasionally communities in neighboring counties. The registration cards give primarily biographical information about the women, but also provide insight into ethnicity, educational background and occupational opportunities for women in Grand Rapids and surrounding communities. Also included in the collection are reference materials providing information on the national organization, the methodologies used and key personalities involved in the Western Michigan area.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

The National Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense was begun in April 1917, headed by suffragist Dr. Anna Howard Shaw. Many feminists saw this committee as an opportunity for women to perform significant work for the war effort. Much of the work was voluntary, such as establishing children's health care programs, rolling bandages for the Red Cross and distributing food conservation pamphlets.

The Grand Rapids unit was organized in the spring of 1917, according to the outline arranged by Reverend Caroline Crane of Kalamazoo. Within the local unit there were committees to handle such work as registering people for service, aiding with home and allied relief, helping with food conservation and assisting in the welfare of children. The Grand Rapids unit was chaired by Mrs. Clay Hollister with a number of other prominent women also contributing their time, such as Mrs. Dorian (Helen E.) Russell, Mrs. Huntley (Clara C.) Russell, Mrs. M.R. (Anna) Bissell, and Mrs. Fred N. (Helen H.) Rowe. Many of these women were also active in the local suffrage movement and instrumental in organizing the Equal Franchise Club in 1910.

Not long after the information gathering program was completed, the War ended. So, little war work was actually supported using the project data. However, some of the data is said to have been used to provide support for other beneficial endeavors.

Scope and Contents note

The collection provides insight into the lives of women during the early 20th Century. Not only does it give the biographical information such as name, age and address, but it also looks into education levels, skills and employment status. The majority of the women who registered for service did so in Kent County, but there were also a number of smaller individual communities that held registrations. Most of the registrations took place at local schools. The committee probably disbanded with the end of the war.

It is believed that this card file represents the bulk of those gathered for the Grand Rapids area project. Few files or other documents from the national project are currently known to exist. One other card set for Michigan is known

Also included are U.S. Student nurse reserve enrollment cards for 1918. New reference materials added to this collection in 2006, received from a local researcher, provide information on this national organization, the methodologies used, and key personalities involved in the Western Michigan area. A poster, "Spirit of Woman Power," created by Paul Honore, provides a graphic representative of the movement.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department January 1995

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Unknown, accession numbers 00.000, [5093].1, [5094].1, 00.[5112].1-9, P2007.010

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

See Collection 008, the Russell Family Papers, regarding participation of Russell women in the Woman's Committee of the Council on National Defense.

See also "Womens" Bajema clipping files, and searchable index.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Council of National Defense (Grand Rapids, Mich.). Woman's Committee.

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Genealogy
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Kent County (Mich.) -- Genealogy

Subject(s)

- World War, 1914-1918 -- War work -- Michigan
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Women -- Michigan

Series I. Registration Cards, 1918.

Collection Inventory

Series I. Registration Cards, 1918.	
	Box
A – Bean, Florence	1
Bean, G. - Breeden	2
Brown, Belle – Cherry	3
Cherryman – d'Archangli	4
Darga – Droese, F.	5
Droese, J. - Dunhan	6
Flietstra – Green, Elsie	7
Green, Eia – Hendrickson, J.	8
Hendrickson, L. - Ingersoll, L.	9
Ingersoll, M. - Klumph	10
Klumpp – Linderholm	11

Series I. Registration Cards, 1918.

Lindernik – Markle	12
Marklund – Mulder, M.	13
Mulder, R. - Patterson, L.	14
Patterson, M. - Randolph, M.	15
Randolph, R. - Sanders, E.	16
Sanders, L. - Smigiel, F.	17
Smigiel, M. - Suess	18
Suggitt – Vanderbrook, B.	19
Vanderbrook, J. - Waterman, Bernice.	20
Waterman, Bertha – Warderegem?	21
Wood – Z	22
Ada -Comstock Park/North Park/Plainfield Twp.	23
Comstock Park/ North Park/ Plainfield Twp.	24
Walker Township / Out of State Standard	25

Series II. Data Cards, 1918**Series II. Data Cards, 1918****Box**

A - Z.	26
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Series III. Student Nurse Reserve, 1918.

	Box	Folder
Registration Cards, 1918.	27	5-6
Deferred Class, 1918.	27	7
Hospital Assistants, 1918.	27	8
Non-accepted Applications, 1918.	27	9
Withdrawn Applications, 1918.	27	10

Series IV. Miscellaneous, 1917-18.

	Box	Folder
Correspondences, 1918.	27	1
Forms, 1918.	27	2
Newspaper Article Copies, 1917-1918.	27	3

Series V. Graphics

Notes, 1918.	27	4
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Series V. Graphics**Box**

Poster. Reproduction: "The Spirit of Woman-Power" Women, Serve Your Country Where You Can. Register April 27-May 4. Woman's Committee of Council of National Defense, Michigan Division. / Paul Honore. Original printed by Niagara Litho. Co., Buffalo, Detroit, n.d. 2007.010

FF.VII.A

Series VI. Publications and References**Scope and Contents note**

The following items were identified through reference done by research and Grand Rapids Historical Commission member Diana Barrett, for a presentation to the Great Lakes History Conference 2006. The documents are copies of public domain works or portions of works from other Michigan Archives & Libraries, which provide an historical context for the cards. These references also information on the process and the people who managed the project.

	Box	Folder
History of the Work of the Women's Committee (Michigan Division), Council of National Defence [sic, Defense], during the World War [I] / by Caroline Bartlett Crane, State Chairman. [ca. 1922]. Formerly M940.9.C84. 00.[5093].1	27	11
Manual for Registrars : the Women's War Census / Woman's Committee, Council of National Defense, Michigan Division, 1918. Photocopy for sources at the Library of Michigan. 00.[5094].1	27	12

Caroline Barlett Crane References

[Excerpt] American Women and the World War / by Ida Clyde Clarke. N.Y. : D. Appleton & Co., 1918. Contents, Chapter 4, Registration; Chapter 7; Chapter 21. Louisiana, Michigan and Other States. 00.[5095].1	27	13
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Blank Cards (1, others not found 10/6/2007) 00.[5112].1-9 (folders, numerous items)	27	14
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Caroline Barlett Crane References**Scope and Contents note**

The following items are copies from the Caroline Bartlett Crane collection located at the Western Michigan University Archives. Crane, who lived in Kalamazoo, was the State Chairman for Michigan

	Box	Folder
National Organizations Represented on the Honorary Committee of the Woman's Committee Council of National Defense. [ca. 1917/1918]	28	1
Registration	28	2
Correspondence between Crane & Grace S. McClure of Saginaw RE registration.	28	3
Correspondence. Helen Keep, Michigan State Chairman of the National League for Woman's Service.	28	4
Correspondence Clarinda Lamar (Mrs. Joseph R.) Correspondence	28	5

From the Library of Michigan collections

Correspondence. Justine M. Hollister, Chair of the Executive Committee of the Grand Rapids Unit for the project, with Caroline Crane. Includes the letter of June 1, 1919, which is more personal rather than RE the project, as Mrs. Hollister expresses how she is coping with her grief from the loss of her son in WWI.	28	6
Articles RE Activities of the Defense Committee, primarily related to food supplies.	28	7
From the Library of Michigan collections		
	Box	Folder
Carry On : official publication of the Women's Committee (Michigan Division) Council of National Defense. (newsletter) No. 1, Nov. 23, 1918. excerpts	28	8
Press Releases, Dec. 24, 1917-Mar. 15, 1918. Excerpts. "War Work for Woman".	28	9