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Finding aid for the Jackson D. Dillenback collection at the Grand Rapids Public Library Collection 332

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Department

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title:	Jackson D. Dillenback collection at the Grand Rapids Public Library
ID:	Collection 332
Date [inclusive]:	1860-1929
Date [bulk]:	1862-1882
Physical Description:	1.5 Linear Feet Four boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Jackson D. Dillenback Collection has been created primarily from materials supplied by donor Donna Dillenback, and supplemented with materials found unprocessed within the GRPL Archives. Dillenback was an editor/publisher in early Grand Rapids, who later moved west to Colorado. Items in this collection document his work as an editor/publisher, his military service in the Civil War, and some of his life and family relationships. Also included is correspondence to and from Jackson's siblings George, Frank, Susie, and his father Jasper.

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Biographical / Historical

Jackson D. Dillenback was born in Alburgh Vermont, in July 1841, the son of Jasper & Margaret Dillenback. The Dillenbacks moved first to Portland, Michigan and then on to Grand Rapids in 1847. Other children in the family were George, Francis, Mary, Susie, Henry, and Roseanna. Having spent his youth in Grand Rapids, Jack Dillenback enlisted into military service during the Civil War on Aug 12, 1862 at Byron, Mi., as a member of "H" Company, Michigan 4th Cavalry. He was mustered out July 1, 1865 at Nashville, Tennessee. Brothers George and Francis (Frank) also served in the Union army. Returning to Grand Rapids, Jack learned the printing trade. He worked on the Grand Rapids Eagle, and was its editor from 1868-1869. He is known for his publication of early city and county directories. In 1873 he married Henrietta Bemis, and about six year later moved to Denver Colorado, where he continued in the publishing field until his death in 1929. Jackson and Henrietta had three children, Henry, William, and May, Other local publications attributed to Dillenback include the Grand Rapids City Advertiser, and editor/publisher of the Evening News.

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Scope and Contents

The Collection consists mostly of correspondence between members of the Dillenback family during the Civil War period. Additional correspondence includes items relative to post war business dealings by Jackson Dillenback.

Various writings by Jackson and publications by his Publication Companies are included in the collection.

Memorabilia such as a scrap book of newspaper clippings, a geneology of the family, Civil War service history, and various ribbons collected from Civil War reunions fill out the collection.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donna Dillenback, accession numbers 1999.095; 2003.098; 2005.066.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Coll. 289, Greater Grand Rapids Publishers, Printers & Publishing Collection. This collection includes documents about and images of Grand Rapids area publishers, including Jackson Dillenback. It also includes at least one Dillenback publication.

Other publications by Dillenback are included in Collections 216 and 301, as well as in the Department's cataloged book collection.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Publishers and publishing -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- personal papers
- Dillenback, Jackson D

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence to and from Jackson Dillenback during Civil War period (13 Items), 1863-1865	Box 1	Folder 1
Correspondence to Jackson's sister in law Rose Dillenback from her husband George and Jackson (8 items), 1864-1865	Box 1	Folder 2
Correspondence to George Dillenback and wife Rose (18 items), 1863-1865	Box 1	Folder 3
Correspondence to Susie Dillenback from Jackson Dillenback (12 items), 1863-1864	Box 1	Folder 4
Correspondence from Jackson Dillenback to father Jasper Dillenback (29 items), 1862-1865	Box 1	Folder 5
Correspondence from George Dillenback and Frank (Francis) Dillenback to father Jasper Dillenback (6 items), 1863-1865	Box 1	Folder 6
Correspondence concerning Jackson Dillenback (33 items), 1859-1907	Box 1	Folder 7

Correspondence from Henrietta Dillenback to husband Jack in Denver Colorado (58 items), 1878-1907, (1878-1880)	Box 2	Folder 1
Correspondence to Susan Dillenback (15 items), 1860-1866	Box 2	Folder 2
Correspondence to Jackson Dillenback (14 items), 1860-1907	Box 2	Folder 3
Stories and Poems Jackson Dillenback	Box 2	Folder 4
Various hand written stories, poems, etc. in bound volume. Multiple authors including Susan and Jackson Dillenback.	Box 2	Folder 5
Hand and type written poems by unknown authors.	Box 2	Folder 6
Obituary in Denver newspaper of Jackson Dillenback and 1921 photo of Jackson Dillenback and August Saur both of 4th Michigan Cavalry.	Box 2	Folder 7
Miscellaneous bills and receipts, Jackson Dillenback.	Box 2	Folder 8
"The Silent Evangel" booklet published by First United Brethren Church of Grand Rapids MI. featuring article about deceased member George Dillenback.	Box 2	Folder 9
Personal account book Jackson Dillenback, 1870	Box 2	Folder 10
Handwritten Genealogy Dillenback and Cook families 1791-1920 by Jackson Dillenback.	Box 2	Folder 11
Normal Department diploma of Susan Dillenback.	Box 2	Folder 12
Newspaper articles by and about Jackson Dillenback.	Box 2	Folder 13
1918 booklet "Annual Reunion of the Old Time Editors of Grand Rapids"	Box 2	Folder 14
Diary of Jackson Dillenback, 1860-11-01 - 1861-02-21	Box 3	Folder 1
Book "History of the City of Grand Rapids" by Jackson Dillenback 1870.	Box 3	Folder 2
Book "Grand Rapids in 1874" by Jackson Dillenback.	Box 3	Folder 3
"Personal Military and Civil History" personal memory book of Jackson Dillenback service in the Civil War. Multiple photos of Jackson and wife Henrietta are included.	Box 3	Folder 4
Book "History and Directory of Kent County" 1870 by Dillenback and Leavitt.	Box 3	Folder 5
Scrapbook of Newspaper clippings saved by Jackson Dillenback, 1871-1872	Box 3	Folder 6
Various reunion ribbons from G.A.R. events in Colorado (13 items).	Box 4	Folder 1
G.A.R. Annual reunion ribbons various locations (8 items).	Box 4	Folder 2
Ribbons from various Colorado Editorial association events (5 items).	Box 4	Folder 3

Miscellaneous Civil War reunion ribbons from various associations including 4th Michigan Cavalry, daughters of G.A.R., and Farragut Post G.A.R. (12 items)

Box 4

Folder 4