

# **Finding aid for the Pantlind family papers Collection 374**

**Finding aid prepared by Julie Tabberer**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Title</b>	Pantlind family papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1843-1983
<b>Extent</b>	2.5 Linear feet Seven boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The Pantlind family papers collection consists of family papers, scrapbooks, photographs and ephemera. The collection primarily focuses on the family of J. Boyd Pantlind. The Pantlind family was related to other notable early Grand Rapids' families, including the Ledyard, Aldrich, Shepard, Wylie and McLeod families. Documents and information pertaining to these families are also available in the collection, although the scope varies. Items pertaining to the historic Pantlind Hotel (currently the Amway Grand Plaza) are limited to memorabilia such as menus and letterheads. These items are scattered throughout the collection, in scrapbooks and paperwork. The collection also contains genealogical information for the family and correspondence and other documents from the US Naval Reserve.</p>

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## Biographical/Historical note

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The Pantlind family is well known in the Grand Rapids area for managing and constructing the Pantlind Hotel, currently known as the Amway Grand Plaza.

Before moving to the Grand Rapids' area, the Pantlind family managed businesses elsewhere in Michigan. A.V. Pantlind managed hotels and railroad eating houses in Paw Paw, Eaton Rapids, East Saginaw, Marshall, Niles and Jackson, Michigan. In approximately 1865 his nephew, J. Boyd Pantlind, joined him. They came to Grand Rapids in the early 1870s, when A.V. Pantlind became one of the landlords of the Morton House.

The Morton House was a hotel located at the northwestern corner of Ionia Avenue NW and Monroe Avenue NW (currently Monroe Center). In 1835, the Hinsdill House was constructed at this site, becoming known as the National Hotel by the late 1830s. In 1872, the National Hotel burnt down (for the second time) and the Morton House was built to replace it in 1874. When the Morton House opened (with A.V. Pantlind as a proprietor), J. Boyd Pantlind served as a bell boy, porter and clerk. Upon the death of his uncle, J. Boyd became the sole proprietor of the hotel. J. Boyd later took over the management of the Sweets Hotel as well.

The Sweets Hotel was located where the current Amway Grand Plaza stands, at the northwest corner of Monroe Avenue NW and Pearl Street NW. The Sweets Hotel was constructed in the late 1860s. From 1913 to 1915, the hotel and surrounding buildings were demolished and the new Pantlind Hotel was constructed. Formally opened in 1916, the hotel was designed by Warren and Wetmore, architects of the Grand Central Terminal and Biltmore Hotel in New York City. The hotel was managed by the Pantlind family through the 1920s. The hotel was later purchased by the Amway Corporation in the 1980's and extensive additions and renovations were conducted.

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## A.V. Pantlind

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A. Voorhis Pantlind (1821-1896), born in LeRoy, New York, initially worked as a metalsmith. A significant item in the collection is an 1843 handwritten letter of recommendation for A.V.'s work as a smith. A.V. moved to Ohio in 1843 and later to Paw Paw, Michigan. In 1850, he married Maria Dyckman. In the late 1850's, A.V. opened a hotel in Paw Paw. He later managed hotels and dining halls in Niles, Marshall, Jackson, East Saginaw and Eaton Rapids, Michigan. From 1872 until his death in 1896, A.V. managed the Morton House in Grand Rapids.

## **John T. Pantlind**

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John T. "Pant" Pantlind (about 1844-1882) was the nephew of A.V. Pantlind. John's parents, Charles and Sophia died in 1880 and 1849, respectively. John managed hotels in Carson City, Nevada and in California. He was well known as a local social figure in those areas. The collection contains his personal scrapbook. In addition, several photographs taken in Nevada are included with the Isabel McLeod engagement book. Although unidentified, it is likely that these are photographs of John.

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## **George E. Pantlind**

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George Pantlind (about 1855-unknown) was the son of A.V. Pantlind. He received a degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan in 1876. Historical directories list him as a lawyer. George was involved in local theater and was a member of the masons and the Whist Club.

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## **Hattie D. Pantlind**

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Hattie Pantlind (about 1851-1868) was the daughter of A.V. Pantlind and George's sister. She died in 1868 at the age of 17, after a brief illness. The collection contains an envelope with a lock of hair that is identified as "dear Hattie's hair."

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## **J. Boyd Pantlind**

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J. (James) Boyd Pantlind (January 30, 1851-December 25, 1922) was the nephew of A.V. Pantlind. He was born in 1857 in Ohio. J. Boyd came to Michigan to work with his uncle in the late 1860's. After A.V.'s death in 1896, J. Boyd took over the operations of the Morton House. He managed the Morton House and then the Pantlind Hotel until passing the operations along to his son, Fred. In addition, J. Boyd managed the Ottawa Beach Hotel in Holland, MI for a time and was greatly involved in local business and social activities.

## **Jessie Aldrich Pantlind**

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Jessie Louise Aldrich Pantlind (1858-1936) was the daughter of prominent local figure Moses Aldrich. Jessie married J. Boyd Pantlind on April 14, 1880. They had two children, Katherine (Pantlind) Lockwood and Frederick Z. Pantlind. Jessie was actively involved in local social activities and one local history book notes that she “gained reputation as a woman of exceptional business ability” (History of Kent County, edited by Arthur S. White, 1924). Jessie's personal scrapbook is included in the collection.

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## **Fred Z. Pantlind**

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Fred Pantlind (July 26, 1886-1929), the son of J. Boyd and Jessie Pantlind, managed the Pantlind Hotel from approximately 1916 until his death. Fred was also an officer in the US Navy Reserve in the 1920's and was a commissioner for the Department of Conservation. Fred, like his father, had an excellent reputation within the hotel industry. He married Hilda Hummer in 1906 and they had four children: Frederica (Pantlind) Johnson, Katherine (Pantlind) Whinery, Hilda (Pantlind) Armstrong and Boyd II.

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## **Moses V. Aldrich**

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Moses Aldrich (1829-1879) was born in New York and came to Michigan in 1836. In 1855 he moved from Plymouth, MI to Grand Rapids, MI and went into business with his father-in-law, William B. Ledyard. He later went into the banking business, was mayor of Grand Rapids from 1868 to 1870 and was County Superintendent for the Poor from 1875 until his death in 1879.

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## **Isabel Wylie and Archibald McLeod**

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The exact relation of the McLeod family to the Pantlind family is not known. Archibald McLeod's mother, Elizabeth Atkins McLeod, reportedly moved to Grand Rapids to be near her relatives in the Pantlind, Ledyard and Aldrich families. Isabel and Archibald were married in 1910. Archibald, a

successful local businessman, died at a young age in 1923. Isabel and Archibald's only child, Janet, was thrown from a horse and died in 1932, at the age of 20. Isabel McLeod's brother, Curtis Wylie, was also a successful local businessman. Curtis Wylie and Isabel both donated significant amounts to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. Curtis died in 1958 and Isabel in 1981. Their estates were given entirely to charity and neither left any descendants. The collection contains the engagement book of Isabel Wylie.

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## **Katherine Pantlind Whinery**

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Katherine Whinery (January 28, 1910-December 29, 1998) was the daughter of Fred Pantlind and the granddaughter of J. Boyd and donated the majority of this collection. Katherine is known locally for being instrumental in building John Ball Park Zoo in the late 1940's. During the depression, the local zoo had been mostly dismantled.

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## **Lt. Talbert "Ted" Abrams**

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Lt. Abrams (1895-1990) is commonly known as the father of aerial photography. He operated the ABC Airline Corporation in Lansing, Michigan, later known as Abrams Aerial Survey Corporation. Included in the collection is an aerial photograph of the Pantlind Hotel, addressed to Fred Pantlind and signed by Lt. Abrams.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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The Pantlind family papers cover at least 140 years and are varied in scope. The primary focus is on photographs and ephemera related to the family. Documents pertaining to the hotels operated by the Pantlinds are included throughout scrapbooks and correspondences. The collection also contains genealogical information for the family and correspondence and other documents from the US Naval Reserve.

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department August 2010

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Katherine Pantlind Whinery, accession number 1996.027.

### **Processing Information note**

The items in the collection were donated or purchased at different times. The material is mostly organized as found. A few items show signs of red rot and are placed in separate folders. The scrapbooks and some of the older photographs are in fragile condition.

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## **Related Materials**

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### **Related Archival Materials note**

Collection 163: Kent County Council for Historic Preservation, Oral History Project, includes Mrs. C.L. Lockwood and Mrs. George Whinery, daughter and granddaughter of J. Boyd Pantlind, respectively.

Col 280: GRPL Michigan Travel Collection: Whist Club Trip to Bear Lake (same as this collection), Box 10 Folder 5

Col 216: GRPL Ephemera Collection: Box 12, Whist Club Yearbook, circa 1897

Col 070: Charles Merrill Photo Collection: Photographs from his studio are included in the collection.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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**Corporate Name(s)**



- United States. Navy. Naval District, 9th.

**Family Name(s)**

- Aldrich
- Pantlind

**Genre(s)**

- family papers

**Geographic Name(s)**

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

**Subject(s)**

- Hotels -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- History

## Series I. Photographs and Postcards

## Collection Inventory

## Series I. Photographs and Postcards

## Scope and Contents note

A variety of photographs are included in the collection, mostly from the early 1900s through approximately 1950. Several Pantlind family members are pictured in the photographs, however many of the people in the photographs are not identified. The collection also contains interior and exterior building shots, aerial views and a street scene. The postcards in the collection are drawings and depict early Grand Rapids scenes.

One notable photograph is of a zeppelin docking at Ford Airport in Dearborn, MI. The dirigible mast was reportedly only used twice.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Veterans Memorial Park (three 8x10 photographs), approximately late 1950s or early 1960s	1	1
Aerial view of downtown Grand Rapids, including Pantlind Hotel. Inscribed: "To Fred Z. Pantlind. Many Happy Landings. Lt. Ted Abrams, Pilot"	1	2
Aerial view of a US Navy zeppelin docking at Ford Airport in Dearborn, Michigan, 1920s or 1930s.	1	2
Photograph of a brick, two-story house.	1	3

## Series I. Photographs and Postcards

Photographs of the interior of a house (four). Back of photographs read: "C.L. Merrill & Co., Photographs and Views. Gallery 93 Ottawa & 55 Monroe Sts. Grand Rapids, Michigan"	1	4
Photograph of Monroe Ave with a parade. F.W. Woolworth building in foreground. Typed on back: 'Taken at Grand Rapids, Mich – May 30, 1920. By Henry M. Gillett, 134 Monroe, Ave, Grand Rapids, Mich.'	1	5
Illustrated postcards of Grand Rapids, MI, 1907-1909, To/from: Antionette Rosendahl (Anette), Mrs. B. Beckman, Letty Michles. Including Bathing Beach, Reeds Lake; Grand Trunk Depot; Bridge Street Bridge; City Hall; Butterworth Hospital; North Park; Japanese Night at Reed's Lake	1	6
Illustrated postcards of Grand Rapids, MI, 1967, including Reeds Lake in 1896; Opening of City Hall, 1888 (three copies)	1	7
		<b>Box</b>
Photograph book with numerous, unidentified photographs, circa late 1800s/early 1900s.		5
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Loose Photographs, Photograph Book. Includes photograph of William B. Ledyard. Photographer O.W. Horton.	5	1
Photograph, verso "W.B. Ledyard, born Sept 16 '1811.' Took in the year of 1885. Born in Saratoga N.Y. Died May 9, 1890."	1	11
Photograph, verso George Whinery, m Kay Pantlind Whinery	1	12
		<b>Box</b>

## Series II.Scrabooks

Photograph of an early 1900's racing car, with an unidentified driver. A coat of arms is depicted on the side of the car.	7
Three photographs of Hilda Pantlind (born April 4, 1911) as a child.	7
Photograph of John. Written on back "Best wishes to Katherine. John. Florida-Michigan '30." Note indicates it may be John Collins, a piano player.	7
Photograph of J. Boyd Pantlind and Fred Z. Pantlind, sitting in a buggy.	7
Drawing of William B. Ledyard	7
Photograph of Hilda Hummer Pantlind with daughter Katherine Pantlind Whinery. (Identification of individuals given with a question mark).	7
Drawing/Painting of Willie Barker (George Whinery's uncle) as a child.	7
Photograph of a young boy and girl with a doll and a dog.	7
1912 photograph of Katherine Pantlind Whinery (born January 28, 1910) and Hilda Pantlind (born April 4, 1911).	7
Photograph of five men, identified as Boyd, Andrew, Frank, Fred and Frank II. A later note indicates that J. Boyd Pantlind is in the photograph. Also written on the matboard is "HMMBA, Florida, 1921."	7

## Series II.Scrabooks

## Series II.Scrabooks

**Scope and Contents note**

The collection contains several scrapbooks. Brief summaries of the scrapbook contents are provided below.

**The Whist Club:** Three items from the Whist Club are included in the collection: a yearbook, a menu and a scrapbook from a trip. Whist is a card game that was developed in the 17th century. The items in this collection are from a Grand Rapids club in the 1890s.

**John T. Pantlind Scrapbook, 1860s-1880s:** primarily includes newspaper clippings and hotel bills of fare (menus). The material is generally from Nevada, California, Michigan, New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C. Some of the hotels included are the Ormsby (Carson City, NV), the Hibbard House (Jackson, MI), the Russell House (Detroit, MI), the Morton (Grand Rapids, MI) and the Bancroft House (East Saginaw, MI). Also included is an 1878 subpoena regarding the court martial of Major General Fitz-John Porter.

**George E. Pantlind Scrapbook, 1850s-1870s:** includes numerous items related to the University of Michigan, such receipts, commencement programs and alumni dinner invitations. Also included in the scrapbook are local theater bills, hotel bills of fare (menus), drawings, dance cards, wedding invitations and obituaries. In addition, a January 5, 1852 letter from George to his Aunt Jennie Dyckman claims to be his first letter.

**Jessie Pantlind Scrapbook:** contains mostly newspaper clippings, wedding invitations and obituaries. The newspaper clippings are generally articles that are anecdotal or humorous, contain etiquette advice or are religious (ie, sermons). A few of the newspaper articles mention Grand Rapids or members of the Pantlind and Aldrich families.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
“The Whist Club,” yearbook. Inscribed: “With my [my] compliments. Chas S. Hazeltine. Barnhart's Best... [illegible]” In Memoriam section lists George E. Pantlind	1	8
The Whist Club Trip to Bear Lake, June 17-21, 1897. “Mark it B.”	1	9

## Series III: Naval Records

Dinner to The Whist Club, April 30, 1898, J. Boyd Pantlind, dinner menu with photographs	1	10
“Her Book: An Engaged Girl's Record Book.” For Isabel Wylie, fiancée Archibald Angus McLeod, Jr.	5	xx
Loose Photographs, Engagement Book	5	4
Loose Papers, Engagement Book. Includes 1843 A.V. Pantlind Letter of Recommendation	5	5
		<b>Box</b>
John T. Pantlind Scrapbook		4
George E. Pantlind Scrapbook		3
Jessie Pantlind Scrapbook		5
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
February 17, 1933 Grand Rapids Herald, from Jessie Pantlind's Scrapbook	5	2
Loose Pages, Jessie Pantlind Scrapbook	5	3

**Series III: Naval Records****Scope and Contents note**

In the 1920s, Fred Z. Pantlind served in the local U.S. Naval Reserve. This series contains mostly administrative and financial records, such as correspondence, newsletters, receipts and bookkeeping

## Series III: Naval Records

records. Also included are several articles regarding the Navy, including information pertaining to the 1927 Geneva Naval Conference.

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Handwritten index for some of the naval records	2	1
District Reserve Order, 1927	2	2
Naval Reserve Bulletin, 1928	2	3
Unit Order, 1926	2	4
District Staff Headquarters Memorandum, 1927-1928	2	5
Report of Receipts and Disbursements on Account of Armory at (Naval) Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1923-1928	2	6
Memorandum and blank Disbursement Vouchers, 1928	2	7
Memorandum (Armory Accounts), 1926	2	8
Bank records (canceled checks, deposit slips, statements, salary invoices), 1922-1928	2	9
Petty cash records/receipts, 1926-1928	2	10
Articles/Papers, Text of a Speech, 1928 and undated	2	11

**Series IV.Genealogy**

Correspondence and Memorandums, 1926-1927	2	12
Receipts, 1926-1928 (furniture, utilities, supplies, uniforms, weapons)	2	13
Great Lakes Bulletin, newsletter, April 23 and 30, 1927	2	14
Weekly News Letter, Staff Headquarters, Ninth Naval District, 1927	2	15
Correspondence, Receipts: Army and Navy Register, Army & Navy Magazine, 1927-1928	2	16
Correspondence related to travel, 1927	2	17
Correspondence, 1926-1928 – Invitations, Statement of Receipts and Disbursements	2	18
List of pledges (alphabetical) with adding sheets attached	2	19-20
Grand Rapids Boat and Canoe Club, correspondence, 1926-1927	2	21
Newspaper articles (typed), 1927	2	22
Articles/Papers about the Geneva Naval Conference, 1927	2	23

**Series IV.Genealogy****Scope and Contents note**



**Series V.Miscellaneous**

Miscellaneous items related to the family genealogy. Specific items include a book on the George Aldrich family and family trees for Stephen Aldrich, William B. Ledyard and James Boyd Pantlind.

**Box**

Book: George Aldrich Genealogy, Descendants of George Aldrich of Mendon, Mass., Volume II. Compiled by Alvin James Aldrich.

6

**Box****Folder**

Correspondence, 1970-1983

1

13

Biography of Moses V. Aldrich; Article on Sundial sculpture (given by Katherine Aldrich Blake in 1925 in memory of her father, Moses V. Aldrich)

1

14

Family Tree Information

1

15

**Series V.Miscellaneous****Scope and Contents note**

This series contains two books related to the Department of Conservation, a biographical book with an entry for J. Boyd Pantlind and a home decorating catalog addressed to Jessie Pantlind.

**Box**

Book: Biennial Report, The Department of Conservation, State of Michigan, 1925 and 1926. Fred Z. Pantlind listed as a Commissioner.

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Book: Proceedings, Department of Conservation, Vol. 1, 1921-1922

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Series V.Miscellaneous

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Book: Friendly Fellows of Furniture Town. "J. Boyd Pantlind" embossed on front cover.  
Note to J. Boyd Pantlind on front cover from L.F. Williams, January 12, 1902.

6

"How to Select Furnishing for the Home" Part I: Principles of Color Selection. By A.F.  
& B. Jackson. Published by Good Furniture Magazine, the Dean-Hicks Building, Grand  
Rapids. Front cover embossed with "Mrs. J.B. Pantlind"

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