

Finding Aid for the Nellie Fuller Rice Boer Roberts Collection Collection 423

Finding aid prepared by Drew Damron

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

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111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49503

616-988-5400

localhis@grpl.org

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Title	Nellie Fuller Rice Boer Roberts Collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1913-1919
Date [inclusive]	1901-1946
Extent	2.0 Linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	This collection consists of much information on Grace Episcopal Church, the Boer family, John L. Boer - former City Clerk, and many other photos and postcards of West Michigan.

Biographical/Historical note

Nellie Rice Boer was born on December 24th, 1877 in Coopersville, Michigan. Nellie was a graduate of the University of Michigan and was involved in their alumni association for a long time. She is listed in the directory, "Women's Voices: Early Years at the University of Michigan" as "Pres of Grand Rapids Assoc." Nellie was married to John L. Boer, a City Clerk from 1903-1909 who later became a Lieutenant Colonel during World War I. Both were listed in the Grand Rapids Society Blue Book ("The Elite Family Directory"). They have been listed as living at 10 Paddock, 114 Paddock, and 27 Rochester Place. For a time she was registered in the American Kennel Club as a bulldog breeder, and bulldogs are featured in many of the photos of this collection.

They had one son, Lawrence Fuller Boer, a boy scout and promising young athlete who passed away at age 16 due to an infection in his left hip. He spent the last three years of his life in and out of Blodgett Hospital and passed away on December 17, 1917. John was stationed in France at the time.

Nellie and John divorced by 1920 and, according to the census, she was living on her own working as an Insurance Solicitor at age 42. John moved to Lansing where he would work in the Department of Labor and Industry for 21 years. She later remarried Dr. Mortimer E. Roberts who was at one point the city bacteriologist. Nellie Rice Roberts passed away in February 1979 at the age of 101.

Scope and Contents note

Within these materials there are images and information on The Grace Episcopal Church during the early 20th century, Christmas Cards from Arthur Vandenburg and Margueritte Wurzburg, early 20th century certificates from Grace Episcopal, University of Michigan, and the Grand Rapids Public Schools, a number of postcards and photographs of boy scouts, military, and other places around Michigan.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department June 2015

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift from Mrs. Kline, accession number 1979.013

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Collection #96 - Western Michigan Genealogical Society Church Records

Collection #125 - Robinson Studio Collection (contains interiors and exteriors of Grace Episcopal)

Collection #347 - Grand Rapids Public Library Church References Collection

The Biography and Portrait Files contains a biographical folder on John L Boer

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Church history
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- Photographs

Personal Name(s)

- Mrs. Kline. Nellie was her great aunt

Subject(s)

- Military camps -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Postcards -- Michigan
- Postcards -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Books, Ephemera, Postcards

Collection Inventory

Books, Ephemera, Postcards		
	Box	Folder
3 Postcards. US National Army, Camp Custer, Battle Creek, Michigan	1	1
Grace Church Bulletins, 1913-1919, plus other Grace Church Ephemera	1	2
Manual for the Holy Eucharist / compiled by the Rector of How School. Tenth Thousand. How School Press, Trinity, 1907	1	3
Sunbeams, #1-4 combined, with a series of general and special services for the Sunday-School / by Harold Marlow. G.R.: Harold Marlow Co., 1901	1	4
The program of the Victory Reunion Dinner and One Hundred Second Commencement of the University of Michigan, June 20-22, 1946. + Program: Victory Reunion Dinner, June 20, 1946	1	5
Newspaper Clipping. GR Press n.d. Scout Troup with 25 years of achievement celebrates.	1	6
Program: Employees of New York State Department of Public Works, Farewell Dinner at the Ten Eyck Hotel, Albany, NY January 26, 1926. Image of Royal Kent Fuller seen through cover oval. Includes menu	1	7
Table Directory. Alphabetical list of names with table numbers given.	1	7

Books, Ephemera, Postcards

Letter: State of NY department of public works, bureau of canals and waterways, Albany. Royal K. Fuller, Commissioner of Canals & Waterways- Letterhead. Jan. 27, 1926. "Dear Nellie...", signed "Royal" Addressed to Mrs. M.E. Roberts	1	7
Program of Acts and Songs, Department of Public Works Employees Farewell Dinner to Royal Kent Fuller [Legal Size]	1	7
Loose Postcards/Business Cards, Non-Michigan. Double folding postcard of "The Manor", Asheville, N.E. Color postcard view "From High School Building looking East, Hot Springs, Arkansas. With message: To Mrs. M.E. Roberts, 225 Madison Ave. From MER? Feb. 16 year x? Photo business card. White Sulphur Spring Hotel, Saratoga Lake, P.O. Mechanicville, NY	1	8
Leather Postcard. Sept 16, 1908 message to Mrs. Roberts. Image c. 1907 by W.S. Heal "To my wife"	1	9
B/W of white woman dressed in kimono with umbrella. The Hensen Printing Co. GR	1	10
2 invitations. Cover: GH Hendricks. 1901-1926 25th Wedding Anniversary Dinner, Pantlind [menu]. One invitation includes a card with: Mrs. Mortimer E. Roberts, 1901-1926, his & her images on bells. The second invitation includes the same card, except it reads Dr. Mortimer Roberts.	1	11
Loose Christmas Cards	1	12
Loose Graphic Clippings	1	13

Photo Albums

Confirmation Certification. Small. Nellie Rice Boer. March 5, 1909. Grace Church, G.R.	1	14
The Call to Colors. Woodrow Wilson, delivered before congress April 2nd 1917. Compliments of Russel Motor Axle Company, North Detroit.	1	15

Photo Albums

	Box	Volume
Postcard Album. National Views. John I. Boer in Europe. Family Photos.	2	1
Lawrence Boer's Photo Album. Boy Scout Camp, July 1915. Mr and Mrs Sligh. Grace Church Interiors and officials. Interiors of 27 Rochester Place. Ottawa Beach scenes. Michigan Camp Perry, 1910.	2	2
Photos and Articles on Lawrence Boer's Life and Death. Baby photos. Newspaper clippings. Obituary. Memorial Service program. In memoriam.	2	3

Loose Photos

Rolled panoramic photo, with blurring at about where the separate images would be attached. "Grace church" Shows a large group of standing and seated officials and boys in robes, probably from a Sunday School graduation.		
	Box	Folder

Loose Photos

Bark Paper. Souvenir Program. 3rd Regiment Band, M.N.G.? Gov. Aaron T. Bliss, Commander-in-Chief, Ludington, 1904. Contains photos of camp, family, baby Lawrence or another baby.	3	1
Five photos attached to black board, with decorative detail. Images of a group, recreation.	3	2
Two photos attached to black board, of 2 women & 3 men in military encampment.	3	3
Four photo postcards of women in groups, formal, unidentified.	3	4
Two unidentified portrait photos: Mature balding male and woman with infant.	3	5
Five unidentified candid family shots. "The only cold day ever known in Miami" Four men in front of a tiled building with 2 flags. Verso: Dr. Roberts.	3	6
Photo postcard, Christmas, 1915. Dr. and Mrs. Roberts, Mortimer and Elliott. From Edyth. Collie dog included with young boys in photo, exterior.	3	7
Seven images of house including: four of large house with dogs and kennels, Bradfield house... Calumet. Photographer, Brick house. Large house with image attached to textured paper.	3	8
Three rural views, including one with cows.	3	9

Loose Photos

<p>Five photo postcards including: March 21, 1912 to Dr and Mrs Roberts. Beach scene with message; House. N.D. visible. To Mrs John L Boer, 10 Paddock St. GR with message.</p>	3	10
<p>Four photos in portrait folders, Noble Studios. Dr. McPherson December '91. 3 different photos of young women.</p>	3	11
<p>Five photos in large portrait folders. Hamilton 1903, Fugutt Grand Rapids. Mature male with hat, Johnson studio, Ashland, Wisconsin. Mature man, unknown studio. "Bun" Butler '17, Brubaker, Grand Rapids. Mature man with glasses, Brubaker, Grand Rapids.</p>	3	12
<p>Six photos in small portrait folders. Young male center parted hair, Heath, Grand Rapids. Baby photo, Scharp. 3 girls, one with bow in hair, "with love Hazel" Johnson, Ashland Wisconsin. Young boy "Ladd & Son." Young boy with glasses "Sincerely yours Adrian H. Paauwve" Long Island. Young woman with fur stole and muff, "Sincerely yours Dorothy Scatt."</p>	3	13
<p>Five photos: Unidentified group of 5 children, 3 girls & boy plus infant. Unidentified male in World War I uniform. Unidentified woman, oval cut photo, bare shoulders. Unidentified male in Michigan uniform Reidsema, Kalamazoo studio. Unidentified male in suit with hands in pockets.</p>	3	14
<p>Three images of women, found together. Mrs. Col. P.L. Abbey, bare shoulders, dark dress. Unidentified, low neck, white blouse. Unidentified middle-aged woman, in black laced dress, Siewert, Kalamazoo.</p>	3	15
<p>Unidentified Middle aged woman, black laced dress, Chancellor, Dublin.</p>	3	16

Oversized & Certificates

Two images in portrait folders. Unidentified young male, seated in suit with tie hanging down, Johnson, Ashland photographer. Unidentified young male, suit and tie, VanCampen Grand Rapids, MI.	3	17
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Black marker on yellow paper: Cohan Family, San Francisco, September 1898. G.M. is 20, 1878-1942.	3	18
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Loose from Brown Photo Album in Box 2	3	19
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Oversized & Certificates

Box

Rolled. Nellie Fuller Rice. GR High School Having completed the classical and Latin-German courses. June 21, 1895.	4
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Rolled. Nelenium Fuller Rice Universitatis reipublica Michiganeusium. Procuratores et Professores Academici [In Latin, with date]	4
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Rolled. Graduates of the High School Dept. of Grace Church School of Religious Education. June 16, 1918 commencement Services. Placed with other Grace Church bulletins & programs above.	4
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Rolled. Grand Rapids Public Schools. Lawrence Fuller boer. Jan. 26th 1917. 8th grade.	4
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Rolled. Certificate for Faithfulness. Lawrence Fuller Boer, Grace Church Sunday School, June 13, 1915.	4
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Oversized & Certificates

Rolled. Certificate for Faithfulness. Lawrence Fuller Boer, Grace Church Sunday School, June 25, 1916.		4
Rolled. Certificate for Faithfulness. Lawrence Fuller Boer, Grace Church Sunday School, June 24, 1917.		4
Rolled. Certificate Grace Church of Grand Rapids, Lawrence Boer. Sunday School. N.D.		4
	Box	Folder
Folded: John L. Boer of Michigan, Supervisor of the 13th Census for the 5th district of Michigan. William Howard Taft, President... presents greeting:...August 13, 1909.	4	1
History of Grace Church / by Edgar W. Hunting, 1922	4	3
Certificate of Promotion of the Sunday School, Grace Church, GR. Lawrence Fuller Boer. June 13, 1915. 1st year Grammar School.	4	3
Certificate of Promotion of the Sunday School, Grace Church, GR. Lawrence Fuller Boer. June 1917. 3rd year High School	4	3
Certificate of Promotion of the Sunday School, Grace Church, GR. Lawrence Fuller Boer. June 25, 1916. 2nd year Grammar School.	4	3
Small child in oversized portrait folder.	4	4
Young woman. Sitting in white ruffled dress. Oversized portrait folder from Brubaker studios, Grand Rapids	4	5

Oversized & Certificates

Large image of Sunday School class. ND.

4

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