

# **Campau Centennial Celebration Collection 434**

**Finding aid prepared by Julie Dolegowski**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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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>       | Campau Centennial Celebration  |
| <b>Date [bulk]</b> | Bulk, 1926   |
| <b>Date</b>        | February 1926 - October 1926   |
| <b>Extent</b>      | 1.0 Linear feet  |
| <b>Language</b>    | English  |
| <b>Abstract</b>    | <p>The Campau Centennial Celebration took place September 23-26, 1926 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first permanent white settlement in Grand Rapids by Louis Campau. Festivities took place throughout the weekend and included pageants, exhibits and a parade. The celebration was meant to celebrate the history of the city of Grand Rapids, as well as high hopes for the city's future.</p> |

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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The Grand Rapids Centennial Celebration took place in 1926 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first permanent settlement in Grand Rapids. A special committee was established and met every other week to plan and organize the celebration. Subcommittees were established to plan specific elements of the celebration and would report to the general committee regularly. To raise awareness for the celebration, the Centennial Committee commissioned bronze coins featuring Louis and Sophie Campau as well as a book *A Citizens History of Grand Rapids* to be sold for \$1 each. A special emphasis was placed on inviting former residents of Grand Rapids back for the celebration. Taking place during the weekend of September 23-26, the celebration honored Louis Campau and his wife Sophie de Marsac Campau, who became the first permanent white settlers in the area in 1826. The occasion was marked by pageants reenacting the arrival of Louis Campau, as well as the marriage of Harriet Burton, the first pioneer marriage in Grand Rapids, the Pageant of Progress, and a historical dress pageant. In addition to the pageants, various exhibits and events were placed around town. Local business, civic organizations and religious groups were encouraged to participate in the celebration.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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The collection consists of documents related to the Campau Centennial Celebration in the city of Grand Rapids. It includes documents related to the planning including committee and subcommittee rosters, meeting minutes, reports, and correspondence. Also included are newspaper articles and clippings related to the celebration, as well as miscellaneous ephemera.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

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

## Controlled Access Headings

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### Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- 19th Century
- Michigan -- Grand Rapids -- Centennial celebrations, etc.

## Series I: Membership

## Collection Inventory

| <b>Series I: Membership 1926 (Bulk, 1926)</b>                             |            |               |
|---|------------|---------------|
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| General Roster (2)  | 1          | 1             |
| Subcommittees   | 1          | 1             |
| <b>Series II: Correspondence June 1926 to September 1926 (Bulk, 1926)</b> |            |               |
|   | 1          | 2             |
| <b>Series III: Minutes February 1926 to October 1926 (Bulk, 1926)</b>     |            |               |
|   | 1          | 3             |
| <b>Series IV: Newspaper Clippings</b>                                     |            |               |
|   | 1          | 4             |
| <b>Series V: Pageant Programs</b>   |            |               |
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Pioneer Pageant   | 1          | 5             |
| Historical Pageant (2)  | 1          | 5             |
| Pageant of Progress (3, one with stage guide)                             | 1          | 5             |
| <b>Series VI: Ephemera</b>  |            |               |
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |

**Series VII: Miscellaneous**

|   |            |               |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Window Sign   | 1          | 6             |
| Commemorative Medal Proofs  | 1          | 7             |
| Winshield Decal   | 1          | 8             |
| Picture   | 1          | 9             |
| Play money  | 1          | 10            |
| Special Thanks certificates. One to G.R. Historical Society and one to G.R. Public Library. | 1          | 11            |
| Old National Bank Brouchures (2)  | 1          | 12            |
| Printing blocks   | 1          | 13            |
| <b>Series VII: Miscellaneous</b>  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|   | 1          | 14            |