

# **The Sara Kingsley Smith and Isaac Platt Powell Collection Collection 436**

**Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Andrew**

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August 05, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

August 4, 2015

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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>	The Sara Kinglsey Smith and Isaac Platt Powell Collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1880-1935
<b>Extent</b>	1.5 Linear feet 2 boxes 6 folders
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection is made up primarily of the personal papers and photographs of Sara Kinglsey Smith (1872-1963), daughter of former Grand Rapids Mayor, Henry S. Smith, and Isaac Platt Powell (1838-1903) spanning the years from 1884-1935. Issac Powell married Helen Griffith Smith, Henry Smith's second wife and stepmother of Sarah Smith, in 1890 following Henry's death. Most notably the collection contains a photo album that includes photos of Sara Smith's family, including her father, the D.A. Blodgett family and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Garfield.</p>

## Biographical/Historical note

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Henry S. Smith, former Mayor of Grand Rapids from 1878 to 1880, and his second wife, Hannah M. Simms had two girls; Mary (1869-1907) and Sara (1872-1963). Hannah died in 1873 and Smith married Helen Griffith in 1879.

Helen Griffith was born in Sheldon, NY in 1849 and died in Grand Rapids, MI in 1935. She was heavily involved in community organizations and charities including the Ladies Literary Club, the D.A.R and the Evangeline Home.

Henry died less than two years later, in 1881, and in 1890 Helen married Isaac Powell. Helen and Isaac had one son, Edward M. Powell, in 1892.

Isaac Platt Powell was born in 1838 in Clinton, NY. He fought in the Civil War as part of the 146th New York Volunteer Infantry from 1862-1865. He graduated from Union Theological Seminary in New York City after the war and served as pastor of the Congregational Church in Canaan, Conn. In 1868 he married Sarah Helen Clay. They settled in Grand Rapids in approximately 1880 where Isaac established a school for boys. Sarah died in 1886. He was a major in the 6th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry and was a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Isaac ran the boys school until 1902. He died 1903 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

Sara Smith never married and passed away in 1963 at the age of 91. She was a founding member of the Visiting Community Health Nursing Association and it's treasurer for many years. A member of Mayflower Congregational Church, Sara was also active in Community Chest activities and was a charter member of the Kent Garden Club.

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## Scope and Contents note

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This collection contains personal documents, primarily Isaac Powell's, and a photo album put together by Sara K. Smith which includes photos of her family and friends, notably her father, Henry S. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. D.A. Blodgett and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Garfield. There is also a photo of the Smith Powell home at 76 Jefferson. Most photos are well identified by Miss Smith.

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## Administrative Information

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## Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department August 4, 2015

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- 19th Century
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- 20th Century
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History -- Photographs
- Michigan -- Genealogy

### Personal Name(s)

- Helen, Griffith Smith Powell, Mrs., 1849-1935
- Henry, S. Smith
- Isaac, Platt Powell, Reverend, 1838-1903
- Sara, Kingsley Smith, 1872-1963

### Subject(s)

- Veterans -- Michigan

## Correspondance

## Collection Inventory

<b>Correspondance 1898-1932</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Partial letter to Sara K. Smith from Henry McConnell 1935	1	3
Letter to I.P. Powell from The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States with enclosed Circular #10 of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States 1898	1	6
Grand Rapids War Relief Bulletin No. 15 1918	1	2
<b>Applications 1905</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Daughters of the American Revolution of Michigan Military and Non-Military War Service Record questionnaire	1	2
Memorandum preliminary to application for membership by inheritance into the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, blank Copyright 1905	1	6
Application for Membership of the First Class Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (2 copies, both blank) Copyright 1905	1	6

## Miscellaneous Documents

<b>Miscellaneous Documents 1880-1903</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Invitation to the annual banquet of The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States 1898	1	6
In Memoriam of Major Isaac Platt Powell published by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States 1903	1	6
Notice to I.P. Powell that he was elected a Companion of the First Class of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States 1899	1	6
Reciept for \$25.00 admission fee for I.P. Powell's membership in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States Commandery of Michigan. 1898	1	6
Document outlining qualifications for membership in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States	1	6
Changes in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States By-Laws 1895	1	6
Invitation to join Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States	1	6
Program and menu from the Seventh Annual Reunion of the Sixth Michigan Volunteer Cavalry 1894	1	5

## Photographs

Certificate confirming Rev. I.P. Powell's honorary membership in The Merriam Rifles First Grand Rapids Company 1892	1	5
Certificate of I.P. Powell's membership in the Lincoln Republican Club 1894	1	5
Receipt for I.P. Powell's payment for membership in the Historical Society of Grand Rapids 1895	1	5
List of birds seen in Grand Rapids kept by Isaac Powell	1	5
Park Congregational Church bulletin dated March 22, 1903 noting the death of Isaac Powell 1903	1	5
<b>Photographs 1880-1935</b>		
		<b>Box</b>
Framed photograph of Henry S. Smith, undated		2
Sara K. Kingsley photo album 1880-1930		2
<b>Newspaper Clippings 1870-1935</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
"Notice to Publishers" Henry S. Smith before 1881	1	1
Mrs. Helen Griffith Powell obituary 1935	1	4