

# **Finding Aid for the Don Farrant Great Lakes History Research Collection Collection 440**

**Finding aid prepared by Drew Damron**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

August 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>	Don Farrant Great Lakes History Research Collection
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	Bulk, 1960-1980
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1770s - 1980s
<b>Extent</b>	1.5 Linear feet 3 Boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	This collection contains research notes, clippings, and photographs on Michigan and Great Lakes History history topics.

## **Biographical/Historical note**

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Don Walter Farrant Jr. was a native of Grand Rapids, Michigan and was a 1948W graduate of Yale University. He served in the Navy during World War II and was a retired technical writer. Mr. Farrant moved to St Simons Island, Georgia from Grand Rapids in 1988. He was a member of the Retired Officers Club, the Ivy League of the Golden Isles, and Navy League, the American Legion, the Georgia Historical Society and was a member and past-president of the Civil War Round Table.

He was a freelance writer of nostalgia and ghost stories and was the author of three books, "Lure and Lore of the Golden Isles", "Ghosts of the Georgia Coast", and "Haunted Houses of Grand Rapids." He passed away at age 78 on Sunday, March 2, 2003.

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## **Scope and Contents note**

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The Don Farrant Great Lakes History Research Collection contains research compiled by Don W. Farrant Jr, and it is divided into 3 boxes. Folders are arranged by theme first, then alphabetically.

The first box contains material referring to different ways that Lake Michigan has been crossed. These folders contain newspaper clippings and photos of enterprises such as crossing the lake in a bathtub, a canoe, a one-man submarine, etc. This box also contains research material pertaining to particular ships and categories of ships within the great lakes area.

The second box contains research material regarding different individuals and families of historic importance in Michigan.

The third box holds folders with research materials on a variety of historical subjects and topics. These topics range from cults, the civil war, hot air balloons, and more.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

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

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

Gift from Don W. Farrant, Jr., accession number 1988.034

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

Collection 117: Henry McConnell Collection of Civil War era broadsides

Collection 242: Grand Rapids Public Library Civil War Documents Collection

Collection 280: Grand Rapids Public Library Michigan Travel Literature Collection

Collection 281: Grand Rapids Public Library General Michigan History Collection

Collection 362: John Gelderloos Civil War Research Collection

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Geographic Name(s)

- Ada (Mich.) -- History
- East Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Michigan -- History
- Ramona Park (East Grand Rapids, Mich.)

### Personal Name(s)

- Donald W. Farrant J. (signed deed D.W. Farrant)

### Subject(s)

- Aeronautics -- Michigan -- Kent County -- History
- Logging -- Michigan

- **United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865**

## Lake Michigan Crossings and Boat Research

## Collection Inventory

Lake Michigan Crossings and Boat Research		
	Box	Folder
Bathtub crossing Lake Michigan	1	1
Canoe crossing Lake Michigan	1	2
Catamaran crossing Lake Michigan	1	3
One-man submarine crossing Lake Michigan	1	4
Ski Sail/ Kite crossing Lake Michigan	1	5
Small Sailboat crossing Lake Michigan	1	6
Speedboat crossing Lake Michigan	1	7
Swimming & Hangglider crossing Lake Michigan	1	8
Water Skiis crossing Lake Michigan. Folder A.	1	9
Wet Bike crossing Lake Michigan	1	10
Wind Surfer crossing Lake Michigan	1	11

## Biographical Research

Lake Crossings Correspondences	1	12
Car Ferries	1	13
"Chicora" Steamship	1	14
Devil Ice	1	15
Foolkiller	1	16
SS Keewatin, Saugatuck	1	17
The Burning of the Naomi	1	18
Naptha Launch	1	19
"Our Son" Salvor Schooner	1	20
Schooners	1	21
Tugboats	1	22
<b>Biographical Research</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Broncho Bill Brousseau	2	1



## Biographical Research

"Pee Wee" Brown, Balloonist	2	2
Donaldson	2	3
Tom Fryant	2	4
Charlie Holt	2	5
Jack London	2	6
Bud Mars	2	7
Kid McCoy	2	8
Mickey McGurrin, First Parachute Jumper	2	9
King Ben Purnell	2	10
Ruggles Family	2	11
Saginaw Characters: Curt Emerson, Little Jake, etc.	2	12
Louis Sands	2	13
Estelle Schooner	2	14
Dan Seavey and Michigan History ('73 Research)	2	15

## Subject Research

Stewart Edward White	2	16
William B Stout	2	17
Jack Vilas	2	18
<b>Subject Research</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Ada Bridge	3	1
Artist File Samples	3	2
Civil War	3	3
Gettysburg	3	4
"Michigan Men in the Civil War" by Ida C. Brown	3	5
Civil War Round Table	3	6
Battlefields of the Civil War Map, National Geographic.	3	7
Consumers Power	3	8
Cults	3	9

**Subject Research**

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The Curwood Collector. Volumes 1-5 (Missing Vol II. Issue 2)	3	10
Curwood Notes	3	11
Curwood Related Materials	3	12
Great Balloon Race	3	13
Hot Air Balloons	3	14
The Great Log Jam	3	15
Kohler Line	3	16
Logging	3	17
Pentwater	3	18
Planes, Old War, Lake Michigan, Japanese Rifles	3	19
Reed's Lake Research Materials	3	20
Rennie Plane Crash	3	21