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# Finding aid for the Arthur Fayette Shaw papers Collection 489

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

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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>Source:</b>	Grand Rapids Public Museum
<b>Title:</b>	Arthur Fayette Shaw papers
<b>ID:</b>	Collection 489
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1894-1945
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.5 Linear Feet 1 box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Arthur F. Shaw was born to Solomon Benjamin Shaw and Etta Salder Shaw in 1884. His papers cover almost a sixty year span of his life, from letters he wrote as a boy and young adult to notes he made as a city commissioner and a superior court judge. Shaw served in both world wars and was a member of the American Legion and the Grand Encampment I.O.O.F. of Michigan. Proceedings from both of these organizations can be found in this collection. Shaw's mother, Etta Sadler Shaw, was a national evangelist and a lecturer for the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Copies of "Samples of New Songs," hymns which she edited, are also included in these papers.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Arthur Fayette Shaw was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in September of 1884, to Solomon Benjamin Shaw and Etta Salder Shaw. He married Josephine Moore in 1910 and began a law practice the same year.

Shaw served in the Army in both world wars. In World War I he was a combat officer in the 317th Infantry, 80th Division of the Army and was promoted from lieutenant to captain. Recalled to active duty in World War II, he served as the commanding training officer of the civil affairs training school at Yale University.

Shaw was an active member of the American Legion and the Grand Encampment I.O.O.F. of Michigan, of which he served as Grand Patriarch from 1926-1927.

Shaw served on the Grand Rapids City Commission from 1920-1924 and unsuccessfully ran for Grand Rapids Mayor in 1924. He was appointed superior court judge in 1932 and held that position for less than a year.

Arthur and Josephine had two children, Mildred and Collins. Arthur died in 1984 and is buried in Oakhill Cemetery.

Etta Sadler Shaw was born in Sturgis, Michigan on April 28, 1860 to James Jared Sadler and Loretta Sutton Sadler. In 1882 Etta married Solomon Shaw and together they had eleven children.

Etta served as Vice-President of the Women Preacher's Association, an organization created in 1919 to develop fellowship among women preachers, to secure ecclesiastical rights of women and to encourage young women to take up the work of the ministry. In addition, Etta was a national evangelist and a lecturer for the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Etta died in Grand Rapids, Michigan on December 4, 1928 and is buried in Oakhill Cemetery.

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## Scope and Contents

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These papers include letters written by Arthur F. Shaw from 1894 through 1903, mostly to his mother, describing college life, family matters and religious struggles. The collection also includes letters written by his siblings. Proceedings of the American Legion, including the minutes from the first meeting of the American Legion in 1919, and the by-laws and proceedings of the Grand Encampment I.O.O.F. of Michigan are in the collection, in addition to a compiled book of thoughts, notes, and writings written and collected by Arthur Shaw between 1922-1945. The collection also contains "Samples of New Songs," hymns edited by Shaw's mother, Etta Sadler Shaw.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- World War, 1914-1918
- Temperance -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- World War, 1939-1945
- Grand Rapids Public Museum

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Mementos: lock of Arthur F. Shaw's baby hair, note from the Junior League	Box 1	Folder 1
Letters written by Arthur F. Shaw, 1894-1903	Box 1	folder 2
Letters of Arthur F. Shaw's family members, 1894-1916	Box 1	folder 3
Grand Encampment I.O.O.F. of Michigan By-Laws 1922, 1926-7	Box 1	Folder 4
Grand Encampment I.O.O.F. of Michigan Proceedings, 1927	Box 1	folder 5
Minutes of the First Meeting of the Caucus of the American Legion, Proceedings and Committees Caucus of the American Legion, 1919	Box 1	Folder 6
Notes: Arthur F. Shaw, Judge of the Superior Court of Grand Rapids, 1922-1945	Box 1	folder 7
Arthur F. Shaw election campaign cards 1924, 1932/33	Box 1	folder 8
Gospel and Temperance Songster, Mrs. Etta E. Shaw written on cover	Box 1	folder 9
Samples of New Songs, edited by Mrs. S.B. Shaw	Box 1	Folder 10