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## **Finding aid for The Fred H. Locke papers collection 495**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

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

URL: <https://www.grpl.org/research/history/>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Grand Rapids History and Special Collections
<b>Creator - dnr:</b>	Marjorie Maxine Locke Osgood
<b>Title:</b>	The Fred H. Locke papers
<b>ID:</b>	495
<b>ID [Archivists Toolkit Database::ACCESSION]:</b>	448
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1918-1929
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.25 Cubic Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection contains material related to Fred H. Locke (1874-1945), former city manager of Grand Rapids, Michigan (1918-1929). Included in the collection are letters of appreciation from various Grand Rapidians (e.g. other city departments) regarding his service and accomplishments; a series of letters written by fellow Masons (Fred H. Locke was a 33rd degree Mason); a book (ostensibly created at the time of his retirement) with well-wishes and signatures; a handful of black and white photographs of Locke with other city officials; and several pages of photocopied biographical and family genealogical information. A researcher wishing to better understand the life of Fred H. Locke and/or Masonic life in Michigan could use this collection, donated by his daughter Marjorie M. Locke Osgood.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Fred H. Locke was born on a farm in Plainfield township on September 11, 1874. He attended school in Grandville, Michigan, and later attended the Grand Rapids Business college. According to an obituary printed in the Grand Rapids Press (1/5/1945), Fred H. Locke passed away at age 70 after a long life of leadership and public life in and around the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area. He worked at the Alabastine Co. for eighteen years as a credit manager and as a sales manager. He was also a former president of the Tisch-Hone company.

Fred H. Locke entered public service first as a municipal welfare director and then became the city manager. Upon retirement from his eleven years as Grand Rapids City Manager, Fred H. Locke began an insurance agency; later, he also was a director of the Home State bank. He served as president of the Grand Rapids association of Credit Men and was the past president of the International City Managers' association.

Masonic Life was important to Fred H. Locke as well; he was involved with the Masonic Order and became a 33rd degree mason. He was a grand commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Michigan. Fred H. Locke was affiliated with many other chapters and aspects of Masonry throughout his life.

In his personal life, he was married to Mrs. Nellie Clare Locke; they had two daughters as well as several grandchildren.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection is comprised of just five (5) slim folders of material, some photocopied, some originals. The material is in good condition. Of particular interest in the small book given to Fred H. Locke upon his retirement as city manager, as the book contains a number of handwritten notes and signatures.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated by Marjorie M. Locke Osgood.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Politics and government
- Locke, Fred H.
- Freemasonry -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
book of well-wishes/goodbye	Box 1	Folder 1
correspondence; Masonic letters	Box 1	Folder 2
Black and white group photo, 1923	Box 1	Folder 3
Letters of appreciation	Box 1	Folder 4
biographical/genealogical information; clippings; photos	Box 1	Folder 5