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Finding aid for the Haan family papers Collection 517

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Prepared by Jennifer Andrew

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library

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Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Business Number: 616-988-5497

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History Center
Title:	Haan family papers
ID:	Collection 517
Date [inclusive]:	1900-1964
Physical Description:	.25 Linear Feet 1 box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Haan family papers consist mainly of photographs of the Herman and Susan (O'Connor) Haan family. Herman Haan was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Albert and Margaret (Sikkenga) Haan, shortly after their immigration from the Netherlands in 1867. Susan O'Connor was born in 1866, in Ionia County, Michigan to Cornelius and Susan (O'Laughlin) O'Connor, Irish Catholic immigrants. Together they had seven known children. Herman passed away July 4 of 1928 and Susan July 8, 1952. They are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Although many of the photographs are unidentified, those researching the Haan and O'Connor families specifically, or the Dutch and/or Irish Catholic communities in Grand Rapids, Michigan may find this collection of interest.

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Biographical / Historical

Albert and Margaret (Sikkenga) Haan arrived in the United States, from the Netherlands, in 1867. Together they had at least seven children, all born in Grand Rapids: Herman (1867-1928), Abby (1869-1944), Ann (1871-1954), Allen (1875-1940), Jacob (1875-1941), Martha (1877-1907), Jennie (1884-1953) and an adopted son, Albert (1893-1986).

Their eldest child, Herman, married Susan O'Connor, the daughter of Irish immigrants, Cornelius and Susan (O'Laughlin) O'Connor, in St. Andrew's Cathedral on August 4, 1891. Susan and Herman had at least seven children: Edward (1892-1896), Cornelius, called Neal (1893-1959), Margaret (1897-1957), Agnes (1898-1985), William (1900-1940), Charles (1904-1985), and Mary (1907-1979).

Susan and Herman's children attended St. Andrew's School in Grand Rapids. Neal, Margaret, Mary and Agnes all went on to Catholic Central High School. Upon graduation from Catholic Central High School, Anges completed a business course and worked for 30 years in an office of the Pere Marquette Railroad.

Herman worked for Priestly Express Wagon and Sleigh Co. as a machine hand and packer. Eventually he became a cabinet maker and in 1900 he was employed by Grand Rapids Refrigerator. Herman built the residence at 1910 Darwin SW in 1925/26 when he and Susan were 58 years old. The house was sold in 1983 by their children, Charles and Agnes, who were living there. They both died two years later.

Herman and Susan had no known grandchildren. The only child to marry was Margaret. She married Chester Kawka in 1941, at age 43, and they had no children. Herman passed away July 4 of 1928 and Susan July 8, 1952. They, and many their children, are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, in Grand Rapids.

(This information was compiled from the collection itself and from Ancestry Library Edition.)

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Scope and Contents

The Haan family papers consist mainly of photographs, mostly snapshots and many unidentified, of the Herman and Susan Haan family. There is one large, family portrait of Albert and Margaret Haan and their children, along with identifying information and genealogical information. There are a number of photographs in the collection of employees at the Pere Marquette Railroad and a photograph of the Haan home at 1910 Darwin SW.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History Center

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Haan family papers were donated by William Cunningham. 1985.023

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Controlled Access Headings

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Dutch Americans -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Genealogy

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Haan family genealogy	Box 1	Folder 1
Haan family portrait, Albert and Margaret Haan and their children, taken between 1898-1900.	Box 1	Folder 1
Portrait of four, unidentified women, found in the envelope with the Haan family portrait	Box 1	Folder 1
Susan Haan with children, Margaret and Neal	Box 1	Folder 2
Eddie and Neal Haan	Box 1	Folder 2
Cornelius Haan school copybook, 1910	Box 1	Folder 3
Portrait and snapshot of William "Billy" Sullivan	Box 1	Folder 4
Group of unidentified men outside of a Grand Rapids & Indiana RR office , 1914	Box 1	Folder 5
Military papers of Cornelius Haan, 1917-1918	Box 1	Folder 6
Photograph of unidentified man in military uniform, likely Cornelius Haan	Box 1	Folder 6
Neal and Bill Haan in Detroit, in a group of five unidentified men	Box 1	Folder 7
Catherine Sullivan	Box 1	Folder 8
Mike Sullivan with unidentified woman, assumed to be Catherine Sullivan, 1920	Box 1	Folder 8

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Group of unidentified children with instruments, Agnes Haan, written on reverse	Box 1	Folder 8
Margaret Haan confirmation portrait, 1909	Box 1	Folder 8
Mark Brackway	Box 1	Folder 8
Portraits of Bill and Charlie Haan	Box 1	Folder 8
Flooding at Wyoming, 1919	Box 1	Folder 9
Pere Marquette "office girls" at Wyoming , 1920	Box 1	Folder 9
Group photos of unidentified people, likely Pere Marquette RR employees, 1920s	Box 1	Folder 10
Snapshots, unidentified, 1920s	Box 1	Folder 11
William Haan personal papers, including driver's license and railroad employment information	Box 1	Folder 12
unidentified snapshots, 1940s	Box 1	Folder 13
unidentified snapshots, 1948	Box 1	Folder 14
1910 Darwin SW, 1959	Box 1	Folder 15
unidentified woman at a typewriter, 1954	Box 1	Folder 15
group of unidentified woman at a banquet meal, June 20, 1964	Box 1	Folder 16
snapshots of unidentified people at a picnic, or similar, 1950s	Box 1	Folder 17
photographs of an unidentified house	Box 1	Folder 18
Portrait of an unidentified woman, 8x10, taken by The Camera Shop	Box 1	Folder 19