



ArchivesSpace
a community served by ✦ LYRISIS

Finding Aid for the Voigt Milling Company records collection 519

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on August 29, 2023.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Prepared by Jennifer Andrew

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Business Number: 616-988-5497

localhis@grpl.org

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

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	5

Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History Center
Title:	Voigt Milling Company records
ID:	collection 519
Date [inclusive]:	1898-1939
Physical Description:	2 Linear Feet 2 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Voigt Milling Company operated the Star and Crescent mills in Grand Rapids, Michigan from the late 1800s until 1955. This collection contains mainly accounting and legal agreements related to the Voigt Milling Company, begun by Carl Gustav Adolph Voigt (1833-1908), originally in partnership with William G. Herpolsheimer (1841-1920), and carried on by Voigt's wife and children upon his death until 1955 when the company shut down. This collection would be of interest to anyone researching the milling industry, or the Voigt Milling Company in particular.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

In 1875 Carl Gustav Adolph Voigt (1833-1908), a German immigrant, moved his family from Michigan City, Indiana to Grand Rapids, Michigan to join his business partner, William G. Herpolsheimer (1841-1920) in the dry goods business. Voigt, Herpolsheimer & Co. operated out of a storefront at 42 Monroe Street.

In time they purchased an interest in the Star mills, managed by Mangold, Kusterer & Co., with Voigt's primary focus being the mills and Herpolsheimer's the dry goods business. In 1877 the management company changed its name to Voigt, Kusterer & Co. After Kusterer was lost on the steamer Alpena in 1880 the firm became C. G. A. Voigt, purchasing Crescent Mill in 1882. Eventually Carl G. A. Voigt became president of the Voigt Milling Company, operating both the Star and Crescent mills. In 1902 Voigt and Herpolsheimer amicably dissolved their partnership; Voigt taking the mills and Herpolsheimer the dry goods business.

When C. G. A. Voigt died in 1908 his wife, Elizabeth S. (Wurster) Voigt (1841-1929), and four of his six children carried on the Voigt Milling Company. Elizabeth was named vice-president of the business and was active until her death in 1929. Their son, Frank A. (1861-1927), was president and manager until his death and their daughter, Emma Louise Voigt (1870-1953), was described as a director of the Voigt Milling Company in her obituary. Carl S. (1874-1958) and Ralph (1882-1971) worked for the company in various capacities until 1955 when the operation was closed down as a result of a strike. The buildings were demolished in the early 1970s.

These notes were written with information from the collection itself, obituaries from The Grand Rapids Herald, articles from Michigan Tradesman, and records at AncestryLibrary Edition.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This small collection contains primarily tax statements, accounting, legal agreements and correspondence related to the Voigt Milling Company, as well as a diagram of the sidewalk of the company by architect, William G. Robinson. Statements of expense for the West Side Water Power Company, of which Voigt Milling Company had ownership, are also included in the collection.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Business Number: 616-988-5497

localhis@grpl.org

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The material in this collection was donated by Marci Johnson, who acquired it at a garage sale. Accession 2023.055.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Business records -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Milling -- Industry -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, requests for shipments, 1898	Box 1	Folder 1
Statement of Expense, West Side Water Power Association, 1900	Box 1	Folder 2
Statement of Expense, West Side Water Power Company, 1901	Box 1	Folder 3
Suggestions for Incorporation, n.d.	Box 1	Folder 4
Letter from F.E. Voigt, 1904	Box 1	Folder 5
Voigt Milling Company resources and liabilities, 1909	Box 1	Folder 6
Voigt Milling tax statements, 1906-1921	Box 1	Folder 7
Memorandum of Stocks, Bonds and Notes belonging to the estate of C.G.A. Voigt, n.d.	Box 1	Folder 8
Legal agreements, unsigned, 1907	Box 1	Folder 9
Legal agreements, unsigned, 1911	Box 1	Folder 10
Census of Manufacture, 1914	Box 1	Folder 11
Correspondence with R.M. Gross, 1932	Box 1	Folder 12
Voigt Milling Adjusting Entries, 1939	Box 1	Folder 13
Diagram of Sidewalk for the Voigt Milling Company, W.H. Robinson, Arch't, n.d.	Box 2	Folder 1
Voigt Milling Company Trial Balance, 1912		

