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Watrous family papers Collection 523

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Prepared by Jamie Wasilchenko

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/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History Center
Title:	Watrous family papers
ID:	Collection 523
Date [inclusive]:	1870-2015
Physical Description:	.2 Linear Feet
Condition Description:	Good.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection represents several generations of the Watrous family, who were early residents of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The first Watrous family members arrived in the city from New York State in the 1840s. There are also materials related to affiliate Grand Rapids residents such as the Seymour, Tucker, and Dale families. The collection contains original photographs of family members and family homes, as well as family history and excerpts of published materials. This collection would be beneficial for those researching these family surnames and the lives of early Grand Rapids residents.

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Biographical / Historical

Brothers Henry Sidney Watrous (c. 1816–1882) and William A. Watrous (c. 1822–1911) arrived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the late 1840s. Another brother Erastus A. Watrous (c. 1829–?) arrived in the early 1870s. The parents of the Watrous brothers were Ashbel Watrous (c. 1788-1876) and Sarah (or Sally) Ingram (c. 1785–1874) of Hanover, Chautauqua County, New York. Other children of Ashbel and Sarah were Diana Watrous Meacham, Tompkins Watrous, Earl Gardener Watrous, Austin Watrous, and Sarah Watrous Herrick.

Henry Sidney Watrous married Elizabeth A. Seymour (c. 1819–1884) about 1840 in Hanover, New York. Henry was involved in the lumbering industry. Henry and Elizabeth had five known children: Burritt Judson Watrous (1840–1926), Thirza Watrous Dale (1842–1915), Marion

Watrous (1848–?), Henry Seymour Watrous (1850–1924), and Jessie Watrous Tucker (1856–1935).

William A. Watrous married Adelia Hamilton (1836–1908) in Grand Rapids on 23 December 1868. They had two daughters, Cora Eva May Watrous (1871–1966) and Nellie A. Watrous (1874–1966).

Erastus A. Watrous married Sarah J. Underwood (c. 1846–1923) about 1876. The couple resided in Montcalm County, Michigan. They had one son, Hale S. Watrous (1880–1941).

The Watrous and their affiliated families lived in northern Grand Rapids and had homes on Plainfield Avenue, in what is now known as the Creston neighborhood.

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Scope and Contents

This collection includes original photographs of Watrous, Dale, and Tucker family members, as well as family homes and cemetery plots. There is also a labeled group photo of people with the surnames Morrell, Knapp, Herrick, and Seymour. The majority of the records consists of typewritten pages of family lineages and family stories. It also contains original newspaper clippings and photocopies of magazine articles, book excerpts, and yearbook pages related to the Watrous family. This collection would be of use to researchers studying early Grand Rapids residents or historic homes, especially those in the Plainfield Avenue area or Creston neighborhood.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for researcher use.

Processing Information

This collection came together in a single binder from Geraldine "Gerry" Watrous Noorman. Many of the family photos were separated out into their own folder, but other items were largely kept in their original order when they were moved into archival housing.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Geraldine "Gerry" Watrous Noorman, accession 2023.030.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Genealogy

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Early Watrous family genealogy, handwritten notes, family group sheets	Box 1	Folder 1
Original photos of Watrous, Tucker, and Dale families, 1870-1910	Box 1	Folder 2
Watrous biographies and obituaries; original photos of Watrous family homes	Box 1	Folder 3
Articles and original photos of descendants of the Watrous family; photos of Watrous cemetery plots	Box 1	Folder 4