

## Archival Collection Finding Aid

<b>Name/Title:</b>	Emma J. Cole Collection
<b>Subject(s)</b>	women's history, local history, botany
<b>Archival Collection #:</b>	218
<b>Accession #:</b>	2008.43.1
<b>Source:</b>	Mary Esther Lee
<b>Date Acquired:</b>	3/10/2008
<b>Span Dates:</b>	1901-2007
<b>Processor(s):</b>	Alex Forist

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### Abstract:

This archival collection was put together by Public Museum staff from various sources to chronicle the life, work, and memory of Emma J. Cole, an important local scientist and teacher. The collection currently consists of items from Cole's lifetime, including copies of her book on the Flora of Western Michigan, and other botanical materials, as well as items documenting her 2007 induction into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. More documents and series will be added to this collection in the future.

### History:

Emma Jane Cole (1845-1910) was born in Milan, Ohio, but lived most of her life in the Grand Rapids area. She studied botany at Cornell University beginning in 1876, and returned to Grand Rapids Central High School as a teacher from 1881-1907. Cole was involved with many of the leading botanists of her era, and in 1901 she published *Grand Rapids Flora: A Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns Growing Without Cultivation in the Vicinity of Grand Rapids, Michigan*. This book remains the authoritative study of Western Michigan's flora. Cole was also affiliated with the Kent Scientific Institute, precursor to the Public Museum. The herbarium she put together while working for KSI is still a valuable resource for botany students and remains on permanent loan at the University of Michigan. Emma Cole died on a specimen collecting trip in Mexico in 1910.

### Scope and Content:

This collection contains documents related to prominent local botanist Emma Cole. They include documents made by Cole herself, including two copies of her book *Grand Rapids Flora: A Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns Growing Without Cultivation in the Vicinity of Grand Rapids, Michigan*, as well as a handwritten paper entitled "Shrubs," and an album of pictures of plants cut out of various publications. More recent additions include material related to Emma Cole's election to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, including a certificate signed by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, a plaque, and various newsletters.

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### Series Descriptions:

No.	Series Name	Description
I.	Books	This series contains copies of Emma Cole's book, "Grand Rapids Flora: A Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns Growing Without Cultivation in the Vicinity of Grand Rapids, Michigan."
II.	Albums/Papers	This series contains a single photo album of published images of plants as well as a handwritten copy of "Shrubs" and Harvard University Sources for Botanical Research, papers by Emma Cole. There is also a "Delphian" yearbook from 1896, featuring Cole.
III.	Michigan Women's Hall of Fame	This series contains material related to Emma Cole's induction into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2007.
IV.	Herbarium Specimens	A representative sample of Emma Cole's collection of herbarium.

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**Container List:**

<b>Container</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Series</b>	<b>Description of Contents</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Count</b>
Box 1	n/a	I. Books	Grand Rapids Flora: A Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns Growing Without Cultivation in the Vicinity of Grand Rapids, Michigan	1901	2
Box 1	n/a	II. Albums	Photo album with cut and pasted images of plants from publications.	1901	1
Box 1	n/a	II. Albums	Grand Rapids Central High School Yearbook "Delphian" 1896.	1896	1
Box 1	1	II. Albums	Emma Cole's handwritten paper on "Shrubs" and Harvard University Sources for Botanical Research	n.d.	3
Box 1	n/a	III. Michigan Women's Hall of Fame	Certificate of Tribute from Gov. Jennifer Granholm	2007	1
Box 1	n/a	III. Michigan Women's Hall of Fame	Michigan Women's Hall of Fame plaque	2007	1
Box 1	2	III. Michigan Women's Hall of Fame	Certificate of Tribute	2007	1
Box 1	3	III. Michigan Women's Hall of Fame	Community Newsletters with articles about Emma Cole.	2007	3
Box 1	4	III. Michigan Women's Hall of Fame	Michigan Women's Hall of Fame 24th Annual Awards Dinner and Induction Ceremony Program	2007	1
Box 1	5	IV. Herbarium Samples	Herbarium specimen samples from the Emma Cole Herbarium Collection	1893-1899	9