

Hope College

Hope College Digital Commons

Collection Registers and Abstracts

Archives and College History

May 2013

H88-0088. Kollen, Gerrit J. (1843-1915). Papers, 1825-1971 (bulk 1885-1915). 0.75 linear ft.

Hope College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers



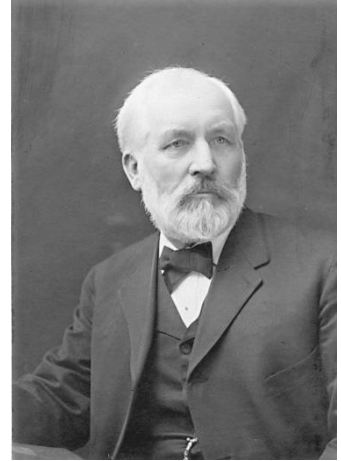
Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Repository citation: Hope College, "H88-0088. Kollen, Gerrit J. (1843-1915). Papers, 1825-1971 (bulk 1885-1915). 0.75 linear ft." (2013). *Collection Registers and Abstracts*. Paper 519.
https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers/519
May 14, 2013.

This Register is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and College History at Hope College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Collection Registers and Abstracts by an authorized administrator of Hope College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@hope.edu.

H88-0088. Kollen, Gerrit J. (1843-1915).
Papers, 1825-1971 (bulk 1885-1915). 0.75 linear ft.



Abstract

Hope College class of 1868; president of Hope College, 1893-1911. The collection includes clippings, diaries, photos, correspondence, marriage certificate, memorial, inaugural address, appointment by President Woodrow Wilson as delegate to the Opium Conference, and biographical materials. Correspondents include William Jennings Bryan.

Accession No: H88-0088
Provenance: Gerrit Kollen
Donor: Martha D. Kollen
Photographs: 15 images (2 negatives) (Box 2 and Oversized)
Processed by: Ena Brooks, November 1998

Biography

Gerrit Jan (John) Kollen was born the youngest of five children on August 9, 1843, in Nyverdal, the Netherlands. After the children's father passed away in February of 1846, Egberdina Kollen and her children travelled to Overisel, Michigan, in 1851 to settle near her brother who had moved to Michigan earlier. After Kollen completed school in Overisel, he continued to attend school in Allegan for a year before teaching school in Lubber's district. By the year 1862, Kollen entered Holland Academy in the preparatory program. He then continued with his studies at the newly formed Hope College, graduating as one of five men in his class.

After completing his course of work at Hope, Kollen was hired to work in Overisel until 1871. He was appointed tutor in the Grammar School for mathematics, natural philosophy, and astronomy.

Gerrit Kollen was quite involved in activities outside of teaching. In 1872, Holland celebrated its 25th anniversary, of which he served as secretary of the committee. He was involved with the Ebenezer Fund, serving as the financial agent.

He married Maria "Mary" Wilhelmina Van Raalte on December 24, 1879. She passed away in Holland, Michigan, in 1905. From that union was born a daughter, Estelle Marie Kollen, in July 1886.

In 1893, Kollen was elected president of Hope College and served in the role until 1911. Kollen was the first Hope College president to be a church layman rather than an ordained minister. Beginning his administration in 1893, Kollen's term as president marked a time of campus growth at Hope College; four major facilities were constructed during this time: Graves Library and Winants Chapel, Van Raalte Memorial Hall, Carnegie Gymnasium, and Voorhees Hall. Both Graves Hall and Voorhees Hall have become campus landmarks.

Gerrit J. Kollen passed away September 5, 1915, in Holland, Michigan.

Scope and Content

The collection includes clippings, diaries, photos, correspondence, marriage certificate, memorial, inaugural address, appointment by President Woodrow Wilson as delegate to the Opium Conference, biographical materials, minutes of the Mission Band of Hope College, which include Samuel Zwemer and Albertus Pieters. Correspondents include William Jennings Bryan.

Container List

Box 1

Abstract of Title for Home, 1904
Addresses, 1894, 1913
Biographical, 1825-1983
Biography, written by Paul Fried, 1983
Correspondence, 1885-1912
Diaries
 1870-1871, 1895-1896
 1870 (transcript)
 1873-1874 (transcript)
 June-September 1906 (transcript)
 October 1906- March 1908 (transcript)
 Trips East, 1906-1908, 1908
 Trips to Europe, 1906, 1913
 1913 (transcript)
Inauguration, June 27, 1894
Marriage Certificate, 1879 (3 images) (See Oversized)
Memorials, 1915

Box 2

The International Opium Conference
 Correspondence with niece and daughter, 1913
 Proceedings, 1913 (French)
Photographs (12 images, 2 negatives)

Oversized

Marriage Certificate, 1879 (3 images) (See Hope Oversized Collections)