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**Abstract**

Abel Postma was born in Singapore, Michigan, on August 25, 1870. He was a general contractor in Holland for 45 years and specialized in commercial buildings. At the time of his death, “he built or remodeled from 85-90% of the Eighth Street business district” (Holland City News, June 24, 1943). He served as 5th ward alderman from 1927-1931. He also served on the Ottawa County Board of Supervisors from 1935 until his death. The collection contains the papers and personal effects of Abel Postma and includes price lists from vendors, information on the Ottawa County Board of Supervisors, family correspondence, lots map of Lake View Subdivision (1926), and many books on health and well-being, especially women’s.

**Biography**

Abel Postma was born in Singapore, Michigan, on August 25, 1870. He was a general contractor in Holland for 45 years and specialized in commercial buildings. At the time of his death, “he built or remodeled from 85-90% of the Eighth Street business district” (Holland City News, June 24, 1943). He served as 5th ward alderman from 1927-1931. He also served on the Ottawa County Board of Supervisors from 1935 until his death. He was married to Nellie and they had four children: Andrew, Jacob, Marian and Leona.

Postma passed away on June 23, 1943. He, Nellie, Jacob, Marian and Leona are buried in Pilgrim Home Cemetery in Holland.

**Scope and Content**

This collection contains papers and personal effects of Abel Postma, a Holland builder. Included in the collection are price lists from vendors, information on the Ottawa County Board of Supervisors, lots map of Lake View Subdivision (1926), and some family correspondence. Also included in the collection are many books on health and well-being, especially women’s, likely collected by Nellie. Contents are arranged alphabetically.

**Container List**

*Aids to Beauty*, Susanna Cocroft, 1914
Banking, 1921-1922
*Body Manikin and Position of Vital Organs*, Susanna Cocroft, 1914
Bulletin, Maple Avenue Christian Reformed Church, January 2, 1944

Calgary Eye Opener, June 1929

Clippings, n.d., 1931, 1933, 1939, 1940

Correspondence, n.d., 1915, 1943, 1955

Fishing license, 1942

Foods: Nutrition and Digestion, Susanna Cocroft, 1914

Good Health: How to Get It and Keep It, Bernarr MacFadden, 1928

Headstones, 2007

Health and Personal Appearance, Susanna Cocroft, n.d.

I am an American, 1940

In memory of Jacob Postma, 1956 (2 copies)

Keeping Fit: Health, How Lost, How Regained by Bernarr MacFadden, 1928

New Testament (Dutch), 1906

Notebook, 1942

Ordinances, Holland, n.d., 1940

Ottawa County Board of Supervisors, 1938-1939, 1942-1943

Photograph, n.d. (1 image)

Price lists

The Cleveland Window, Glass and Door Company, 1931

Kawneer Solid Copper Store Fronts, n.d.

Psalm book (Dutch), 1884

The Psalter, 1914

Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors, 1943-1944

Song books, n.d., 1943

“Sing Holland Sing,” n.d.


Song sheet from the State [Michigan] Association of Supervisors, 1943

Wallet of Able Postma, 1941

Business Cards


Albert A. Henry of Metropolitan Lumber Company of Chicago, n.d.

Merle H. Cowan of Overhead Door Sales of Michigan, n.d.


Insurance Card of Abel Postma, n.d.

Movie Theatre Tickets (Butterfield) to Holland or Colonial Theatres, n.d.

(2 items)

The Woman Worth While, Susanna Cocroft, 1913

Oversize (Hope College oversize cabinet)

“Lake View Subdivision,” 1926