**MICHIGAN**

**Allendale, MI**

95. Grand Valley State University Libraries

Special Collections & University Archives
1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401

**Phone:** (616) 331-2749  
**Fax:** (616) 331-2720  
**E-mail:** collections@gvsu.edu  
**Website:** http://main.gvsu.edu/library/specialcollections  
**Hours:** M–F 9 am–4:30 pm

**Contact persons:**  
Robert Beasecker, Director of Special Collections & University Archives, Seidman House: (616) 331-8556; beaseckr@gvsu.edu  
Nancy Richard, University Archivist, Seidman House: (616) 331-8726; richa-nar@gvsu.edu

**Overview:**  
Special Collections acquires, preserves, and provides access to the University Libraries’ holdings of over 35,000 books; approximately 1,000 lin. feet of manuscripts; more than 15,000 photographic prints and negatives; a modest but growing collection of incunabula and sixteenth-century printing; and significant holdings of maps, broadsides, audio recordings, videos, motion-picture films, and ephemera.

**Noteworthy collections:**

- **Michigan and the Great Lakes Region Collection**  
  Contains general and local histories, biographies, political, cultural, and educational studies and business, transportation, and industrial commentaries that deal with Michigan, the Old Northwest, the Great Lakes, and Midwestern regions. Books, reports, periodicals, magazines, government documents.

- **Morton Manufacturing Company**  
  Business records of a Michigan-based manufacturer, established around 1870 to build steam engines, and later of machine tools for manufacturers of heavy machinery, steel and tin mills, railroad
shops, and for the military during WWII. Records, documents, plans, and contracts between 1940 and 1950 concerning work contracted by General Electric and the U.S. Navy.

Ann Arbor, MI

96. University of Michigan, Bentley Historical Library

1150 Beal Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113

Phone: (734) 764-3482
Fax: (734) 936-1333
E-mail: bentley.ref@umich.edu
Website: http://bentley.umich.edu/
Hours: M-F 9 am–5 pm; Sat 9 am–12:30 pm; advance notice of up to 1 week req’d

Contact persons:
Thomas E. Powers, Division Head: tepowers@umich.edu
Sally Bund, Assistant Archivist: sbund@umich.edu

Overview:
The Bentley Historical Library was established in 1935 by the University of Michigan Regents to carry out two functions: to serve as the official archives of the university and to document the history of the state of Michigan and the activities of its people, organizations, and voluntary associations.

Noteworthy collections:
  Historic restaurant based in Marshall, MI, specializing in American home-style cuisine. Since 1909, the Schuler family has owned and operated this Michigan institution. Records include administrative files, menus, advertising and publicity materials, slides, photographs, videotapes and scrapbooks.
- Roy Dikeman Chapin Papers (1886–1937). 32 lin. ft. and 7 v. [outsize].
  President of Hudson Motor Car Company and U.S. Secretary of Commerce, 1932–1933. Correspondence, speeches, articles, interviews, business papers, receipts, scrapbooks, photographs,
and miscellaneous items of Chapin, his wife, and his biographer, John C. Long, concerning family matters, highway transportation, the automobile industry, general economic conditions, foreign trade, WWI, national defense, state and national politics, the Republican Party, and the University of Michigan; also extensive papers concerning the Hudson Motor Car Company, including information on management policies, production, and labor organizing.

- **William T. Gossett Papers (1925–1987).** 19 lin. ft. Lawyer with the Bendix Corporation and the Ford Motor Company, and member of numerous legal and public service organizations. Speeches, articles and public statements; material relating to his activities with the American Bar Association, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, and other legal groups concerning his interest in such topics as business ethics, campus government and student dissent in the 1960s, electoral college reform, and legal education; and material detailing his involvement in public service organizations concerned largely with civil rights and education; contracts, agreements, and other documentation relating to reorganization of Wesco Corporation (later National Theatres Corporation), 1933–1936; and reorganization of Fox Film Corporation and Twentieth Century Pictures, July–August 1935; also papers of Elizabeth Gossett relating to her public activities; and photographs.

- **Henry Bourne Joy Papers (1883–1937).** 19 lin. ft., 2 oversize folders, and 2 oversize v. President of the Packard Motor Company. Correspondence concerning his business activities in Detroit, MI, his support of the Lincoln Highway Association, his campaign against the Eighteenth Amendment (Prohibition), and his interest in the Federal Council of Churches; also business letter books, 1888–1892, and 1902–1903; photograph album, 1915, concerning automobile trip from Detroit to San Francisco; scrapbooks, 1883–1937, containing newspaper clippings and articles relating to the development of the automobile industry, national economic affairs and Republican politics; and collection of printed pamphlets and newsletters, 1927–1936, of conservative individuals and organizations, including the American Coalition, American Liberty League, the Vigilant Intelligence Federation, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Elizabeth Dilling, Robert E. Edmonson, the Industrial Defense Association, the National Civic Federation, and the Union League of Michigan.

  Transcripts of interviews conducted with Michigan labor leaders by staff of University of Michigan and Wayne State University Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations. Concerns activities of the U.A.W., its organizing efforts, sit-down strikes of the 1930's, and policies of the Union during World War II.

  Ann Arbor, MI, businessman, dealer in coal, farm machinery, bicycles, and automobiles. Correspondence, letterbooks, and various record books of Ann Arbor business enterprises owned and established by Michael Staebler and his family including Staebler and Elmer, Michael Staebler and Son, and Staebler and Sons. Records include coal sales to Ann Arbor residents, 1890–1903, record books of bicycle and automobile sales, 1890s–1930s, papers relating to the Michigan and Indiana Retail Coal Association, and miscellaneous papers of E. W. Staebler relating to his interest in cycling and the League of American Wheelman.

- Detroit Post and Tribune Company Records (1861–1886). 18 items and 1 volume.
  Newspaper publishing company. Record book containing articles of incorporation and board minutes; also miscellaneous papers.

97. University of Michigan, Special Collections Library

7th Floor, Hatcher Graduate Library
913 S. University Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1205

Phone: (734) 764-9377
Fax: (734) 764-9368
E-mail: special.collections@umich.edu
Website: http://www.lib.umich.edu/special-collections-library
Hours: M–F 10 am–5 pm; Sat 10 am–12 pm. Advanced notice appreciated for offsite material.
Contact person:
Kathleen Dow, Head of the Archives Unit: (734) 936-2312; kdow@umich.edu

Overview:
The Special Collections Library holds internationally renowned collections of books, serials, ancient and modern manuscripts, posters, playbills, photographs, and original artwork. It is home to some of the most historically significant treasures at the University of Michigan and includes in its holdings some 250,000 volumes of published books and serials, approximately 5,000 lin. feet of archival material, about 450 incunabula (books produced in the earliest stages of printing from movable type), and nearly 1,400 early manuscripts on vellum and paper.

Noteworthy collections:
- The Transportation History Collection (1500s–2000s; bulk, 1800s–1900s). 70,000 items.
  This collection is an important body of printed and visual materials on the history of transportation, covering both modes of transportation and the infrastructure that supports them. It includes rare books, pamphlets, photographs, brochures, prints, maps, timetables, guidebooks, engineering and architectural drawings, and manuscripts. Subjects covered in the collection include ballooning and dirigibles, automobiles, roads, and highways, railroads and rolling stock, canals, bicycles, bridges, and carriages. The collection is outstanding for its in-depth coverage of many of the major aspects of modern Western transportation. Especially notable are the archives of the Lincoln Highway Association and of the Pierce-Arrow Company, and the papers of Charles Ellet, Jr., noted American Civil Engineer of the mid-nineteenth century.
- Lincoln Highway Association Archive (1911–1940). Ca. 3,000 black and white photographs.
  Photos documenting the highway’s route from New York to San Francisco.
Dearborn, MI

98. The Henry Ford, Benson Ford Research Center

20900 Oakwood Boulevard
Dearborn, MI 48124-4088

Phone: (313) 982-6020
Fax: (313) 982-6244
E-mail: research.center@thehenryford.org
Website: http://www.thehenryford.org/research/index.aspx
Hours: M-F 9 am-5 pm

Contact persons:
Judith Endelman, Director: judithe@thehenryford.org
Kathy L. Steiner, Head of Access Services: kathys@thehenryford.org
Terry Hoover, Chief Archivist: terryh@thehenryford.org

Research center: Benson Ford Research Center

Fellowships and grants: Simmons Internship Program and Clark Travel-to-Collections Research Grant Program. See the Benson Ford Research Center section of www.thehenryford.org for details.

Conferences and other programs: With Liberty and Justice for All Annual Symposium (Martin Luther King Day); Ideas and Innovations Annual Lecture Series; Books Etc. Sale

Publications: Living History: Members Insiders’ Guide to America’s Greatest History Attraction

Finding aids: Available in reading room. Books and a large percentage of trade catalogs, archival material, and periodicals cataloged and available in library’s online access system and OCLC’s WorldCat

Published information on archival holdings:

Overview:
The collection includes books, periodicals, videos, and trade catalogs relating to the automotive, industrial, social and cultural history of America. 150,000 items from 1550 to the present, especially since 1800.
Noteworthy collections:

Records

- Ford Motor Company (1903–1980s). More than 10,000 cu. ft. Material relating to all corporate functions including legal, financial, manufacturing, public relations, advertising, and executive offices. Includes more than 470,000 Ford Motor Company photographs from 1890 to 1950s; Ford Motor publications, product literature, service manuals, and product parts drawings; and more than 350 Ford Motor Company and Henry Ford related oral histories.


- Autocar Company Records (1897–1932). 107 cu. ft. Ardmore, PA, company which produced automobiles from 1897 until 1911, when they switched exclusively to truck manufacture and eventually became part of the White Motor Co. Bulk of the collection comprised of prints and negatives showing the company’s products from 1897 to 1932. Also includes newspaper clippings and company bulletins.

- Boston & Sandwich Glass Company (1825–1892). 1 cu. ft. Materials include stockholders lists, actions taken by directors, information on financial matters such as stock dividends, audits, price agreements and salary adjustments, employee relations, work rules, wages, and glass formula books.

- Cogswell Brothers General Store (1882–1890). 0.5 cu. ft. Ledgers from a general store in Cincinnatus, NY.

- Du Pont Company Records (1887–1950). 7 cu. ft. Company organized by E. Paul DuPont in 1919 to produce the DuPont automobile. It went bankrupt in 1932 and merged with the Indian Motorcycle Company which survived until 1953. Collection contains records from both companies

- Gebelein Silversmiths, Inc. (1897–1986). 31 cu. ft. Records of a small but significant New England silversmith company operating in the craftsman tradition. Comprised of material related to both the business and creative side of the company, including financial statements, memo books, order and payroll ledgers, original product drawings, price lists and product descriptions, trade catalogs, and photographs.
  Company pioneered the concept of prepared and packaged foods and brand name identification. Collection includes primarily advertising and marketing material including photographs and proofs, sales material, product packaging, account records, trade cards, and receipt books (as well as bottles, jars, crocks and other 3-D objects).
- Herman Miller, Inc. (1923–present). 170 cu. ft.  
  Ongoing collection of material from the Michigan-based furniture company noted for employing innovative designers such as Charles Eames and Gilbert Rohde. Material includes product literature, annual reports, articles and clippings about the company’s designers, products and management styles and a limited number of fabric designs (as well as furniture).
  Records from the CT company known for its exceptionally fine automobiles and builders of Old 16, the winner of the 1908 Vanderbilt Cup. (Old 16 is in the museum’s collection.) Collection includes business correspondence, advertisements, blueprints, ledgers, sales records and photographs and negatives of the company’s products.
- North and Savage Company (1823–1869). 1 cu. ft.  
  Records of CT firearms manufacturer including bills and receipts, customer accounts, proxy statements and stockholder notices, correspondence, and a small selection of photographs.
  Records of well-known furniture manufacturer including income and expense records, patents, meeting minutes and design drawings.
  Company built luxury auto bodies for all the major car companies and two presidential limousines until it failed in 1938. Collection documents the era of custom built one-of-a-kind automobile bodies and contains company correspondence, time books, and a selection of design drawings. Also includes Edward Willoughby personal correspondence documenting the company’s failure.
**Personal Papers:**
- Papers of significant innovators in education and technology such as Thomas A. Edison, the Wright brothers, Noah Webster, William Holmes McGuffey, and John Burroughs.
- Papers of noted designers including William Mitchell, John Najar, Virgil Exner, Buckminster Fuller, W. D. Teague.

**Edison Institute Archives:**
- Archival documentation from the founding of The Henry Ford in 1929 to the present including photographs, correspondence, and material documenting the history of each Greenfield Village structure and the design and construction of the Henry Ford Museum building.

**Automotive Literature:**
- Ca. 1,220 cu. feet of sales brochures, press kits, paint charts, color and trim books, owner’s manuals, price books, and parts books. More than 1 million Ford Motor Company production parts drawings created between 1903 and 1957.

**Trade Catalogs and Literature:**
- More than 31,000 volumes of trade literature representing all types of manufactured goods.

**Photographs:**

**Detroit, MI**

**99. Detroit Public Library**

Skillman Branch Library
121 Gratiot Ave.
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: (313) 628-2851
Fax: (313) 628-2785
E-mail: nahc@detroitpubliclibrary.org
Website: http://www.detroit.lib.mi.us/Special_Collections/special_collections.htm
Hours: M-Sat 10 am–6 pm

Contact person:
John Gibson, Coordinator for Special Collections

Overview:
The NAHC documents the history and development of the automobile and other forms of motorized, wheeled, land transportation in the United States and abroad. Contains resources of over 600,000 processed items. Thousands of photographs which depict the automobile’s historical, social, mechanical, and design aspects are available for public viewing, research, and publication. Automobile manuscript files contain more than 350,000 technical and descriptive items that illuminate the styling detail, specifications, and restoration of the automobile. Biographical files, personal papers, and business documents of both pioneers and corporate leaders offer insight into the development, industrial psychology, and economics of the automotive industry.

Kalamazoo, MI
100. Western Michigan University

Archives and Regional History Collections
1903 W. Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5353

Phone: (269) 387-8490
Fax: (269) 387-8484
E-mail: http://social.library.wmich.edu/cgi-bin/ask/ttx.cgi
Website: http://www.wmich.edu/library/archives/collections.php
Hours: Tu-F 8 am–5 pm; Sat 9 am–4 pm

Contact person:
Sharon Carlson, Director, Archives and Regional History: (269) 387-8496; sharon.carlson@wmich.edu

**Overview:**

Collections consist of historical university, regional, and local governmental records. The holdings total over 17,000 lin. ft. Regional manuscript collections include letters, diaries, business records, organizational records, photographs, and a variety of ephemeral materials documenting the social, business, political, and institutional history of southwestern Michigan.