

## 4.2 18th Century (1801 -1901)

# Artifact Packet

Sketch of Madeline La Framboise, courtesy of Grand Rapids Historical Commission.

WYCE Link to Audio - <http://www.historygrandrapids.org/audio/2447/madeline-la-framboise>

Transcript:

*Born of French and Indian ancestry, Madeline La Framboise became one of the most successful independent fur traders in early Michigan history. At the turn of the nineteenth century, she and her husband, fur trader Joseph La Framboise, left their home on Mackinac Island every fall to trade with Ottawa Indians living along the Grand River. Together, they built a trading post near the present community of Ada, perhaps the earliest mercantile establishment in the river valley. But in the fall of 1806, while Madeline and Joseph were trading at a village near Muskegon, Joseph was shot and killed by an Ottawa named White Ox.*

*Instead of returning to Mackinac Island with her two children, Madeline expanded their business to include posts throughout the western and northern portions of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. At a time when \$1,000 annually could be expected by a good, experienced trader, La Framboise earned from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year. Soon, however, it was increasingly difficult to compete with large companies, and in 1818 La Framboise sold her business to John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company, and stayed on with the new owners for three years before retiring to Mackinac Island.*

*After her success in the decidedly man's world of rivers and fur-trading, La Framboise taught herself to read and write French and English and initiated a second career teaching the Mackinac children of St. Anne's Parish. Her additional gifts of money and property were one of the parish's main means of support. At her death, La Framboise left a financially secure family and an enduring reputation as an outstanding businesswoman and well-respected community member.*

Figure 1 Grand Rapids 1831



Courtesy of Grand Rapids Historical Commission:

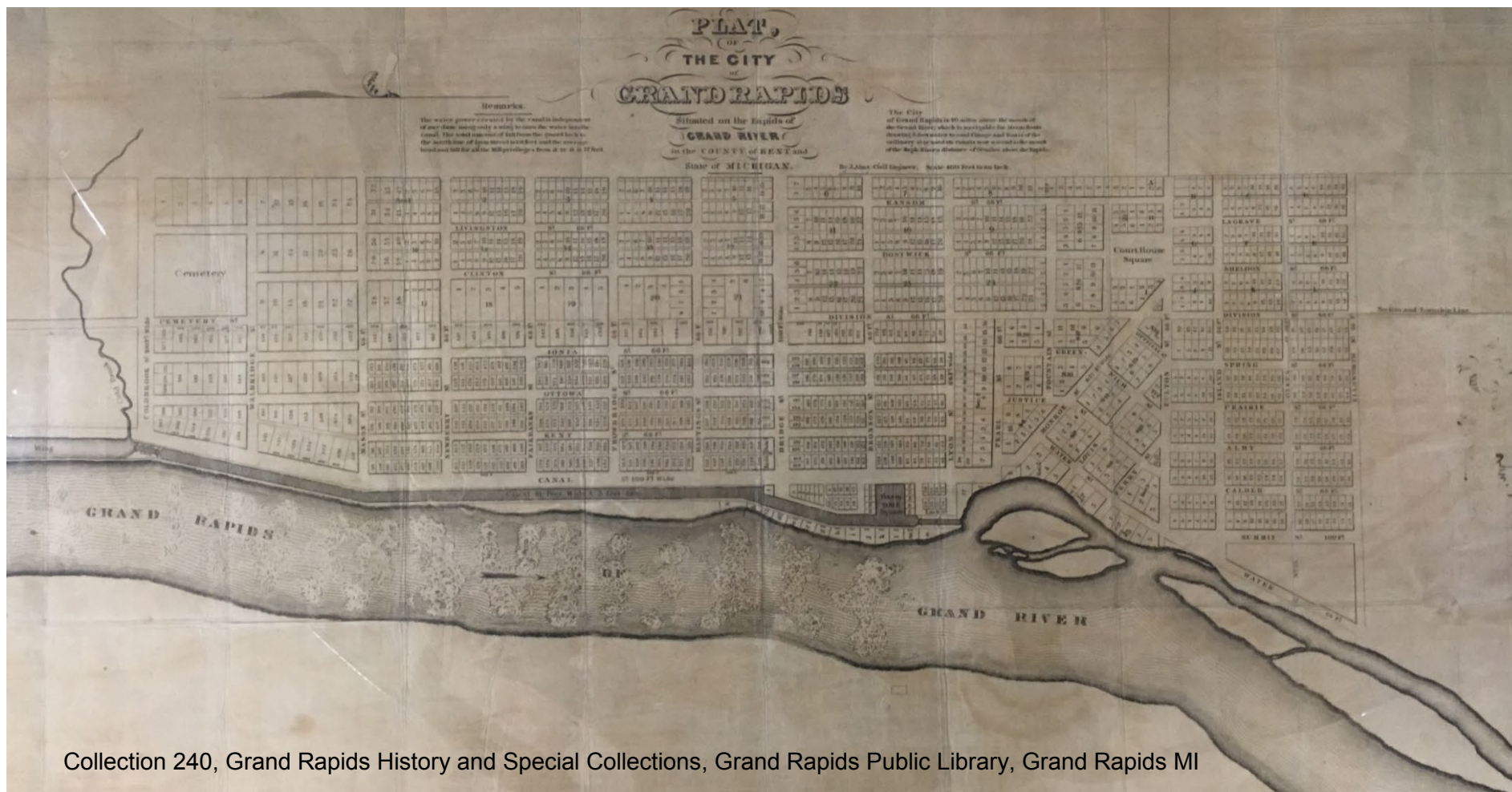
<http://www.historygrandrapids.org/photo/142/grand-rapids-1831> -

- The single cabin on the hill was Chief Noonday's, while the cabins further down the river are part of the Baptist mission.
- T. Louis Campau's trading post are the three buildings seen in the middle right.
- An Indian wigwam, shelter and canoe are also pictured in the foreground.
- Island #1 is seen in the middle left, while Indian canoes are on the river.
- Women are seen near the wigwam washing clothes.





Figure 3 Grand Rapids Map 1836, Showing Canals, Rapids, and Islands



Collection 240, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections, Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids MI

Figure 5 St. Mark's Church-- its limestone exterior was quarried from Grand River



Figure 4 Limestone Kiln



Left: lime kiln near Sixth Street Dam. (Grand Rapids History and Special Collections, Grand Rapids Library, Grand Rapids MI).

Right: St. Marks was completed in 1848 using limestone taken from the Grand River. (Wikicommons).

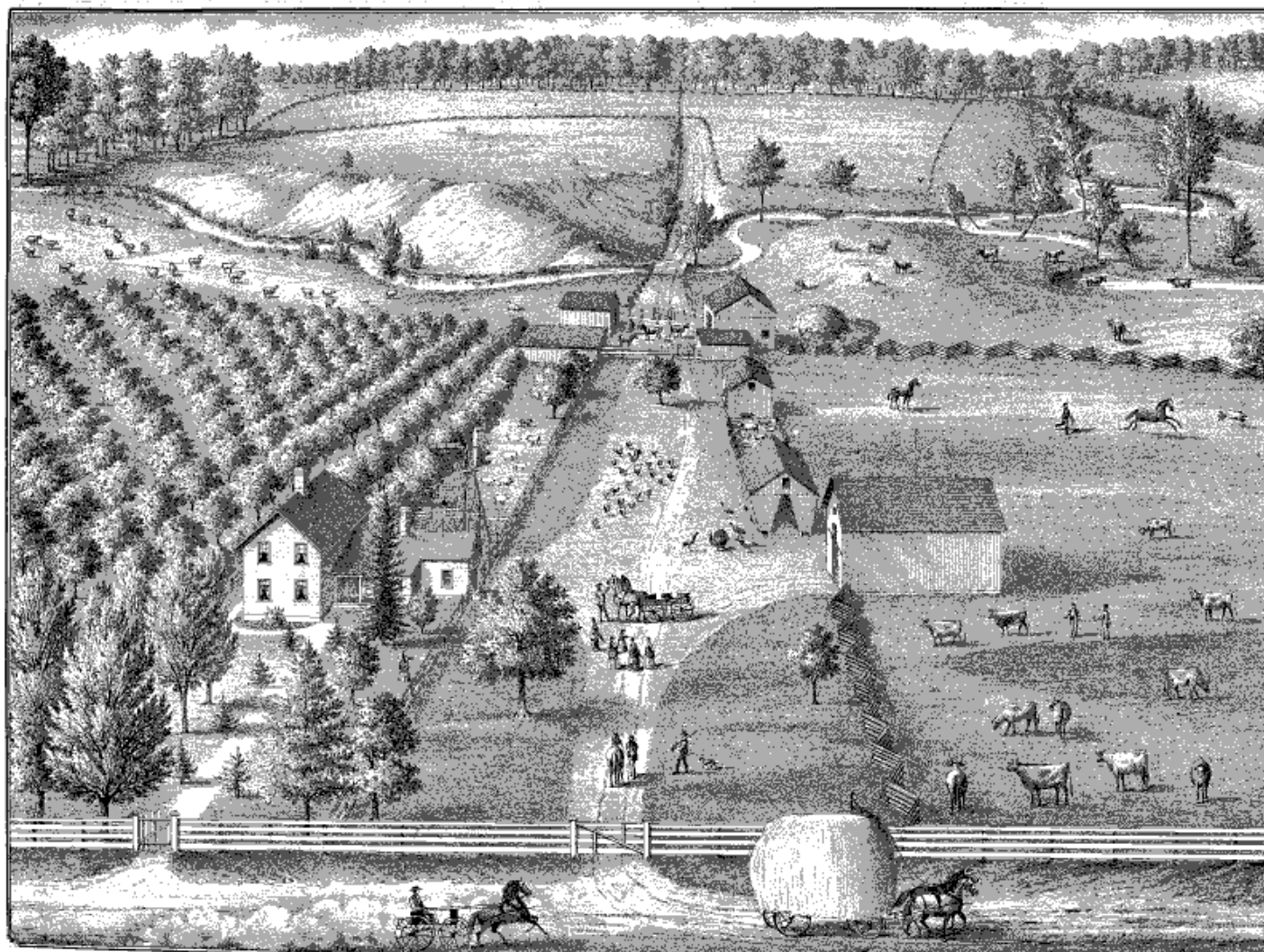


*Figure 6 1866 Water Power Company Wooden Dam near 6th Street*



*Grand Rapids History and Special Collections, Grand Rapids Public Library*

Figure 7 Farm Residence of Stephen B. Davis, with stream running through field.



FARM RESIDENCE OF **STEPHEN B. DAVIS** ESQ., PARIS T<sup>p</sup>, KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

A. C. GOON, DEL.

*Illustrated historical atlas of the county of Kent, Michigan.* H. Belden & Co., Charles Shober & Co. Chicago: H. Belden & Co., [1876]



1868 pictorial map of Grand Rapids.



Ruger, A, and Chicago Lithographing Co. Grand Rapids, Michigan. [Chicago, Chicago Lithographing Co, 1868] Map.  
<https://www.loc.gov/item/73693428/>.

United States Library of Congress's Geography & Map Division under the digital ID g4114g.pm003500.



Figure 8 Great Log Jam of 1883 Article - [http://blog.mlive.com/chronicle/2008/07/grand\\_jam\\_of\\_1883.html](http://blog.mlive.com/chronicle/2008/07/grand_jam_of_1883.html)



*Image Grand Rapids History and  
Special Collections, Grand Rapids Public Library*



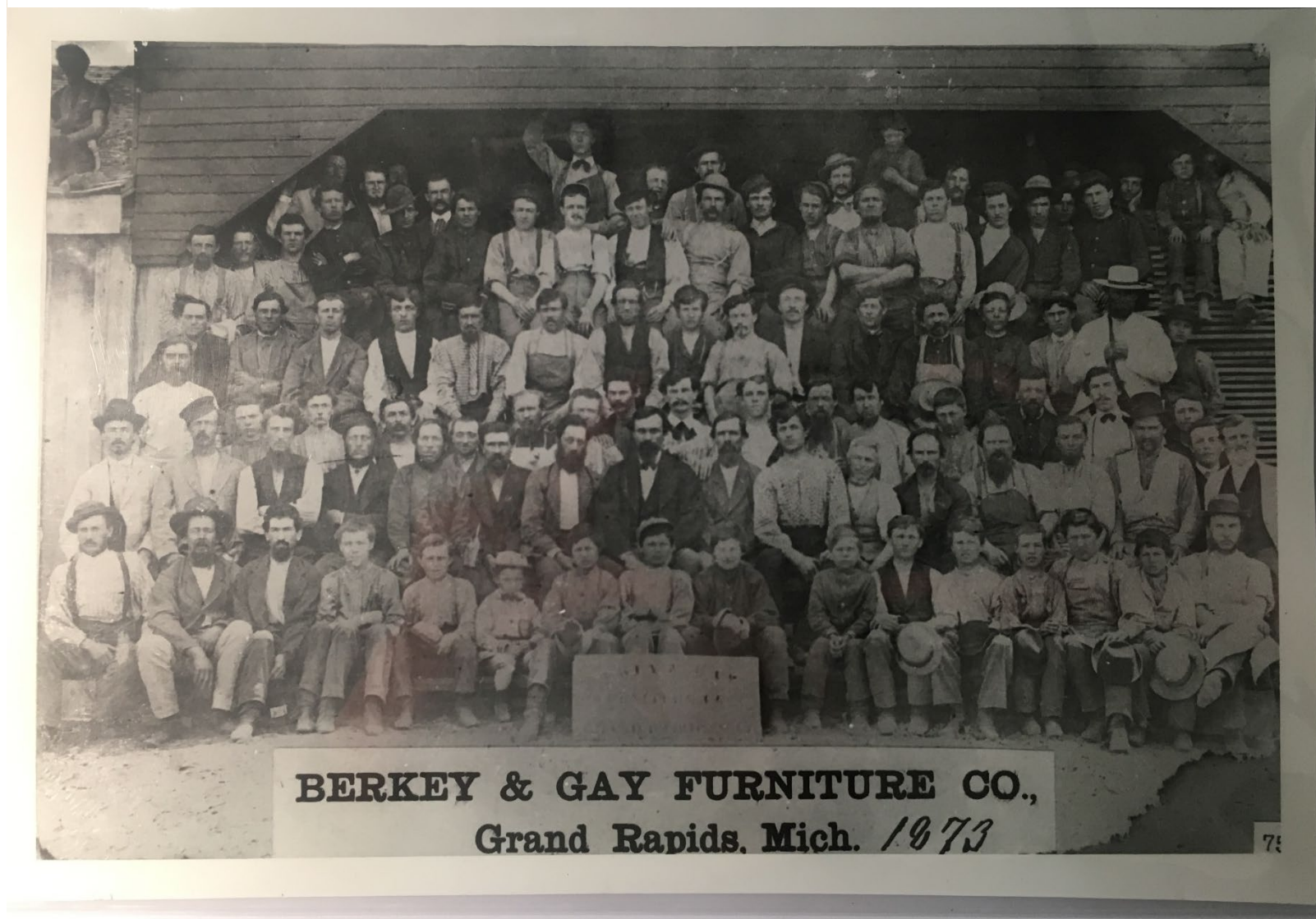
Figure 9 East Side Canal



East Side Canal. 1870. Grand Rapids Historical Commission. <http://www.historygrandrapids.org/photo/4085/east-side-canal>



Figure 10 Furniture Manufacturing Workers



*Grand Rapids History and Special Collections, Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids MI*

*Figure 11 Grand Rapids Population*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Grand Rapids Population</b>
1850	2686
1860	8085
1870	16507
1880	32016
1890	60278

*United States Census Data*