

**Collection name:** Gail Williams Collection

**Repository:** Special Collections Department -Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library. 211 First Ave, Alpena, MI 49707.

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**Collection number:** GWC-1

**Dates:** 1789-1917

**Creator Name:** Mr. Gail Williams

**Quantity:** .5 Linear ft / 1 box

**Language:** English

**Biographical & Historical Information:** [Obituary] Gail Frederick Williams, 84, of Alpena passed away peacefully in the loving arms of his wife of nearly 60 years on Friday, November 3, 2017 at his home surrounded by family.

Gail was born in Alpena on February 6, 1933. He served in the United States Army from 1953 until his honorable discharge in 1955. On December 28, 1957 he married Arlene F. Lee. Mr. Williams taught for the Alpena Public Schools for 30 years until his retirement in 1990. Gail was an active church member serving in several leadership roles with Trinity Lutheran Church, Hope Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church. He was past president of the A.E.A. and helped negotiate numerous M.E.A. contracts throughout northern Michigan. In his retirement, he enjoyed bird carving and was a founding member and past president of the Sunrise Side Woodcarvers.

Surviving are his wife Arlene; 4 children, Laurie and Alfred DuBruck, Rev. Owen and Marie Williams, Colleen and Randy Selby, Marilee and Jay Libka; 6 grandchildren, Chris (Monique), Inge, Billy, Andrew, Karl and Jordan.

Mr. Williams was preceded in death by his mother and step-father, Celia (Babb) and Francis Owen and 2 step-brothers John Owen, Jr. and William Owen.

Memorial visitation will take place at the Bannan Funeral Home on Monday from 4 – 8 p.m. Memorial visitation will continue at the Leer Lutheran Church on Tuesday from 10 a.m. until time of the memorial service at 11 a.m. with Rev. Bruce Michaud officiating.

Inurnment: Grace Lutheran Church Cemetery

**Scope & Content:** Various historical materials on Alpena County people, businesses, churches, events, disasters, etc.

**Acquisition:** Donated by Gail Williams

**Access:** Open for research.

**Preferred Citation:** *item, folder, box* Gail Williams Collection, Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library. Alpena, MI

## **Collection Contents:**

### **Box 1 of 1:**

#### ***Folder***

1. **Biographies** [McDONALD name in Alpena; Marian HUTTON; Janet COLE – Kim HUNTER; Bliss STEBBINS; “Lame Louis”; “Dad” Mitchell; Eugene & Marietta FURBUSH [nee TIBBETTS]; “Injun Jim”; Gus MICHILOWSKI; Mina MALSCH; Casper ALPERN; Morris ALPERN; Thomas HARRISON; Frederick HISER; Barbara I. KENNEDY; Albert Jay NOCK; Phelps COLLINS; Christian MARTINSON; William DEADMAN; Edward A. CLARKE; DIEMOND – Joseph, Mark, Xavier, Bosela; Nels LARSON; George FRANKLIN; Otto SCHEFFLER; William CULLING; Mrs. Harry FLETCHER; GILCHRIST; A.W. COMSTOCK; Harriet COMSTOCK; William H. CAMPBELL; Wilkie Nelson COLLINS; Mary L. CARTER & George B. MELVILLE – first marriage (1859); Nancy AVERY; Sewell AVERY; W.H. PHELPS; Beatrice GAGNON [missing child]; Mr. WHITE; F.B. VOEGELE; BAILEY Family (1866-1915)]
2. **Business / Industry** [lumbering; banks; first law business; Fraser Products; Sulphite Mill (1886); Huron Portland Cement employees (1947); Thunder Bay Originals (1947); location of old buildings; Industries – chronologies]
3. **Cemeteries** (1873)
4. **Churches / Religion** [Church organization; first Sunday School; Episcopal Church; Congregational Church – first Bible class; tallest church – St. Mary’s; “Christ” Schwenfurt]
5. **Civic Improvements / Historical Chronologies**
6. **Clubs / Fraternities** [Chase Benjamin Gun Club (1895 +)]
7. **Entertainment** [McInerney house haunted (c1946); Homecoming (1915); horse-racing (1887 +); bands; first Alpena band (1868); movie theaters in Alpena; drummer program (1917); first home talent play; first party in Alpena (1860)]
8. **Ethnicity** [notecard: Irish, Scottish, French, German, Polish, Norwegian, Swedish; Norwegian article]
9. **Fires / Disasters** [Chronology (1862 – 1906); fire department (1871); 1872 Fire; fire engine – SAHGONAHKATO]
10. **Fishing / Fishing Industry / Fisheries**
11. **Government** [officials (1857-1860); taxation-assessment (1858); officials (1868)]
12. **Land / Surveys / Native Americans** [topography; Oliver’s first arrival (1840) – Mich-e-ke-wis; land sessions – Chippewa (1819)]
13. **Mail Service** (1853 – 1898)

14. **Misc** [population; Capt. Persons' pet deer; history sources; other Alpena names; prostitution, negroes, dock-wallopers, Dr. Samuel Bell – Jamaican housekeeper]
15. **Newspapers**
16. **Police / Sheriff** [Sheriff Lynch & Blinky Morgan Gang; police department (1871 – 1934); first jail; police post hold-up (1941?)]
17. **Railways / Railroads** [Detroit & Mackinac Railway time tables (1916); first locomotive (1882)]
18. **Roads / Streets** [History of Alpena County roads; Alpena City streets; 1915 race]
19. **Schools / Education** [history; sports; public library (1916)]
20. **Ships / Shipping / Lighthouse** [Water transportation to Alpena; steamer METROPOLIS; Presque Isle Lighthouse – Jefferson Davis]
21. **Temperance** [movement in Alpena]
22. **Wars / Military** [Capt Carver travels (1789); Civil War; Spanish-America War; WWI Casualties]
23. **Water & Oil Wells** (1865 – 1874)