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Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections
2B Carl A. Kroch Library
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Phone: (607) 255-3530 Fax: (607) 255-9524
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#539

#581

#1825

#539

#58 (vol.)

Davenport Papers, 1814-1930.

Shelf Lists (PARTIAL) Also #1825

Reference Room copy -
please return

#539

Davenport Papers

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Years</u>
1	Accounts	1814-May 1851
2	Accounts	June 1851-May 1861
3	Accounts	June 1861-July 1869
4	Accounts	Aug. 1869-Jan. 1881
5	Accounts	Jan. 1881-Dec. 1893
6	Accounts	Jan. 1894-1930 and undated
7	Account Books for Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Nebraska & Dakota Territory	

N. Dean
9-99

Davenport Collection

Page 4 -

3

old cat. cds, no longer available. N.D., 2000

Card entries:

Adsit, J.	Steuben County (Bath)
Aldridge, Volney	Steuben County (Angelica)
Anderson, Galusha	Dakota Territory (Mining)
Bituminous Coal Co.	Michigan (Economic State)
Cameron, Dugald	Illinois (Mortgages)
Cameron, William S.	Illinois (Lands)
Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Co.	Illinois (Lincoln)
Chicago, University of	Illinois (Olney)
Cornell University	Iowa (Bentonsport)
Davenport, Charles	Iowa (Mortgages)
Davenport, John	Iowa (Squatters)
Davenport, Ira	Kansas (Franklin Sugar Co.)
Davenport Family	Kansas (Mortgages)
Davenport Home for Female Orphan Children	Michigan (Mortgages)
Demoin Navigation & Railroad Co.	Michigan (Kalamazoo)
Des Moines River Land Co.	Michigan (Shiawassee County)
Foley, S.A.	Nebraska (Dakota City)
Franklin Sugar Co.	Nebraska (Land)
Greigg, George & Co.	Pennsylvania (Clearfield County)
Jones & Maxwell	South Dakota (Mortgages)
Magee, George L.	Accounts (Land Investments, Mortgages, etc.)
O'Brien, Wm. & John	Agriculture (Equipment)
Olmsted, John & Co.	Drainage (Illinois)
Southern Tier Mining Co.	Extractive Industry
Stanchfield, O.O.	Finance (Banking)
Susquehannah & South Western Railroad Co.	Land (Agricultural College Scrip)
Tax and Loan Agency	Land (Interest on Loans)
Turner, James M.	Land (Leases)
Waterman, J.W.	Land (Application for Loans)
Waterman, Cameron D.	Land (New York State Tax Sales)
Welch, J.B.	Land (Warrants)
Western Trust & Security Co.	Land (Western)
Williams Harvester Co.	Mortgages
Yonkers Bank	Railroads (Investments)
Alleghany County (Angelica)	Railroads (Pennsylvania)
	Sorghum Industry

Donated by Mr. Cameron B. Waterman of Detroit, Michigan, through his agent, Mr. Hille of Bath, New York.

Mss. in boxes on shelves: account books & album on shelf.

Acknowledgment sent ✓
Card entries typed ✓

Donor card typed ✓
Tracer in file ✓

Groton Academy. Catalogue, 1861-1862.

539m

Published by the students.

Rochester, N.Y. : Benton & Andrews, 1862.

1 pamphlet (20 pp. with illustrations).

Education (school catalogues)

539m

See Groton Academy. Catalogue, 1861-1862.

Tompkins County (Groton)

539m

See Groton Academy. Catalogue, 1861-1862.

#581

Davenport Papers # 581

29 Volumes (letter books or letter impression copy books) on site:

Vols. 1-9, except 2: Pertain to the land business, 1880-1904. K-221-E-1-C and E-2-A.

Vol. 2 Letter impression copy book, 1868-69, ink badly faded. K-229-I-5-B

Vols.10+ More land letters and Estate letters, 1875- . K-221-E-3-A thru

Vol. 25, Letter impression copy book, outgoing letters of Ira Davenport, 1849-50.

Vol. 27, Same, outgoing letters of Ira Davenport, 1869-72.

Vol. 28, Same, outgoing letters of Ira and John Davenport, 1869-72.

N.Dean
5-02

DAVENPORT FAMILY. Papers, 1833-1941; 6 ft. These additional papers [see 1946-1948 and 1950-1954 *Reports*] consist of wills, deeds, mortgages, letters testamentary, bonds and stock certificates, release of dower, bills and receipts, and numerous other legal and business papers, including a scattering of correspondence, of Ira Davenport, Ira Davenport, Jr., and their estates, John Davenport, and other members of the Davenport, Cameron, Waterman, and other interrelated families; also included are a few papers relating to the Davenport Home for girls in Bath, *e.g.*, a copy of the by-laws of the Home (1910), photographs, and a reel of film; family photographs, and a reel of film on forestry in the Bath area. Papers after 1904 relate primarily to the estate of Ira Davenport, Jr. Steuben, Chenango Counties. (1825)

1825

Davenport Family. Additional* Papers, 1833-1941. Shelf list as follows:

19 4" boxes, incl. one box of bank books and check stubs.

Box 20 1 (2" box) contain photographs of children living at the Davenport Home and some Davenport items.

Also, broadsides, as listed on separate sheets.

reference books, as listed separately, incl. Smithsonian reports.

2 reels movie films, one of forestry in Bath area and one of Davenport Home; in film cabinet.

Box 21

Above material described for 1954-1958 Report by D. Sutter. DS' rough notes on file.

*For related accessions, see collections # 539, 581, 1946-1948 Report, pp. 20-23.
1173, 1950-1954 Report, pp. 33-34.
1903, 1958-1962 Report, pp.

Donated by ~~Miss [redacted]~~

November 1957.

20 boxes in stacks.

Davenport Family Papers, 1833-1941

1833 Robt. T. Cameron will - Greene, Chenango Co. - brother-in-law - of I.D.
Hornellsville, Steuben Co.

1847 deed - Illinois land - to I.D.

note

?

mortgage - Steuben Co. - Henry Pevine to Constant Cook

daughter - Eliza waterman; son: John

Letters testamentary, Estate of I.D. (1868), Ira Jr.

I.D. will: Davenport Institution for Female Orphan Children

Bonds - Western N.C. RR Co. (1869-

Will: Mrs. Fanny Davenport Waterman (Mrs. J.W.) - Detroit

/
cousin: Martin Asdit

1881 List of Lands of I.D. & John M. Longyear in Upper Peninsula, Michigan

Stock certificates

Carthage Co., Carthage, Jefferson Co.

Will - Christina Cameron Masten

1904 Ira Jr. died

1905 Release of Dower - Ill., Iowa, Katherine

Severyn B. Sharpe, Exec.

1866 fr. Joshua W. ~~W.~~ Waterman - death of Eliza's death - his wife
corresp.

1881 to I.D., (Albany fr. J.M. Longyear - land agent - Mich.
Bath

the Hornellsville Electric Railway Co. - Exec. Comm.

I.D. - 1st Nat'l. Bank, Hornellsville, - 1893

1903
see
below

Search Request: CO=539
ARCHIVE - Record

Cornell Library Catalog
Holdings Detail
0371

Davenport family papers

----- Location 5 -----

LOCATION: Kroch Lib Rare & Mss - Archives (Non-Circulating)
CALL NUMBER: 1903

----- + Page 4 of 4 -----

STArt over VIEw record <F7> BACK page
HELp LONG view <F6> NEXt record
OTHer options INDEx <F5> PREvious record

NEXT COMMAND:

4-©

A CORNELLC 132.236.99.19

24/16

45 bxs at Annex
no list of any kind,

a

H. Dean

→ DAVENPORT COLLECTION. 1800-1929. 6,610 pieces, 13 account books, 13 letter books, 7 press copy books, 1 photograph album, 79 maps.

539

This comprehensive collection of accounts, correspondence, and other papers of the Davenport family of Angelica, Allegany County, and Bath, Steuben County, and of allied families relates to their investments in a mercantile business (1805-1850) in Allegany and Steuben Counties, in a land and mortgage business (1800-1907) in New York and the Midwest, and in industries and mines (1852-1891). Taken as a whole, the collection shows the amassing of capital in a newly settled region through a general store and mercantile business, and the movement westward with the frontier of investment interests

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in lands. It gives an excellent picture of frontier land speculation, the problems of absentee ownership, western economic conditions, and the farm credit system of the midwestern and northern plains states, particularly during the last 30 years of the 19th century.

Included in the Davenport mercantile papers are accounts for the Angelica store, correspondence, partnership and purchase agreements, and other material showing the extension of the business in Allegany and Steuben Counties. The Cameron accounts include the deed book (1800-1825) of Dugald Cameron of Bath for more than 8,000 acres of Steuben County land, and 1120 acres of Illinois land; the account book (1805-1826) of the same for land and a general store; the accounts (1828-1837) of the estate of the same; and the accounts (1835-1842) of the estate of William S. Cameron. Papers relating to New York lands include deeds, mortgages, letters, lists of lands, accounts, and other documents (1822-1871) of Charles and Ira Davenport, and of J. B. Welch, Volney Aldridge, and other associates.

By the 1840's, the brothers, Charles and Ira Davenport, had turned their attention to lands in Michigan and Illinois. The papers (incomplete) covering their early ventures include a series of letters from Ira to Charles commenting on and comparing investments in land, railroads, and banks in the East and West; a letter press copy book (1849-1850) written by Ira in connection with his land and tax title business in New York, Illinois, and Michigan; a series of letters and accounts (1849-1870) from J. W. Waterman of Detroit, a Davenport agent, partner, and relative, concerning loans and land entries made in Michigan; another series (1851-1878) from J. M. Adsit, a banker of Chicago and Hornell, New York; a series (1850-1870) from John Olmsted & Co. of New York City concerning investments, commenting on monetary conditions, land warrants, and the stock market, and including letters from John Olmsted on banking practices and on the establishment of the Yonkers Bank of which he was one of the founders and a president; letters (1858) from Dwight Davenport of Olney, Illinois, reporting to his uncle Charles on land prices, assessments, wages, costs of building a log house, and on crops; letters (1860-1864) from John Davenport reporting on Illinois investments; letters (1852-1861) from the French family (related to the Davenports) of Bentonsport, Iowa, commenting on local conditions and events; letters (1858) from Ira Davenport on locating land in Iowa; and other series of letters and accounts from Ostrom Anthony & Co. (1854-1855), and from the Demoiné Navigation & Railroad Company to Ira Davenport (1856-1858).

The papers are more complete for the period from 1869 to 1904 when John (died 1895) and Ira Davenport handled the estates of their father, Ira, and their uncle, Charles. Between 1869 and 1904, they owned or held part interest in some 80,000 acres of land in

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Michigan, 63,000 in Nebraska, 12,000 in Iowa, 9,000 in Kansas, 4,000 in Illinois, and lesser amounts in Dakota Territory, Texas, and Minnesota. Between 1869 and 1890, the Davenports loaned sums of money varying annually from \$73,000 to \$300,000 on farm property in those areas. These funds consisted of trusts under their management, the savings of friends and relatives, and their personal capital.

Probably the most enlightening correspondence in this part of the collection is with the following agents. George Greigg (1869-1891) of Pekin, Illinois, was the original loan agent for the Davenports in that state. S. A. Foley (1869-1904), an Illinois lawyer and judge, began to loan for the Davenports in the late 1860's, and handled the legal problems arising after 1880 from their business in Iowa, South Dakota, and Illinois. John Weare (1869-1892), the sole loan agent for the Davenports in Iowa, was the President of the Williams Harvester Company in which the Davenports held stock; in partnership with them, he promoted a subdivision of Cedar Rapids. John Browne (1869-1880), the agent of the Des Moines Railroad and Navigation Company, acted as the Davenport agent in handling some 2,500 acres of Boone County lands which Ira Davenport, Sr., had acquired from the Company. Because of imperfections in the original title, the Des Moines River Lands were in a constant state of litigation and turmoil. The Davenport policy of handling these lands differed somewhat from that of other Eastern capitalists holding similar title. After experimenting with several agents in Nebraska - General Amasa Cobb of Lincoln (1870-1878), E. O. Crosby of Fremont (1872-1877), A. P. Hopkins of Fremont (1877-1882) - the Davenports settled on L. D. Richards of Fremont as their main agent (1877-1904). Several times mayor of Fremont, and once candidate for governor of Nebraska, Richards acted with the Davenports in joint speculation. He was President of the Western Security and Investment Company which handled the Davenport loaning in Nebraska after 1882. Richards' letters also show the efforts which he and his fellow townsmen were making to develop Fremont in competition with other Nebraska cities like Beatrice and Lincoln. The holdings and investments of the Davenports in Kansas were less important than in the other states listed. A fairly complete description is given in the correspondence with the following: P. P. Elder (1869-1904), a businessman, farmer, and politician of Franklin County, whose letters deal in part with the economic background of Populism; John DeFor (1875-1902), a lawyer of Ottawa; F. M. Shaw & Company (1873-1880), a banking firm of Paolo; and H. C. Jones and J. E. Maxwell (1878-1903). The most enlightening correspondence for Michigan is with R. and J. D. Burns (1869-1894) of Kalamazoo, W. H. Main (1870-1872, 1901) of Owasso and Mungersville, and James M. Turner (1875), President of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company.

Correlating with the correspondence are the account books of Charles, John, and Ira Davenport, Iowa and Dakota, (1869-1896); Charles Davenport for Michigan (1849-1868), for Illinois (1869-1907), and for Nebraska (1871-1905); John Davenport, New York, Dakota, and elsewhere, (1871-1895); John and Ira Davenport, Kansas, (1869-1904); and the accounts of J. W. Waterman for Michigan, and S. A. Foley for Illinois.

The papers relating to investments in railroads, mines, and industries include the articles of incorporation, statements, and correspondence (1884-1886) on the Franklin Sugar Company, Franklin County, Kansas, a sorghum industry of which John Davenport was a trustee and stockholder; agreement, lists of stockholders, and correspondence (1882-1891), largely from George L. Magee of Corning, of the Bituminous Coal Company and the Susquehannah & South Western Railroad Company of Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, of which Ira Davenport was a stockholder; accounts and correspondence (1881-1883) of the Williams Harvester Company of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, of which Charles Davenport was a stockholder; accounts, payrolls, etc., and a series of letters (1884-1886), largely from the superintendent, on the Great West Mining Company of Richford, Dakota Territory; and a series of letters relating to the Southern Tier Mining Company of Corning, New York (1882-1884). (539, 581)