

Andrew Jackson Davis Collection

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1881

Title Statement

Andrew Jackson Davis Collection

Collection: Collection 2

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Publication Statement

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Maintenance Agency

The Edgar Cayce Foundation

Language Declaration

English (Latin script)

Convention Declaration

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Local Control

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History

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Coll. 2

Date(s)

1840 to 2011

Language

English

Creator

Davis, Andrew Jackson

Creator

Davis, Delphine Markham

Creator

Atherton, Frederick

Physical Description

1.2 Linear Feet

Repository

The Edgar Cayce Foundation

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use

This collection is open for research use. Reproduction is permitted with written permission from the Edgar Cayce Foundation.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item,] [date (if known)]; Andrew Jackson Davis Collection, Coll. 2, box_, folder_, The Edgar Cayce Foundation, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Andrew Jackson Davis was born August 11, 1826 in Blooming Grove, New York. After a series of psychic experiences, he moved to Poughkeepsie, New York and became an ardent Spiritualist known popularly as "The Poughkeepsie Seer." Davis was a prolific writer and lecturer on Spiritualist and socially progressive topics. He served briefly as editor of the *Banner of Light*, a Spiritualist newspaper based in New England. In 1843, Davis attended a lecture on mesmerism given by Dr. Dr. J. S. Grimes, professor of jurisprudence in the Castleton Medical College. Soon after the lecture, a local tailor named William Livingston guided Davis into a trance state, where he discovered he could see the inside of the human body and diagnose illness. According to the *Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology*, "In 1844 Davis had a strange experience that was to have an enduring effect on his life. In a state of semitrance he wandered away from home and awoke the next morning 40 miles away in the mountains. There he claimed to have met two venerable men - whom he later identified as the ancient physician Galen and the Swedish seer Emmanuel Swedenborg - and experienced a state of mental illumination" (<https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/philosophy-and-religion/other-religious-beliefs-biographies/andrew-jackson-davis>). In 1845, he partnered with Dr. Silas Lyon and the Reverend William Fishbough to explore his abilities on a deeper level. Lyon guided his trance state and Fishbough recorded the sessions. From November of 1845 to February of 1847 they gathered the material that would become *The Principles of Nature*, *Her Divine Revelations*, and *a Voice to Mankind* (1847). Through the following years Davis would publish several other works on Spiritualism and philosophy. In 1860 he started the *Herald of Progress* magazine. He later ran a small bookshop in Boston and earned a medical degree. He was an important influence in the development of Spiritualism as well as a supporter of progressive political movements such as divorce reform. Davis died on January 13, 1910.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes artifacts, correspondence, legal records, photographs, and writings primarily related to Davis's publishing contracts. Letters between Davis and his lawyer Frederick Atherton form the bulk of the correspondence. In addition, the collection includes personal papers of Davis' wife, Delphine Markham Davis (1839-1928). Delphine, a graduate of the United States Medical College in New York, married Davis in 1885.

Related Materials

Andrew Jackson Davis collection of publications located in the A.R.E. Library reserve room and available for research upon request and appointment.

Custodial History

The Association for Research and Enlightenment Library acquired the collection in 1977 from Maude Kline, friend of Edgar Cayce. The collection of books that accompanies this manuscript collection is housed in the A.R.E. Library.

Andrew Jackson Davis's lawyer Frederick Atherton originally owned the collection. After Atherton's death, it passed to a Mrs. McCullem who willed the collection to Maude Kline. (see *A.R.E. News*, vol. 13 no. 3, March 1978).

Fred Kolb, member of the A.R.E. Board of Trustees, Dr. John Bullard and Dr. Craig McAndrews advised the Library on the purchase.

Arrangement

Andrew Jackson Davis's materials are followed by Delphine Markham Davis's materials in the collection arrangement.

Description of Subordinate Components

Box 1

accession materials

Unit ID Folder 1:1

Date(s) 1977 to 2011

correspondence, [personal]

Unit ID Folder 1:2

Date(s) 1909 to 1937

correspondence, [Frederick Atherton to James Robertson]

Unit ID Folder 1:3

Date(s) 1911 to 1912

annuity, [Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company]

Unit ID Folder 1:4

Date(s) 1899 to 1902

bill of sale, [Trow Directory, Printing and Bookbinding Company]

Unit ID Folder 1:5

Date(s) 1890 to 1910

biographical sketches, [Andrew Jackson Davis] by Delphine Davis et. al.

Unit ID Folder 1:6

Date(s) 1886 to 1909

Certificate of Incorporation of the Harmonial Association

Unit ID Folder 1:7

Unit Date 1881

charter, [The Magazine Company]

Unit ID Folder 1:8

Unit Date 1906

correspondence, [American Society for Psychical Research]

Unit ID Folder 1:9

Unit Date 1908

correspondence, [Frederick Atherton]

Unit ID Folder 1:10-1:14

Date(s) 1905 to 1910

correspondence, [Austin Publishing Company]

Unit ID Folder 1:15

Date(s) 1908 to 1910

correspondence, [Banner of Light Publishing Company]

Unit ID Folder 1:16

Date(s) 1905 to 1908

correspondence, [British Spiritualist lyceums]

Unit ID Folder 1:17

Unit Date 1898

correspondence, [William Fishbough]

Unit ID Folder 1:18

Date(s) 1847 to 1854

correspondence, [Alfred E. Giles]

Unit ID Folder 1:19

Date(s) 1884 to 1902

correspondence, [Reverend T.L. Harris]

Unit ID Folder 1:20

Date(s) 1847 to 1848

correspondence, [legal]

Unit ID Folder 1:21

Unit Date 1909

correspondence, [Ella Mingus]

Unit ID Folder 1:22

Unit Date 1886

correspondence, [National Association of Spiritualists]

Unit ID Folder 1:23

Date(s) 1902 to 1909

correspondence, [J.M. Peebles]

Unit ID Folder 1:24

Unit Date 1905

correspondence, [C.M. Plumb]

Unit ID Folder 1:25

Unit Date 1888

correspondence, [The Progressive Thinker]

Unit ID Folder 1:26

Date(s) 1905 to 1923

correspondence, [readers]

Unit ID Folder 1:27

Date(s) 1905 to 1906

correspondence, [John T. Townsend]

Unit ID Folder 1:28

Date(s) 1884 to 1885

Box 2

correspondence, [Trow Directory, Printing and Bookbinding Company

Unit ID Folder 2:1-2:2

Date(s) 1894 to 1909

correspondence, [Veteran Spiritualist's Union]

Unit ID Folder 2:3

Date(s) 1896 to 1908

divorce petition, [Catherine De Wolf v. Joshua Dodge]

Unit ID Folder 2:4

Unit Date 1848

ephemera

Unit ID Folder 2:5

Date(s) 1903 to 1909

accession materials

Unit ID Folder 1:1

Date(s) 1903 to 1909

legal agreement, [George C. Webster and Lyman W. Griffin, pharmacists]

Unit ID Folder 2:6

Unit Date 1893

legal documents, [Samuel S. Love v. Mary F. Davis alias Mary F. Love]

Unit ID Folder 2:7

Unit Date 1856

legal documents, [probate]

Unit ID Folder 2:8

Date(s) 1910 to 1912

legal documents, [probate; James De Wolf]

Unit ID Folder 2:9

Unit Date 1859

legal documents, [Christopher C. Shaw et. al. v. Veteran Spiritualist's Union et. al.]

Unit ID Folder 2:10

Date(s) 1906 to 1909

judgment, [Andrew Jackson Davis v. Mary F. Davis / Love / Robinson]

Unit ID Folder 2:11

Unit Date 1885

manuscript, [An Explanatory Letter from Andrew Jackson Davis to His Correspondents Who Complain That They Do Not Receive His Books From the Publishers]

Unit ID Folder 2:12

Unit Date 1905

marriage contract, [Andrew Jackson Davis and Catherine De Wolf]

Unit ID Folder 2:13

Unit Date 1848

marriage contract, [Andrew Jackson Davis and Delphine E. Markham]

Unit ID Folder 2:14

Unit Date 1885

medical license

Unit ID Folder 2:15

Unit Date 1883

notes, [books and lectures]

Unit ID Folder 2:16

Date(s) 1879 to 1884

paintings, [subjects from Davis' writings]

Unit ID Folder 2:17

Unit Date undated

pamphlet, [The Diakka, and their Earthly Victims; being an Explanation of much that is False and Repulsive in Spiritualism]

Unit ID Folder 2:18

Unit Date 1873

pamphlets, [Harmonial Association and Philosophy]

Unit ID Folder 2:19

Date(s) 1872 to 1907

pamphlets, [lyceums]

Unit ID Folder 2:20

Unit Date undated

pamphlets, [medical remedies]

Unit ID Folder 2:21

Date(s) 1893 to 1895

pamphlets, [Spiritualism]

Unit ID Folder 2:22

Unit Date 1905

photographs

Unit ID Folder 2:23-2:24

Date(s) 1840 to 1910

poem

Unit ID Folder 2:25

Unit Date undated

publications, [Andrew Jackson Davis memorials]

Unit ID Folder 2:26

Unit Date 1910

receipts, [Ella Mingus]

Unit ID Folder 2:27

Date(s) 1885 to 1887

receipts, [publishers]

Unit ID Folder 2:28

Date(s) 1895 to 1904

receipts, [Eliza P. Williams]

Unit ID Folder 2:29

Date(s) 1884 to 1887

Box 3

account books

Unit ID Folder 3:1

Date(s) 1913 to 1927

Andrew Jackson Davis Publication Trust

Unit ID Folder 3:2

Date(s) 1922 to 1923

correspondence, [Frederick Atherton]

Unit ID Folder 3:3-3:4

Date(s) 1910 to 1923

correspondence, [mourning]

Unit ID Folder 3:5

Unit Date 1910

correspondence, [personal]

Unit ID Folder 3:6

Date(s) 1914 to 1928

correspondence, [Winthrop Scudder and family]

Unit ID Folder 3:7

Date(s) 1927 to 1928

ephemera

Unit ID Folder 3:8

Date(s) 1882 to 1928

legal documents, [divorce]

Unit ID Folder 3:9

Date(s) 1869 to 1885

legal documents, [property]

Unit ID Folder 3:10
Date(s) 1869 to 1892

marriage contract, [Delphine Markham and Dumont C. Dake]

Unit Date 1870

newsclippings, [Spiritualist newspapers] collected by Delphine Davis

Unit Date undated

photographs, [Delphine Davis]

Unit ID Folder 3:14

Unit Date undated

receipts

Unit ID Folder 3:15

Date(s) 1927 to 1928

wills

Unit ID Folder 3:16

Date(s) 1910 to 1922

Box 4

staff

Unit ID Item 4:1

Unit Date undated

Box 5

medal, [British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union]

Unit ID Item 5:1

Unit Date 1863

medal, [British Spiritualists' Lyceum Union]

Unit ID Item 5:2

Unit Date 1863

ambrotype, [Andrew Jackson Davis]

Unit ID Item 5:3

Unit Date undated

sash

Unit ID Item 5:4

Unit Date undated

medal, [depiction of the Rochester Rappings]

Unit ID Item 5:5

Unit Date undated

Box 6

ledger

Unit ID Item 6:1

Date(s) 1874 to 1887