

Davis, A. J., Family Collection

A. J. Davis Family Collection
1874-2007



Title Statement

Davis, A. J., Family Collection A. J. Davis Family Collection, 1874-2007 (bulk, 1874-1907) Ms.2012.067

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

2025-03-07 Ella Winterling updated Existence and Location of Copies.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2012.067

Unit Date

1874-2007

Unit Date

1874-1907

Language

English .

Abstract

The A. J. Davis Family Collection includes journals; scrapbooks; professional and biographical information; photographs, sketches, and ephemera; and a town history. The journals (1874-1927) contain memoirs, particularly of Davis' army experiences, as well as some writing exercises, poetry, stories, and religious observations. Scrapbooks compiled by A. J. Davis include newspaper clippings, personal reflections, and a stamp collection. The professional and biographical information includes service records from Davis' time in the army, genealogy information compiled by other family members, and last wills and testaments. The collection also includes a 19-page history of Woods Hole, Massachusetts, authored by Davis, as well as a draft of the Book of A. J. Davis and other manuscripts. The collection also contains pictures of Davis and his wife.

Creator

Davis, Albert John, 1854-1935

Extent

5.7 Cubic Feet 5 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The A. J. Davis Collection was deposited in Special Collections in August 2012. In November 2021, additional materials relating to A. J. Davis and his family were donated to Special Collections and University Archives. At that time, the previously deposited materials were also donated.

Processing Information

The processing (including the re-housing of the scrapbook in its original order), arrangement, and description of the A. J. Davis Collection was completed in November 2012. Additional materials were integrated in January 2022.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], A. J. Davis Family Collection, Ms2012-067, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Albert John Davis was born in 1854. He enlisted with the U. S. Army Cavalry (7th Regiment?) at Baltimore, Maryland, in 1876. He spent most of his early military career in the Dakota territories, at Fort Rice and Fort Lincoln, eventually serving for an officer (Colonel Otis) and for the Quartermaster. In 1881, he was able to secure a transfer to the Signal Corps. During the 1880s and 1890s, he served with the Signal Corps and the U. S. Cavalry. By 1897, he was assigned to the Weather Bureau (later the National Weather Service), eventually settling in Norfolk by 1904. He retired in 1924. Davis died on November 16, 1935.

External Source:

National Weather Service Biographies, NOAA History, http://www.history.noaa.gov/nwsbios/nwsbios_page15.html, archived online at https://web.archive.org/web/20130220135209/www.history.noaa.gov/nwsbios/nwsbios_page15.html, accessed June 22, 2023.

Scope and Content

The A. J. Davis Family Collection includes journals; scrapbooks; professional and biographical information; photographs, sketches, and ephemera; and a town history. The journals (1874-1927) contain memoirs, particularly of Davis' army experiences, as well as some writing exercises, poetry, stories, and religious observations. Scrapbooks compiled by A. J. Davis include newspaper clippings, personal reflections, and a stamp collection. The professional and biographical information includes service records from Davis' time in the army, genealogy information compiled by other family members, and last wills and testaments. The collection also includes a 19-page history of Woods Hole, Massachusetts, authored by Davis, as well as a draft of the Book of A. J. Davis and other manuscripts. The collection also contain pictures of Davis and family members. Various objects such as wooden writing desks and army ephemera are included.

Separated Materials

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
United States. Army

Existence and Location of Copies

At the time the bulk of the collection was donated in 2021, a CD containing digital surrogates of many items was included. Some of this collection has been digitized and is available online.

Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the A. J. Davis Family Collection by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

Arrangement

After new materials were donated in 2021, this collection was reprocessed as a whole. The collection is arranged into two series by material type.

Series I: Personal Papers is divided further into subseries by topic. The subseries are then arranged in folders by subject. This series includes materials like journals, scrapbooks, legal documents, writings, and genealogy information.

Series II: Objects is made up of artifacts and objects associated with Davis and members of his family. This includes, but is not limited to, writing desks, a riding crop, and a compass.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Personal Papers

Subseries A: Biographical Information

Life in Hatteras, NC

Unit Date 1958

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Burial Map & Obituaries

Unit Date undated

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Genealogy Info**Unit Date** undated**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**A.J. Davis Biographical****Unit Date** undated**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 12 (folder)**Subseries B: Financial and Legal Documents****Retirement/Pension Certificates****Unit Date** 1918-1930**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Wills & Testaments****Unit Date** 1851-1930**box-folder** 5 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Subseries C: Journals****Journal, including stories, memoirs, and religious observations****Unit Date** 1874-1901?**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Diary of A.J. Davis****Unit Date** 1881-1892**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Journal of A.J. Davis (Printed 1982)****Unit Date** 1874-1897**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Journal of A.J. Davis (unbound, printed in 1982)****Unit Date** 1874-1897**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**A.J. Davis Transcribed Journal****Unit Date** 1880-1927**box-folder** 1 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**A.J. Davis Journal****Unit Date** 1880-1927

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 8 (folder)

Subseries D: Military Service

Army Signal Corps Records

Unit Date undated
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 1 (folder)
folder 1

Subseries E: Photographs

Photographs of A. J. and Jessie Davis

Unit Date 1890s-1907
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 1 (folder)

Photographs

Unit Date 1920
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 4 (folder)

Framed Photo of A.J.D.'s Children and Picture Frame

Unit Date 1896
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 5 (folder)

Subseries F: Professional Information

Weather Bureau Employment

Unit Date undated
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 13 (folder)

Subseries G: Scrapbooks

Photograph album/scrapbook

box 2

A.J.D. Scrap Book

Unit Date 1896-1930
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 14 (folder)

A.J.D. Scrap Book

Unit Date 1877-1926
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 15 (folder)

Paper Scrap Books

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 16 (folder)

Subseries H: Writings

"A Brief Outline of Woods Hole Scenes and People from a Strictly Biased View. A. J. D."
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 2 (folder)

Draft: From the Book of A.J. Davis
Unit Date 1874
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 17 (folder)

Article, Poem, and Short Story written by A. J. Davis
Unit Date undated
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 18 (folder)

Judaism Excelled: Autobiography of Jonas Abraham Davis
Unit Date undated
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 19 (folder)

Comparison: Romulus and David
Unit Date undated
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 7 (folder)

Subseries I: Papers and Ephemera

Cards/Newspaper Clipping/Continental Money
Unit Date undated
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 6 (folder)

Correspondence
Unit Date undated
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 8 (folder)

Davis Family in London
Unit Date undated
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 9 (folder)

Graduation Speech
Unit Date 1874
box-folder 5 (box)
Container 10 (folder)

Series II: Objects

SERIES III. OBJECTS

Metal Box

box 1

Leather Writing Desk

Unit Date undated

box-folder 3 (box)

Compass

Unit Date undated

box-folder 3 (box)

Indian Wars Medal

Unit Date undated

box-folder 3 (box)

Stamp for Wax Seals and Wax

Unit Date undated

box-folder 3 (box)

U.S. Military Pin

Unit Date undated

box-folder 3 (box)

Wooden Clothespin

Unit Date undated

box-folder 3 (box)

Coin Purse

Unit Date undated

box-folder 3 (box)

3rd Valve Finger Ring

Unit Date undated

box-folder 3 (box)

Riding Crop

Unit Date undated

box-folder 3 (box)

Embroidered Bookmark

Unit Date undated

box-folder 3 (box)

Wooden Writing Desk

Unit Date undated

box-folder 4 (box)

Wooden Writing Desk

Unit Date undated

box-folder 4 (box)