

Guide to the Davenport Family Papers

WA MSS S-3644



Sarah Lerner

2019 April

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview 3

Requesting Instructions 3

Administrative Information 4

 Immediate Source of Acquisition 4

 Conditions Governing Access 4

 Conditions Governing Use 4

 Preferred Citation 4

 Processing Information 4

Davenport Family 4

Content Description 5

Arrangement 5

Collection Contents 6

 Series I: Correspondence, 1907-1964, undated 6

 Series II: Papers, 1923-1965, undated 11

 Series III: Photographs, circa 1860-1955, undated 12

Selected Search Terms 13

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-3644

CREATOR: Davenport family , author

TITLE: Davenport family papers

DATES: 1848-1975

BULK DATES: 1907-1953

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.09 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection documents, primarily through correspondence, the Evita and Levi B. Davenport family. It includes 420 autograph and typescript letters, signed, addressed to members of the Davenport family, 1907-1964, undated. Many of the letters are between Evita Davenport and her husband, Levi B. Davenport, her mother, Eva M. Rait, and her son, Lee Davenport, Jr. Matters discussed primarily focus on Evita Davenport's family and social life in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Goldfield, Nevada; and San Francisco, California. Multiple letters are accompanied by fabric swatches and dried flowers. Later letters are from Lee Davenport, Jr. to his parents and document his military service. There are also letters written from Lucile Frank Reuben to Lee Davenport, Jr. during this time. Included in the collection are family papers, pertaining to both Levi B. Davenport and Lee Davenport, Jr., comprised of invoices, receipts, and certificates, 1923-1965, undated. There are also 41 photographs of people and places (mostly unidentified), circa 1860-1955, undated. Other papers include newspaper clippings; auditor's notices signed by J. H. Cogswell of Ipswich, Massachusetts; a land survey; a bank statement; food labels; and miscellaneous materials; 1842-1957, undated.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.davenportfam>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.davenportfam>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Tschanz Rare Books, LLC on the William Robertson Coe Fund No. 3, 2017.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Davenport Family Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Davenport Family Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

Davenport Family

Evita Rait Davenport (1875-1962), daughter of James and Eva Rait, was married to Levi B. Davenport (1876-1964), a supervisor for various mining and gold refining companies in Goldfield, Nevada. Though living primarily in Minneapolis, Minnesota, she made multiple trips to Goldfield between 1908 and 1915, during which time the Davenports had 2 children: Donald Davenport (1910-1974) and Lee Davenport, Jr. (1915-1998). The Davenport family moved to San Francisco, California, by 1926. In early 1943, Lee Davenport, Jr., enlisted in the United States Army; by 1944 November, he was sent overseas to Europe and the Philippines. Lee Davenport, Jr., worked for the Veterans' Administration Guidance office in San Bernardino in 1947 and for the Travelers' Aid Society by 1952. He met Lucile Frank Reuben (1915-1998) in 1952, marrying her in 1954.

Content Description

The collection documents, primarily through correspondence, the Evita and Levi B. Davenport family. Present are 420 autograph and typescript letters, signed, addressed to members of the Davenport family, 1907-1964, undated. Many of the letters are between Evita Davenport and her husband, Levi B. Davenport, her mother, Eva M. Rait, and her son, Lee Davenport, Jr. Matters discussed primarily focus on Evita Davenport's family and social life in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Goldfield, Nevada; and San Francisco, California. Multiple letters are accompanied by fabric swatches and dried flowers. Later letters are from Lee Davenport, Jr. to his parents and document his military service. There are also letters written from Lucile Frank Reuben to Lee Davenport, Jr. during this time. Included in the collection are family papers, pertaining to both Levi B. Davenport and Lee Davenport, Jr., comprised of invoices, receipts, and certificates, 1923-1965, undated. There are also 41 photographs of people and places (mostly unidentified), including Evita Davenport and Donald Davenport, circa 1860-1955, undated. Other papers include newspaper clippings pertaining to the Minneapolis public library; auditor's notices signed by J. H. Cogswell of Ipswich, Massachusetts; a land survey; a bank statement; food labels; and miscellaneous materials; 1842-1957, undated.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence, 1907-1964, undated. II. Papers, 1842-1957, undated. III. Photographs, circa 1860-1955, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1907-1964, undated

English

Series I contains correspondence of the Davenport family. Many of the letters are between Evita Davenport and her husband, Levi B. Davenport, her mother, Eva M. Rait, and her son, Lee Davenport, Jr. Matters discussed primarily focus on Evita Davenport's family and social life in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Goldfield, Nevada; and San Francisco, California. Multiple letters are accompanied by fabric swatches and dried flowers. Later letters are from Lee Davenport, Jr. to his parents and document his military service. There are also letters written from Lucile Frank Reuben to Lee Davenport, Jr. during this time.

Series I is arranged chronologically.

b. 1, f. 1	1907 January 20-December 30	1907 January 20-December 30
b. 1, f. 2	1908 January 24-July 16	1908 January 24- July 16
b. 1, f. 3	1908 July 20-30	1908 July 20-30
b. 1, f. 4	1908 August 2-12	1908 August 2-12
b. 1, f. 5	1908 September 7-December 28	1908 September 7-December 28
b. 1, f. 6	1909 March 17-April 11	1909 March 17- April 11
b. 1, f. 7	1909 April 13-23	1909 April 13-23
b. 1, f. 8	1909 April 27-May 17	1909 April 27- May 17
b. 1, f. 9	1909 May 19-June 3	1909 May 19- June 3
b. 1, f. 10	1909 June 6-September 26	1909 June 6- September 26
b. 1, f. 11	1909 September 30-November 21	1909 September 30-November 21
b. 1, f. 12	1909 November 29-December 12	1909 November 29-December 12
b. 1, f. 13	1909 December 13-27	1909 December 13-27
b. 1, f. 14	1910 January 2-February 3	1910 January 2- February 3
b. 1, f. 15	1910 February 4-13	1910 February 4-13

b. 1, f. 16	1910 February 17-23	1910 February 17-23
b. 1, f. 17	1910 February 24-25	1910 February 24-25
b. 1, f. 18	1910 February 26-March 6	1910 February 26-March 6
b. 2, f. 19	1910 March 7-20	1910 March 7-20
b. 2, f. 20	1910 March 23-30	1910 March 23-30
b. 2, f. 21	1910 April 3-14	1910 April 3-14
b. 2, f. 22	1910 April 15-28	1910 April 15-28
b. 2, f. 23	1910 April 30-May 19	1910 April 30-May 19
b. 2, f. 24	1910 May 22-June 2	1910 May 22-June 2
b. 2, f. 25	1910 June 4-16	1910 June 4-16
b. 2, f. 26	1910 June 18-30	1910 June 18-30
b. 2, f. 27	1910 July 4-17	1910 July 4-17
b. 2, f. 28	1910 July 21-August 1	1910 July 21-August 1
b. 2, f. 29	1910 August 4-15	1910 August 4-15
b. 2, f. 30	1910 August 18-September 4	1910 August 18-September 4
b. 2, f. 31	1910 September 8-28	1910 September 8-28
b. 2, f. 32	1910 September 29-October 9	1910 September 29-October 9
b. 2, f. 33	1910 October 13-20	1910 October 13-20
b. 2, f. 34	1910 October 20-1911 August 27	1910 October 20-1911 August 27
b. 2, f. 35	1912 June 2-15	1912 June 2-15
b. 2, f. 36	1912 June 19-July 14	1912 June 19-July 14
b. 3, f. 37	1912 July 17-31	1912 July 17-31

b. 3, f. 38	1912 August 4-19	1912 August 4-19
b. 3, f. 39	1912 August 26-September 10	1912 August 26-September 10
b. 3, f. 40	1912 September 15-October 2	1912 September 15-October 2
b. 3, f. 41	1912 October 4-17	1912 October 4-17
b. 3, f. 42	1912 November 5-December 28	1912 November 5-December 28
b. 3, f. 43	1912 December 28-31	1912 December 28-31
b. 3, f. 44	1913 January 2-June 26	1913 January 2-June 26
b. 3, f. 45	1913 June 28-July 14	1913 June 28-July 14
b. 3, f. 46	1913 July 20-31	1913 July 20-31
b. 3, f. 47	1913 August 2-18	1913 August 2-18
b. 3, f. 48	1913 August 25-October 20	1913 August 25-October 20
b. 3, f. 49	1914 January 17-27	1914 January 17-27
b. 3, f. 50	1914 January 28-February 2	1914 January 28-February 2
b. 3, f. 51	1914 February 3-14	1914 February 3-14
b. 3, f. 52	1914 February 16-March 2	1914 February 16-March 2
b. 3, f. 53	1914 March 5-28	1914 March 5-28
b. 3, f. 54	1914 April 4-20	1914 April 4-20
b. 4, f. 55	1918 May 18-1919 May 22	1918 May 18-1919 May 22
b. 4, f. 56	1926 November 4-1927 July 18	1926 November 4-1927 July 18
b. 4, f. 57	1927 July 19-23	1927 July 19-23
b. 4, f. 58	1928 July 23	1928 July 23
b. 4, f. 59	1931 July 1-2	1931 July 1-2

b. 4, f. 60	1932 May 28-June 27	1932 May 28-June 27
b. 4, f. 61	1932 July 1-December 19	1932 July 1-December 19
b. 4, f. 62	1933 May 29-June 11	1933 May 29-June 11
b. 4, f. 63	1933 June 16-August 1	1933 June 16-August 1
b. 4, f. 64	1935 June 26	1935 June 26
b. 4, f. 65	1936 April 22	1936 April 22
b. 4, f. 66	1938 December 19	1938 December 19
b. 4, f. 67	1940 February 12-1941 April 28	1940 February 12-1941 April 28
b. 4, f. 68	1942 January 4-March 26	1942 January 4-March 26
b. 4, f. 69	1942 April 2-October 6	1942 April 2-October 6
b. 4, f. 70	1943 February 16-November 11	1943 February 16-November 11
b. 4, f. 71	1944 April 25-May 16	1944 April 25-May 16
b. 4, f. 72	1945 October 10-November 25	1945 October 10-November 25
b. 4, f. 73	1945 December 2-26	1945 December 2-26
b. 4, f. 74	1947 August 22-October 21	1947 August 22-October 21
b. 4, f. 75	1948 May 2	1948 May 2
b. 4, f. 76	1949 January 25-April 11	1949 January 25-April 11
b. 4, f. 77	1949 April 21-June 26	1949 April 21-June 26
b. 4, f. 78	1952 July 19-October 17	1952 July 19-October 17
b. 4, f. 79	1952 October 18-December 25	1952 October 18-December 25
b. 5, f. 80	1953 January 6-February 2	1953 January 6-February 2

b. 5, f. 81	1953 February 5-March 2	1953 February 5-March 2
b. 5, f. 82	1953 March 4-21	1953 March 4-21
b. 5, f. 83	1953 March 23-29	1953 March 23-29
b. 5, f. 84	1958 October 3-1964 December 20	1958 October 3-1964 December 20
b. 5, f. 85	undated	undated

Series II: Papers, 1923-1965, undated

English

Series II contains the papers of Levi B. Davenport and Lee Davenport, Jr., primarily receipts and invoices. It also includes Lee Davenport's National Red Cross first aid training certificate, elementary school certificate, and report card. A list of property belonging to Evita Rait Davenport and visiting cards of Davenport family members are included. Present are auditor's notices signed by J. H. Cogswell, a bank statement, 3 food labels, a land survey, and newspaper clippings pertaining to the Minneapolis public library and the funeral of James Addicott. Miscellaneous materials include an embroidered patch; Christmas festival ticket; blank check of the Italian-American Bank in San Francisco, California; and reproduction image of Earl Derby, Lord Carins, Sir S. Northcoat, and Gathorne Hardy.

Series II is arranged chronologically.

b. 5, f. 86	Bank statement	1842
b. 5, f. 87	Land survey	circa 1844
b. 5, f. 88	Auditor's notices	1873 February- November
b. 5, f. 89	Receipts and invoices	1921-1965, undated
b. 5, f. 90	Certificates, report card, and wheat saving card	1923-1961, undated
b. 5, f. 91	Life insurance receipts of Lee B. Davenport, Jr.	1946-1948
b. 5, f. 92	Newspaper clippings	1957, undated
b. 5, f. 93	Food labels	undated
b. 5, f. 94	List of property belonging to Evita Rait Davenport	undated
b. 5, f. 95	Visiting cards	undated
b. 5, f. 96	Miscellaneous materials	1909-1945, undated

Series III: Photographs, circa 1860-1955, undated

English

Series III contains 41 photographs. Included are 6 photographs of Donald Davenport, 1 photograph of Evita Rait Davenport, 20 photographs of unidentified individuals, and 9 photographs of unidentified locations. 5 photographs have identifying information on the verso.

Series III is arranged alphabetically.

b. 5, f. 97	Donald Davenport	circa 1914
b. 5, f. 98	Evita Rait Davenport	circa 1875
b. 5, f. 99	Identified individuals	circa 1860-1920
b. 5, f. 100	Unidentified individuals	circa 1860, undated
b. 5, f. 101	Unidentified individuals	circa 1860-1880, undated
b. 5, f. 102	Unidentified individuals	circa 1910-1955, undated
b. 5, f. 103	Unidentified infant	undated
b. 5, f. 104	Unidentified locations	circa 1910-1920, undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Families -- California
Families -- Correspondence
Families -- Minnesota
Soldiers -- United States -- Correspondence
Women -- West (U.S.)
World War, 1939-1945 -- Personal narratives,
American

Acquired From

Tschanz Rare Books, LLC , bookseller

Geographic Names

California -- Social life and customs -- 20th
Century
Goldfield (Nev.)
Minneapolis (Minn.)
Minnesota -- Social life and customs -- 20th
Century
Nevada -- Social life and customs -- 20th
Century
San Francisco (Calif.)

Genres / Formats

Dried flowers
Family papers
Photographs
Textile materials

Occupations

Gold miners -- Nevada -- 20th Century
Soldiers -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Cogswell, J. H.
Davenport, Donald, 1910-1974
Davenport, Evita, 1875-1962
Davenport, Lee, Jr., 1915-1998
Davenport, Levi B., 1876-1964
Rait, Eva M., 1854-1917
Rait, James M., 1846-1926
Reuben, Lucile Frank, 1915-1998