

## Guide to the Davies Family Papers

### Collection Overview:

**REPOSITORY:** Westport Historical Society, 25 Avery Place, Westport, CT

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 10

**TITLE:** Davies Family Papers

**DATES:** 1802-1936, n.d.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 6 linear feet (12 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Davies Family Papers document Thomas Frederick Davies (1793-1865) and his family. Davies was a Congregational clergyman and editor of religious magazines who lived in the Westport area and in New Haven, CT. The Davies Family Papers are closely related to the Adams Family Papers also held at the repository. Davies' daughter Mary Sanford Davies married Ebenezer Banks Adams, Sr. in 1837 and the families remained in close touch by correspondence.

### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Thomas Frederick Davies was born on August 24, 1793 in Redding, CT and died February 16, 1865 in Westport, the son of Thomas Davies, a medical doctor, and Hannah Crissey Davies. He married Julia Sanford in 1817 and their children were Mary Sanford Davies (Adams), Julia Sanford Davies, Lemuel Sanford Davies, and Thomas Frederick Davies, Jr. Davies' wife Julia Sanford Davies was born in 1798 and died June 8, 1858, the daughter of Lemuel and Mary Heron Sanford. She had a brother named Lemuel and a sister named Mary. Following the death of his first wife, Thomas married Elizabeth Merriman in 1859.

Davies prepared for college under Dr. David Ely of Huntington and graduated from Yale College in 1813. After graduation he taught in New Haven for a couple of years and studied theology under Dr. Timothy Dwight. He was licensed to preach in 1816 and on March 17, 1817 was ordained and installed as pastor of the Congregational Church of Huntington, CT. Compelled to resign due to ill health, Davies moved to New Haven in 1819 and became the editor of the *Christian Spectator*. Davies also was involved with the *Religious Intelligencer* magazine prior to his return to the pastorate at Greens Farms Congregational Church in Westport from 1829 to 1839. After 1839 Davies lived in New Haven for ten years and later in the Westport area with his daughter Mary Sanford Davies Adams.

Mary Sanford Davies Adams, daughter of Thomas Frederick Davies and Julia Sanford Davies, was born in 1818 and died in 1890. She became the wife of Ebenezer Banks Adams, Sr. in 1837. See the Adams Family Papers, Record Group 9, for substantial correspondence of the Davies family with the Adamses.

Julia Sanford Davies, daughter of Thomas Frederick Davies and Julia Sanford Davies was born in 1821 and died in 1845.

Lemuel Sanford Davies was born on February 28, 1823 in New Haven, son of Rev. Thomas Frederick Davies and Julia Sanford Davies. He graduated from Yale College in 1843 and entered the Law School there but withdrew due to ill health and pursued teaching in Cayuga County, NY and in North Carolina until 1846 when he returned to Yale and completed his law degree. He married Stella Scovill in 1847. They had seven children, including William B. Davies. Due to further ill health, Lemuel was primarily

involved in agriculture until 1855 when he opened a law office in Waterbury, CT. He was Mayor of Waterbury 1863-1864 and Judge of Probate 1866-1868. Further ill health led to the family moving first to Minnesota and then to Santa Cruz, CA where he died in 1897.

Thomas Frederick Davies, Jr. was born on August 31, 1831 in the Westport area, son of Thomas Frederick Davies and Julia Sanford Davies. He prepared for college at the Hopkins Grammar School and graduated from Yale College in 1853. He then attended Berkeley Divinity School in Middletown, CT, was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1857, and taught at Berkeley Divinity School from 1857 to 1863. He served as rector at St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire from 1863 to 1868 and then at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania until 1889. Davies was made Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan in 1889 and served in that position until his death in 1905, based in Detroit, MI. His son Thomas Frederick Davies III (1872-1936) was also a prominent Episcopal clergyman who served as Bishop of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts from 1911 to 1936.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Davies Family Papers provide an interesting glimpse into everyday life in the Westport and New Haven areas of Connecticut through detailed correspondence and other documents, especially when viewed in conjunction with the Adams Family Papers also held at the Westport Museum for History and Culture. The two families were diligent correspondents and keepers of documentation. The close knit character of the immediate families and active connections with their cousins and extended family are revealed in the papers.

The Correspondence of Series 1 includes not only regular and substantial correspondence between the parents and children of the Davies family but also letters from Thomas Frederick Davies friends and classmates in the Yale College class of 1813, including Zedekiah Barstow, N. H. Dering, William T. Dwight, Charles Hawley and Jeremiah Van Rensselaer. Though the time period covered by the papers saw various social upheavals such as abolitionism and the Civil War, the focus of the correspondence is primarily on the daily activities and health issues. Letters to Davies from his daughter Mary Sanford Davies (later Adams) include descriptions of her life while at school in New Haven, experiences with friend Hetty Thorpe such as a visit to the CT statehouse to see President Andrew Jackson, and visits with family friends. Family dynamics such as son Lemuel's difficulties in maintaining a job and supporting a large family versus his younger brother's success as an Episcopal clergyman are evident in the correspondence. It should be noted that there is also extensive Davies correspondence in the Adams Family Papers – primarily letters written to Mary Sanford Davies Adams by her parents and her siblings Lemuel Davies and Thomas Frederick Davies, Jr.

Series 2, Writings / Diaries / Notes includes sermons, essays, and notes by Thomas Frederick Davies, primarily on religious topics. A small diary by Julia Sanford Davies covers the period 1855-1858, just prior to her death. The series also includes essays by Lemuel Davies.

The Legal Documents and Deeds of Series 3 are interesting because they show Thomas Frederick Davies to have been an active buyer of land and properties from 1815 until the end of his life. Most of the properties noted in the deeds are in New Haven or the Westport area. The deeds indicate the location and cost of the property and from whom it was purchased. Also of interest are several deeds for pews in Congregational churches in New Haven.

Financial Records in Series 4 consist primarily of receipts from purchases of goods and services. Because Thomas Frederick Davies so faithfully kept receipts, particularly during the time period 1840 -1850 when he was living in New Haven, these records provide thorough and fascinating insight into everyday life.

Receipts for groceries can be used to track the diet of the family. A lists of medications from 1848 including cinnamon bark, rhubarb root, gall oil, and opium reveals medical practices of the time. There are also receipts for household goods, fabric and clothing, services rendered, books and magazine subscriptions, and tuition and costs for son Lemuel's study at Yale.

The Biographical Documentation and Personal Memorabilia of Series 5 is fragmentary. One item of interest is an old recipe book – “Aunt Julia's” – that includes recipes for food and drink such as Indian pudding, crullers, beef, and beer, as well as household hints for driving away red ants, preserving quinces, bottling cider, etc.

Series 6 contains books that were owned by Rev. Thomas F. Davies and his second wife Elizabeth.

The Adams Family Papers are complemented by the Davies Family Papers also held at the Westport Museum for History and Culture. Mary Sanford Davies Adams was the keeper of her family papers and the families were in close contact.

### **ARRANGEMENT**

Series 1: Correspondence

Series 2: Writings / Diaries / Notes

Series 3: Legal Documents and Deeds

Series 4: Financial Records

Series 5: Biographical Documentation / Personal Memorabilia:

Series 6: Books Belonging to the Davies Family

## Series 1: Correspondence

### Correspondence of Dr. Thomas Davies (father of Thomas Frederick Davies)

Box	Folder	.	Date
1	1	From son-in-law Jonathan R. Sanford	1825
1	1	From granddaughter Mary Sanford Davies	1831

### Correspondence of Hannah Davies (mother of Thomas Frederick Davies)

Box	Folder	.	Date
1	2	From grandson Lemuel Sanford	1839
1	2	From granddaughter Mary Sanford Davies Adams	1850, n.d.

### Correspondence of Thomas Frederick Davies (1793-1865)

Box	Folder	.	Date
		<b>Family correspondence</b>	
1	3	To / from his parents and his sister Mary Davies	1820-1841
1	4	To mother Hannah Davies	1844-1851
1	5	From father-in-law Lemuel Sanford	1820-1831, n.d.
1	6	To parents-in-law Lemuel and Mary Sanford (Jointly written with his wife Julia)	n.d.
1	7-10	To wife Julia Sanford Davies Including descriptions of travel in upstate NY in 1819	1818-1851, n.d.
1	11-12	From wife Julia Sanford Davies	1844-1857, n.d.
1	13-14	From daughter Mary Sanford Davies (Adams) see also Adams Family Papers, Record Group 9, for additional correspondence	1826-1837, n.d.
1	15	To son Lemuel Sanford Davies	1833
1	16-20	From son Lemuel Sanford Davies	1840-1853, n.d.
2	1-6	From son Lemuel and his wife Stella Davies letters from 1862 onward are directed to Elizabeth M. Davies, second wife of TFD	1854-1865, n.d.
2	7	From daughter Julia Sanford Davies	1836
2	8-12	From son Thomas Frederick Davies letters addressed to "Dear Parents"	1845-1857
2	13-19	From son Thomas Frederick Davies letters addressed jointly to TFD, Sr. and TFD, Jr.'s sister Mary	1859-1865
2	20	From grandson William B. Davies	1863, n.d.
3	1	From nephew Thomas Sanford	1858-1864, n.d.
3	2	From nephew Lemuel Sanford	1858-1865
3	3	From niece Abby Sanford and nephew J. R. Sanford	1863, 1865
3	4	From Perry relatives (family of JSD's sister)	1842, 1844, 1860, 1863
3	5	From other relatives, including cousin C. H. McDonald, Henry Davies, Uncle William	1817, 1841, 1849
		<b>General correspondence – friends and colleagues</b>	

3	6	From Barstow, Zedekiah	1815-1848
3	7	From Bartlett, Jonathan	1846, n.d.
3	8	From Bunster (?), James	1826-1850
3	9	From Dering, N. H.	1848, 1861
3	10	From Dow (?), M.	1828
3	11	From Dwight, William T.	1813-1848
3	12	To/from Frost, Daniel D.	1858, n.d.
3	13	From Hawley, Charles	1813-1848
3	14	From Johnson, James D.	1812-1843
3	15	From Samuel Punderson	1857-1865, n.d.
3	16	From Jeremiah Van Rensselaer	1843, 1866
3	17-21	Other correspondents, including from other Yale classmates	1810-1863, n.d.
		<b>General correspondence – business related</b>	
3	22-23	Letters related to finances, stocks, land, etc.	1828-1864

### Correspondence of Julia Sanford Davies (1798-1858)

Box	Folder	.	Date
		<b>Family correspondence</b>	
4	1	To her parents Lemuel and Mary Sanford	1824, n.d.
4	2-3	To her sister Mary Sanford (Perry)	1814-1824, n.d.
4	4	From her daughter Julia Sanford Davies For correspondence with daughter Mary Sanford Davies (Adams) see the Adams Family Papers, Record Group 9	1831-1832
		See also letters from her sons addressed to “Dear Parents” and filed under the correspondence of Thomas Frederick Davies	
4	5-6	From cousin Margaret Judd	1825-1858, n.d.
4	7	From aunt Eloisa Neron	1846, 1847
4	8	To Perry cousins, including Lucy Perry	1838-1841
4	9-10	From niece Sarah Perry	1852-1855, n.d.
4	11	From Sanford relatives, Abby and Sarah	1826, 1848
		<b>Correspondence of extended family</b>	
4	12	From Julia’s uncle J. M. Heron to her parents Lemuel and Mary Sanford	1809
4	12	From Julia’s father Lemuel Sanford to Sally Sanford	1812
		<b>General correspondence</b>	
4	13	From various friends, including Ellen Sherwood, H. Scovill	1827-1847, n.d.

### Correspondence of Elizabeth Merriman Davies (second wife of TFD)

Box	Folder	.	Date
4	14	From Thomas Frederick Davies	1859
4	15	From step-grandson William B. Davies	1872

		See also the Adams Family Papers for letters of Elizabeth M. Davies to Ebenezer Banks Adams, Sr. and Mary S. Davies Adams	1864-1879
4	16	From uncle Marcus Merriman (with assorted notes addressed to TFD re. financial matters)	1862-1868

#### Correspondence of Lemuel Sanford Davies

Box	Folder	.	Date
4	17	To wife Stella	1852
4	18	From sister and brother-in-law Mary Sanford Davies Adams and Ebenezer Banks Adams See also Adams Family Papers for letters from Lemuel Sanford Davies and his wife to the Adamses	1842
4	19	To/from brother Thomas Frederick Davies (Jr.) Includes request for financial assistance by Lemuel following a grasshopper plague in 1875 in Minnesota where he was farming.	1844-1845, 1875-1878
4	20	From sister Julia Sanford Davies	1837

#### Correspondence of Julia Sanford Davies (daughter of Thomas Frederick and Julia Davies)

Box	Folder	.	Date
4	21	From brother Thomas F. Davies and her parents	1845, n.d.
4	21	From aunt Eloisa Neron	1845

#### Correspondence of Thomas Frederick Davies (Jr.)

Box	Folder	.	Date
4	22	From sister Mary Sanford Davies Adams See also Adams Family Papers for letter from TFD, Jr. to the Adamses	1855, 1856, n.d.
4	22	To stepmother Elizabeth M. Davies	1872
4	22	From cousin Thomas Sanford	1888

#### Correspondence of William B. Davies (son of Lemuel and Stella Davies)

Box	Folder	.	Date
4	23	To father Lemuel Davies	n.d.
4	23	From aunt Mary Sanford Davies Adams	n.d.

#### Unidentified correspondence

Box	Folder	.	Date
4	24	Correspondence of uncertain attribution	1852-1910, n.d.

## Series 2: Writings / Diaries / Notes

### Writings of Thomas Frederick Davies (1793-1865)

Box	Folder	.	Date
5	1-5	Sermons, with scriptural texts, dates and places of delivery noted in some cases	1816-1839, n.d.
5	6	Essays, including: "Being and Attribute of Sin" "Depravity" "Divine Illumination"	1814, n.d.
5	7	Essays, including: "Election" "Hopkinsianism" "Perseverance" "Physical Depravity" "A Plea for Charity"	n.d.
5	8	Essays written in Delphos, Ohio	1859
5	9	Essay: Recollection of Dr. Taylor, addressed to Dr. Porter (draft)	n.d.
5	10	Essays: Miscellaneous and fragmentary, including re. City of New Haven, General Association of CT, and religious subjects	n.d.
5	11	Bound notebook containing notes on religious subjects	1814
5	12	Notes: miscellaneous and fragmentary	n.d.

### Writings of Julia Sanford Davies (1798-1858)

Box	Folder	.	Date
5	13	Bound notebook containing notes and poems	n.d.
5	14	Journal entries in small bound packets	1850-1858

### Writings of Lemuel Sanford Davies

Box	Folder	.	Date
5	15	Essays, including: "A Hunting Expedition" "On the Importance of the Invention of the Steam Engine"	1838, 1859
5	16	Essays, including: "Slavery" "The French Emigrants"	n. d.
5	17	Account describing journey from New York to Canton, China on the packet ship <i>George Washington</i>	n.d.

**Writings of Thomas Frederick Davies (Jr.)**

Box	Folder	.	Date
5	18	Poems attributed to TFD, Jr.	n.d.

**Unidentified writings**

Box	Folder	.	Date
5	20	Writings of uncertain attribution, including poem written in commemoration of Abigail Sanford, daughter of Lemuel and Mary Sanford, who died at age 6 in 1784	1784(?), 1852-1910, n.d.



### Series 3: Legal Documents and Deeds

#### Hannah Davies

Box	Folder	.	Date
6	1	Last Will and Testament of Hannah Davies	1845

#### Lemuel Sanford (father-in-law of Thomas Frederick Davies)

Box	Folder	.	Date
6	2	Deeds for land sold by LS to Thomas Frederick Davies and Julia Sanford Davies	1825, 1829
6	3	Deeds for land purchased by LS	1802-1828
6	4	Discharge of Executors for Estate of Lemuel Sanford	1836

#### Thomas Frederick Davies

Box	Folder	.	Date
6	5	Deeds for land purchased by TFD	1815-1825
6	6	Deeds for land purchased by TFD	1826-1839
6	7	Deeds for land purchased by TFD	1840-1864
6	8	Deeds for pews purchased in New Haven churches: United Society in New Haven (1822) Chapel St. Congregational Church (1841) Third Congregational Church (1841) United Society in New Haven (1847) College St. Congregational Society (1853)	1822-1853
6	9	Contracts with men to build house, dig cellar	1843, 1849

#### Elizabeth Merriman Davies

Box	Folder	.	Date
6	10	Will	n.d.

## Series 4: Financial Records

### Dr. Thomas Davies and Hannah Davies

Box	Folder	.	Date
7	1	Receipts	1840-1841

### Lemuel Sanford

Box	Folder	.	Date
7	2	Receipts	1819

### Thomas Frederick Davies

Box	Folder	.	Date
7	3	Receipts	1818-1839
7	4	Receipts	1840
7	5	Receipts	1841
7	6	Receipts	1842
7	7	Receipts	1843
7	8	Receipts	1844
7	9	Receipts	1845-1847
7	10	Receipts	1848
7	11	Receipts	1849
7	12	Receipts	1850
8	1	Receipts	1851-1853
8	2	Receipts	1854
8	3	Receipts	1855-1856
8	4	Receipts	1857-1859
8	5	Receipts	1860-1865
8	6	Receipts	n.d.

## Series 5: Biographical Documentation and Personal Memorabilia

Box	Folder		Date
8	7	Listing of books in Thomas Frederick Davies' personal library	n.d.
8	8	Cover of volume noted as "T. F. Davies autographs" –used to contain essays by TFD	n.d.
8	9	"Aunt Julia's" recipe book – ownership uncertain	n.d.
8	10	Thomas Frederick Davies II – list of positions, degrees Thomas Frederick Davies III - obituary	1936, n.d.
8	11	Photographs of Mrs. Andrus Godfrey, James Miller, Robert Martin and others unidentified	n.d.
8	12	Two issues of Peterson's Ladies National Magazine with drawing and name Emma Perry	1863, 1864
8	13	American Sunday School Union pamphlet "The Gipsy Babies" owned by Julia S. Davies	1827
8	14	Brochure for Hillside School, Lemuel Sanford Superintendent Flyer soliciting info. for genealogical register for Sanford family	n.d.

## Series 6: Books Belonging to the Davies Family

### Thomas Frederick Davies (1793-1865)

Box		Date
9	Historical Collection of New York State by John Barber and Henry Howe	1841
9	American History and Biography by Allen	1832
9	Memoir of the Rev. Henry Martyn by John Sargent	1820
9	Beatrice or the Unknown Relative by Catherine Sinclair	
10-12	The Writings of Washington by Jared Sparks Vols. 1-5, 7-12	1835

### Elizabeth M. Davies

12	Psalms and Hymns (volume inscribed Elizabeth Joselyn)	
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