



Davies Family Papers RG 10

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Westport Museum for History & Culture

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Summary Information

Repository:	Westport Museum for History & Culture
Title:	Davies Family Papers
ID:	RG 10
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/36/resources/1143
Date [inclusive]:	1784-1936
Physical Description:	6 linear feet 12 boxes
Physical Location:	Westport Museum for History and Culture Archives Room
Language of the Material:	English.
Abstract:	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.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], , [Box no]., Davies Family Papers, Westport Museum for History and Culture

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Biography

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.

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Scope and Content of Collection

A detailed finding aid for the collection is available at the repository.

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 Davies Family Papers are complemented by the Adams 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.

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Arrangement

The material is arranged in six series: 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.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Westport Museum for History & Culture

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Restrictions

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

For copyright status, please contact the Westport Museum for History and Culture.

Acquisition Information

The material was donated as part of the Adams family collection.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Westport (Conn.)--History.
- Deeds.

General

Collection guide written by:
Westport Museum for History and Culture staff

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Collection Inventory

Correspondence

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

Title/Description	Instances	
From son-in-law Jonathan R. Sanford, 1825	Box 1	Folder 1
From granddaughter Mary Sanford Davies, 1831	Box 1	Folder 1

Correspondence of Hannah Davies (mother of Thomas Frederick Davies)

Title/Description	Instances	
From grandson Lemuel Sanford, 1839	Box 1	Folder 2

From granddaughter Mary Sanford Davies Adams, 1850, undated	Box 1	Folder 2
Correspondence of Thomas Frederick Davies (1793-1865)		
Family correspondence		
Title/Description	Instances	
To / from his parents and his sister Mary Davies, 1820-1841	Box 1	Folder 3
To mother Hannah Davies, 1844-1851	Box 1	Folder 4
From father-in-law Lemuel Sanford, 1820-1831, undated	Box 1	Folder 5
To parents-in-law Lemuel and Mary Sanford (Jointly written with his wife Julia), undated	Box 1	Folder 6
To wife Julia Sanford Davies , 1818-1851, undated	Box 1	Folder 7-10
From wife Julia Sanford Davies, 1844-1857, undated	Box 1	Folder 11-12
From daughter Mary Sanford Davies (Adams) , 1826-1837, undated	Box 1	Folder 13-14
Scope and Contents		
See also Adams Family Papers, Record Group 9, for additional correspondence.		
To son Lemuel Sanford Davies, 1833	Box 1	Folder 15
From son Lemuel Sanford Davies, 1840-1853, undated	Box 1	Folder 16-20
From son Lemuel and his wife Stella Davies , 1854-1865, n.d.	Box 2	Folder 1-6
Scope and Contents		
Letters from 1862 onward are directed to Elizabeth M. Davies, second wife of TFD.		
From daughter Julia Sanford Davies, 1836	Box 2	Folder 7
From son Thomas Frederick Davies , 1845-1857	Box 2	Folder 8-12
Scope and Contents		
Letters addressed to "Dear Parents"		
From son Thomas Frederick Davies , 1859-1865	Box 2	Folder 13-19

Scope and Contents

Letters are addressed jointly to TFD, Sr. and TFD, Jr.'s sister Mary.

From grandson William B. Davies, 1863, undated	Box 2	Folder 20
From nephew Thomas Sanford, 1858-1864, undated	Box 3	Folder 1
From nephew Lemuel Sanford, 1858-1865	Box 3	Folder 1
From niece Abby Sanford and nephew J. R. Sanford, 1863, 1865	Box 3	Folder 3
From Perry relatives (family of JSD's sister), 1842,1844, 1860,1863	Box 3	Folder 4
From other relatives, including cousin C. H. McDonald, Henry Davies, Uncle William, 1817, 1841, 1849	Box 3	Folder 5

General correspondence – friends and colleagues

Title/Description	Instances	
From Barstow, Zedekiah, 1815-1848	Box 3	Folder 6
From Bartlett, Jonathan, 1846, undated	Box 3	Folder 7
From Bunster (?), James, 1826-1850	Box 3	Folder 8
From Dering, N. H. , 1848, 1861	Box 3	Folder 9
From Dow (?), M. , 1828	Box 3	Folder 10
From Dwight, William T., 1813-1848	Box 3	Folder 11
To/from Frost, Daniel D. , 1858, undated	Box 3	Folder 12
From Hawley, Charles, 1813-1848	Box 3	Folder 13
From Johnson, James D., 1812-1843	Box 3	Folder 14
From Samuel Punderson, 1857-1865, undated	Box 3	Folder 15
From Jeremiah Van Rensselaer, 1843, 1866	Box 3	Folder 16
Other correspondents, including from other Yale classmates, 1810-1863, undated	Box 3	Folder 17-21

General correspondence – business related

Title/Description	Instances	
Letters related to finances, stocks, land, etc., 1828-1864	Box 3	Folder 22-23

Correspondence of Julia Sanford Davies (1798-1858)**Family correspondence**

Title/Description	Instances	
To her parents Lemuel and Mary Sanford, 1824, undated	Box 4	Folder 1
To her sister Mary Sanford (Perry), 1814-1824, undated	Box 4	Folder 2-3
From her daughter Julia Sanford Davies , 1831-1832	Box 4	Folder 4
Scope and Contents		
For correspondence with daughter Mary Sanford Davies (Adams) see the Adams Family Papers, Record Group 9. See also letters from her sons addressed to "Dear Parents" and filed under the correspondence of Thomas Frederick Davies.		
From cousin Margaret Judd, 1825-1858, undated	Box 4	Folder 5-6
From aunt Eloisa Neron, 1846, 1847	Box 4	Folder 7
To Perry cousins, including Lucy Perry, 1838-1841	Box 4	Folder 8
From niece Sarah Perry, 1852-1855, undated	Box 4	Folder 9-10
From Sanford relatives, Abby and Sarah, 1826, 1848	Box 4	Folder 11

Correspondence of extended family

Title/Description	Instances	
From Julia's uncle J. M. Heron to her parents Lemuel and Mary Sanford, 1809	Box 4	Folder 12
From Julia's father Lemuel Sanford to Sally Sanford, 1812	Box 4	Folder 12

General correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
From various friends, including Ellen Sherwood, H. Scovill, 1827-1847, undated	Box 4	Folder 13

Correspondence of Elizabeth Merriman Davies (second wife of TFD)

Title/Description	Instances	
From Thomas Frederick Davies, 1859	Box 4	Folder 14
From step-grandson William B. Davies , 1872	Box 4	Folder 15
Scope and Contents		
See also the Adams Family Papers for letters of Elizabeth M. Davies to Ebenezer Banks Adams, Sr. and Mary S. Davies Adams, 1864-1879.		
From uncle Marcus Merriman (with assorted notes addressed to TFD re. financial matters), 1862-1868	Box 4	Folder 16

Correspondence of Lemuel Sanford Davies

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

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

Title/Description	Instances	
From brother Thomas F. Davies and her parents, 1845, undated	Box 4	Folder 21
From aunt Eloisa Neron, 1845	Box 4	Folder 21

Correspondence of Thomas Frederick Davies (Jr.)

Title/Description	Instances	
From sister Mary Sanford Davies Adams , 1855, 1856, undated	Box 4	Folder 22
<p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>See also Adams Family Papers for letter from TFD, Jr. to the Adamses.</p>		
To stepmother Elizabeth M. Davies, 1872	Box 4	Folder 22

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

Title/Description	Instances	
To father Lemuel Davies , undated	Box 4	Folder 23
From aunt Mary Sanford Davies Adams, undated	Box 4	Folder 23

Unidentified correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence of uncertain attribution, 1852-1910, undated	Box 4	Folder 24

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Writings / Diaries / Notes

Writings of Thomas Frederick Davies (1793-1865)

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

Writings of Julia Sanford Davies (1798-1858)

Title/Description	Instances	
Bound notebook containing notes and poems, undated	Box 5	Folder 13
Journal entries in small bound packets, 1850-1858	Box 5	Folder 13

Writings of Lemuel Sanford Davies

Title/Description	Instances	
Essays, including: "A Hunting Expedition"; "On the Importance of the Invention of the Steam Engine" , 1838, 1859	Box 5	Folder 15
Essays, including: "Slavery"; "The French Emigrants" , undated	Box 5	Folder 16
Account describing journey from New York to Canton, China on the packet ship George Washington, undated	Box 5	Folder 17

Writings of Thomas Frederick Davies (Jr.)

Title/Description	Instances	
Poems attributed to TFD, Jr. , undated	Box 5	Folder 18

Unidentified wrtings

Title/Description	Instances	
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, undated	Box 5	Folder 19

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Legal Documents and Deeds**Hannah Davies**

Title/Description	Instances	
Last Will and Testament of Hannah Davies, 1845	Box 6	Folder 1

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

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

Thomas Frederick Davies

Title/Description	Instances	
Deeds for land purchased by TFD, 1815-1825	Box 6	Folder 5
Deeds for land purchased by TFD, 1826-1839	Box 6	Folder 6
Deeds for land purchased by TFD, 1840-1864	Box 6	Folder 7
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)	Box 6	Folder 8
Contracts with men to build house, dig cellar, 1843, 1849	Box 6	Folder 9

Elizabeth Merriman Davies

Title/Description	Instances	
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Will, undated	Box 6	Folder 10
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Financial Records

Dr. Thomas Davies and Hannah Davies

Title/Description	Instances	
Receipts, 1840-1841	Box 7	Folder 1

Lemuel Sanford

Title/Description	Instances	
Receipts, 1819	Box 7	Folder 2

Thomas Frederick Davies

Title/Description	Instances	
Receipts, 1818-1850	Box 7	Folder 3-12
Receipts, 1851-1865, undated	Box 8	Folder 1-6

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Biographical Documentation and Personal Memorabilia

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

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Books Belonging to the Davies Family

Thomas Frederick Davies (1793-1865)

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

Elizabeth M. Davies

Title/Description	Instances
Psalms and Hymns (volume inscribed Elizabeth Joselyn)	Box 12

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