

Genealogy

A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan State University Archives

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Genealogy Resources

The purpose of this resource guide is to familiarize visitors of the MSU Archives with some of the available genealogical resources. Note that this guide is not a comprehensive listing of all the available sources, but is intended to be a starting point from which visitors can begin their research according to their specific needs.

Family and Individual Collections

1. Bagley Family Papers, 1830-1932. 00018

- .5 cu. ft.
- This collection includes personal papers of David M. and Bennette Bagley, their son William Bagley, and his son Laurence Bagley. Included are Civil War, political, and personal correspondence, including a description of pioneer Australia; legal papers including Bennette and William Bagley's will and estate papers, apprenticeship papers, building contracts, tax receipts, deeds, summons, mortgages, abstracts of land titles, and a report card; newspaper articles (primarily political) written by David Bagley for the LANSING STATE REPUBLICAN and the editions in which they appear; a speech given to the Old Settlers' Association in 1927; articles written by William Bagley for publication, primarily concerning prohibition, and one about the desert pine lands Michigan, which was read to the Michigan Senate in 1901; 3 plat maps and records relating to Old Mission Harbor, Michigan; a diary and phrenology chart of David Bagley; 1893 drawings of the United States Naval vessels; several financial ledgers and farm diaries; and a Peninsular Grange Ledger (1885-1902). Also includes a genealogy of the Bagley family (1778-1861).

2. Barry Family Genealogy. c00484

- 1 folder
- This collection contains photocopies of genealogical information on the John Stewart Barry family of White Pigeon and Constantine, Michigan.

3. Brook Family papers, 1877-1973. 00195

- 3.25 cu. ft.
- The Brook Family papers (1877 - 1973) consist of photographs, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, and genealogy notes. The bulk of the collection is photographic material. The majority of the photographic images are of family members but there are photographs of events at Haslett High School and buildings where family members resided. There are six family albums, fourteen cased 19th century photographic portrait images (daguerreo-, ambro- and tintypes), and over 100 loose photographic images (tintype and paper). The albums are mostly undated and unidentified family members. Identified photographs have been arranged into separate folders. Unidentified photographs have been arranged by size and type.

4. Vernon J. Brown Papers, 1959. c00022

- 1 folder
- This collection contains Vernon Brown's typewritten manuscript, "70 Years -- 17 Governors," in which he gives his impressions and memories of prominent Michigan politicians and educators between 1889 and 1959. It also includes reprints of Brown's reminiscences of pioneering history and farm life around Ingham County, Michigan. The reminiscences were originally published in the INGHAM COUNTY NEWS in 1959. Note: Brown, owner and editor of the INGHAM COUNTY NEWS, held a variety of posts in Ingham County and Michigan government, including Mayor of Mason, state legislator, Auditor General (1939-1944), and Lieutenant Governor (1945-1946).

5. William L. Carpenter papers, 1851-1950. 00015

- .66 cu. ft. 1 Volume
- This collection includes personal and business correspondence relating primarily to Carpenter's legal practice in Detroit, Michigan, and to his interest in family genealogy. The collection contains a number of writings by Carpenter pertaining to his experiences as a lawyer and a judge, as well as miscellaneous other topics. There are letters from his son Rolla, a soldier in Europe during World War II, and a diary kept by his son-in-law Dr. Frederick Buesser, which describes day-to-day life in the medical corps and gives a good description of Armistice Day (1918). References are made throughout the collection to Michigan Agricultural College. Carpenter, two of his brothers, and two of his sisters all attended the College. Carpenter corresponded with several people of note, including Woodbridge Ferris, Charles Evans Hughes, John Basset Moore, Elihu Root, and William Howard Taft.

6. Chamberlain Family Papers, 1795-1931. 00002

- 2.3 cu. ft., 8 volumes
- This collection contains family correspondence, legal documents and business records, particularly relating to Henry Chamberlain. Included are genealogies of the Chamberlain, Langdon, Woodward and Wheelock families. Correspondence discusses everyday life in Berrien County, Michigan; college life at several universities; development of the railroad in southern Michigan; Michigan and United States politics; Civil War sentiment and military life; and administrative problems at Michigan Agricultural College. Also included are letters from M.A.C. President Oscar Clute, Michigan Governor Edwin B. Winans, and Robert LaFollette. Note: The Chamberlain family migrated from New Hampshire west to Scipio, Ohio, in the early 19th century. From there, they moved to Three Oaks, Michigan (Berrien County) in 1843. Henry Chamberlain served as a state representative in Lansing, Michigan, between 1848 and 1855. He served on the Michigan State Board of Agriculture, which governed Michigan Agricultural College, from 1888 to 1897. His son, Paul, attended Ashbunham School in Massachusetts, then Olivet College in Michigan. Mellon (Moses) Chamberlain was sent back East to be educated at Dartmouth College and Harvard University (1840-1849). He set up a legal practice in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1849.

7. Detroit Society Magazines, 1975-1976. c00185

- 2 folders
- This collection consists of two issues of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research Magazine, containing various articles on genealogical information and methods of research.

8. Mary True Dooley papers, 1804-2002. UA 10.3.217

- 1.8 cu. ft.
- The Mary True Dooley papers consist of materials relating to the Andrews and True families. The Andrews materials include correspondence to and from the Elisha Andrews family, deeds, tax materials, financial information, essays, and sermons written by Elisha. Some of the correspondence describes eighteenth century life in New York, the journey to Michigan, and early settler life in Michigan. There are also Anne Amelia Andrew's diary, letters, copied essays and the correspondence of her husband Eleazer W. True. Also included are deeds from Edward Lathrop, who was the brother of Elisha's wife. There also materials of Frank Lathrop True relating to his college days at Michigan State University in the early 1900s including Alpha Zeta, Delphic Society, a cadet promotion certificate, MAC calendars, and materials for the Class of 1911 fiftieth reunion. In addition is Mary True Dooley's dissertation, "The Andrews Bailiwick: A Geographic Study of Migration to and Settlement of Northern Macomb County, Michigan, 1810-1850," which refers to the family records, as well as describes her early family members. Note: The materials in the collection reflect several generations of Mary True Dooley's family who were originally from Vermont and then moved westward to Michigan in the nineteenth century. Family members include her great great grandfather Elisha Deming Andrews (1783-1852) and his wife Betsey Lathrop. They had six children. Elisha bought land in Michigan in the early 1800s and moved his family to Michigan in 1840. The family settled in Armada, in northern Macomb County. Elisha's daughter, Anne, later married Eleazer W. True.

9. Eben Pearson Dorr Papers, 1861-1937. c00366

- 2 folders, 6 volumes
- The majority of the papers consist of 6 diaries kept by Eben Pearson Dorr. The 1888-1892 diaries describe life in the Buffalo, New York area. Manistee County, Michigan is described in the 1836-1837 diaries. Descriptions of Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, and Washington D.C. are included in the 1888-1891 diaries. Also included are a Horace Greeley autograph, a passport issued to George P. Dorr, a brief Dorr family genealogy, newspaper clippings, a speech, and a poem.

10. Joseph Druse Papers, 1917-1964. UA 17.230

- 1 cu. ft.
- The bulk of the collection relates to Druse's experience with the University of Nigeria Project. Included are lecture notes, slides, photographs, and two issues of a Nsukka, Nigeria newspaper. Also included in the collection are several historical newspapers, an 1860 voter guide, maps, publications, materials relating

to the MSU Centennial, war ration books, East Lansing air raid defense instructions, and a genealogical paper.

11. Dunks Family papers, 1836-1877 1860-1870. c00123

- 10 folders
- This collection consists primarily of letters received by Oliver Dunks of Detroit and Coldwater, Michigan, most of which are dated in the 1860s. The letters discuss business, agriculture, and social activities, as well as conditions during the Civil War, including politics, the draft, and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. A series of letters from E.O. Burton, a student at Olivet College, describes college life and activities (1864-1865).

12. English Family papers, 1829-1954 1878-1954. 00064

- 6 cu. ft.
- This collection of family papers includes business and personal correspondence; financial records; report cards and schoolwork; church bulletins; school directories; an historical manuscript; newspaper clippings; diaries. Albert D. English, his sister, Annetta English, wife Marion Brown Monteith English and their daughter, Jean English Wisner are the family members represented in this collection. Historical information on Manchester Township, Washtenaw County, was collected by Albert and Annetta, who also wrote a history of Manchester Township, included in the collection. Note: Albert and Annetta English were two of the children of Benjamin G. English. Both lived in Manchester, Michigan. Albert was a farmer, a school district assessor (1877-1926), stockholder in the Union Savings Bank, Overseer of Highways for District 19 (1897-1907), Postmaster of Manchester (1900), and a member of the 8th District War Board (1919). He was an active member of the Democratic Party and was elected to its State Convention in 1910, 1914, and 1916. In 1898, Albert married Marion Brown Monteith. They had one child, Jean, born in 1906.

13. Calvin Ennes Collection. c00399

- 4 folders
- This collection contains a copy of "Genealogy of the Saganing Indians" of Arenac County and the Saginaw Valley of Michigan, written by Bernard Bourase and his wife Charlotte, both Indians, for a settler, Harvey Chamberlin. Also included is an index of some Ojibwa words and their English translations.

14. Fenner Family Genealogy, 1370-1978. c00442

- 1 folder
- This collection consists of one copy of the Fenner family's genealogy.

15. Feeman Family Papers, 1719-1936. c00243

- 1 folder
- This collection consists of a photocopy of a land grant in Ohio and a family genealogy. The land grant, issued to Benjamin Freeman, is for the west half of the lot of section eight of township 15 in range 18, Ohio. The land grant is signed by

Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. The genealogy was prepared in 1976, which traces seven generations.

16. Ferry Family Papers. c00351

- 6 folders
- This collection contains typed excerpts from the letters of William Montague Ferry and his wife, Amanda, to family members in New England. Included are descriptions of the Indians and references to opposition from the Catholic Church. Also included are brief genealogies of the Ferry, Montague, Henry, Hastings, White, and Harwood families. Note: The Ferrys were Protestant missionaries who settled on Mackinac Island.

17. Charles Walter Hamilton genealogy, c.1958. c00106

- 1 folder
- This collection consists of a partial copy of a genealogy covering ten generations of the Hamilton family, several of whom settled in Michigan in the 1860s and 1870s. The genealogy includes biographical sketches of family members.

18. Robert E. Hicks Family Papers, 1836-1986. c00538

- .33 cu. ft.
- The Robert Hicks Family papers consist of documents, oral history interviews, memorabilia, and two published family histories. An album and three folders contain photographs, news articles, documents, family histories, and a history of the development of the "Flowerpot" neighborhood in East Lansing, Michigan. Album also contains an outline of Thurber family history, an account of Robert Hicks' life from 1972 to 1986, and minutes from a Hicks Family Reunion. Letters discuss family activities, encyclopedia sales in Indiana, and farming in Canada. Oral interviews detail the life of Robert Hicks, his parents, and the development of the "Flowerpot" neighborhood. Also included is a history of the Sickle Family. Note: The "Flowerpot" was an East Lansing subdivision until 1948, which eventually became part of US-127 and I-496. Robert Hicks was born in St. Johns, Michigan, and married Zoe Thurber of Lansing in 1916. He died in 1986 at the age of 93.

19. Perry Greeley Holden Collection, 1891-1959. UA 17.26

- 9 folders, 1 volume
- The Holden Memoirs, which were printed in a scrapbook format includes photographs, genealogies, and reproductions of correspondence, certificates and news clippings. Note: Perry Greeley Holden (1865-1959) was an educator, farmer and scholar in the field of agriculture. He graduated from Michigan Agricultural College in 1889; taught at M.A.C. 1889-1893; taught at the University of Illinois 1896-1899; was professor of Agronomy, 1903-1907, and Director of the Agricultural Extension Department, 1908-1912 at Iowa State College. In 1913 he joined the International Harvester Company and remained with that company until retirement.

20. Charles Adolphus Jewell Papers, 1860-1979. UA 10.3.5

- 3 folders
- The Charles A. Jewell, II, papers consist of original correspondence from Jewell's days as a student at Michigan Agricultural College (1860-1862) and from Jewell while he served in the 18th Michigan Volunteers during the Civil War (1862-1865). A photocopy of a manuscript edited by Jewell's grand-daughter, Ruth Jewell Nelson, contains transcribed family letters, family anecdotes, and genealogical information on the Jewell family.

21. Kirkland Family Papers, 1850-1914, 1850-1889. c00127

- 6 folders, 1 volume
- The majority of the Kirkland Family Papers (1850-1889) consist of letters between family members in England and those who immigrated to the United States. The American branch eventually settled in Livingston County, Michigan. The letters discuss family matters and agriculture. Also included is a letter describing a trip (1880) to California via the transcontinental railway; a letter discussing the outcome of the Spanish-American War (1898); a patent medicine brochure (1893); and a genealogy of the family compiled by George Kirkland, which includes family records and a biography..

22. Lansing Family and Taft Family papers, 1838-1917. 00058

- .66 cu. ft., 1 Vol.
- Includes personal papers and records of Elijah M. Lansing, his grandson or nephew Frank M. Lansing, Frank's wife, Rosadel Taft Lansing, and her father, Daniel Owen Taft. Papers span 1838-1917, with a generational gap from 1845-1881. E.M. Lansing's papers deal with his service in the 5th Brigade of the 6th Regiment of the Michigan Militia (The Washtenaw Guards) from 1838-1845. They include muster rolls, company orders and its constitution, a request to join the guards, and an invitation to a military ball. F.M. Lansing's papers include diaries and personal account notebooks, 1889-1910, and business records, receipts, and advertisements for the Howell Steam Laundry, his Lansing, Michigan, insurance agency, and his dry goods business. Contains a scrapbook and an autograph book (1886) from Eastman College of Business, of Poughkeepsie, New York. His 1901 notebook contains some biographical data. His 1886 autograph book includes stamp portraits of himself and some Eastman College classmates. The Rosadel T. Lansing papers include an autograph book (1883-1892), a chemistry workbook, and miscellaneous notes and receipts. The D.O. Taft papers include personal correspondence, 2 eviction notices to his tenants, personal and farm accounts and transactions, and miscellaneous papers from his farm machinery sales. Three manuscript maps detail his own and neighbors' property holdings. Genealogical information on the Taft family given briefly in the back of vol.18. Note: Elijah M. Lansing, of Pittsfield, Washtenaw County, Michigan, was a member of the 5th Brigade, 6th Regiment, of the Michigan Militia (Washtenaw Guards). He was appointed Sergeant in 1842, Lieutenant in 1843, and Captain in 1845. Frank M. Lansing (b.1868) was the nephew or grandson of Elijah Lansing. He graduated from Eastman Business College in 1886, and was a dry-goods merchant until the mid-1890s, when he took over the Howell Steam Laundry in Howell,

Michigan. From 1906 to 1917, he ran an insurance agency in the Howell area, until he resigned to become cashier at the Milford State Bank in Milford, Michigan. He married Rosadel Taft, daughter of Daniel Owen Taft (b.1833), of Livingston County, Michigan. Taft was a farmer and a dealer in farm machinery.

23. Frank D. Lewis Collection, n.d. c00199

- 1 folder
- This collection contains two Civil War poems "The Dying Soldier at Manassas," and "The Veteran's Growl." "The Veteran's Growl" was written by a soldier sent to Texas on garrison duty after the war ended; it describes the miserable conditions in Texas, and satirizes War Department policies and Union leaders. Also included is a brief genealogy of Frank Lewis' family.

24. Lowe Family papers, 1870-1975. 00136

- .7 cu. ft.
- Collection primarily consists of family letters from Vincent Lowe, a pharmacist in Benton Harbor, Michigan, his wife, Mary Emma Lowe, son, Harvey, and cousin, Angela Crooks. Also included are Mary Lowe's diary (1888-1891), newspaper clippings and miscellaneous printed materials from Benton Harbor High School (ca 1898-1908), a printed genealogy of the Lowe family, and a song book.

25. Mayo Family papers, 1861-1966. 00040

- .33 cu. ft.
- This collection consists primarily of Civil War letters from Perry Mayo to his family in Calhoun County, Michigan, which vividly describe battles, marches, military personnel, and camp life, and give observations about the war. It also includes incomplete genealogies of the Angell, Bryant, Buell, Carpenter, Coryell, Freytag, Mayo, and Price families; a publication about the Price family; and a manuscript about the Carpenter and Coryell families. The collection also includes numerous documents relating to the history of Michigan State University, primarily Mary Mayo Hall and prominent people in the University's history, including Ray Stannard Baker, William James Beal, and David G. Fairchild. It includes some history of the Michigan State Grange, in which the Mayos were active, and a book on women in agriculture, which talks about Mary Mayo. The collection also contains letters of recommendation for Nelson S. Mayo, a veterinarian, who was apparently removed from his position at Kansas State Agricultural College for political reasons relating to the populist movement. In addition, correspondence with the donor, Robert S. Mayo, is included, relating to the Mayo papers, and a bound manuscript of some of Perry Mayo's letters, edited by Robert Mayo. Note: Farm Journal University of Michigan Museum Grange Collection Ann Arbor, Michigan Sent by Robert Mayo to the State Historian in Lansing, Michigan, who forwarded it to the University of Michigan One farm journal of Perry and Mary B. Mayo, dated 1865-1906. The Mayo family played an important part in the early days of Michigan Agricultural College, as well as its later history. Mary Angell Bryant married Perry Mayo in 1865. She was active in

the women's agricultural movement. The donor, Robert Mayo, is the son of Nelson S. Mayo and the grandson of Perry and Mary Mayo.

26. Meeker Family papers, 1882, 1886, n.d. c00573

- 2 Folders
- The collection consists of the diaries of Lucian Bonaparte Meeker and Helen Lousia Meeker. The 1882 diary of Lucian contains daily accounts of the weather, the happenings of the people in the household, as well as accounts of farming activities. Lucian seems to have been a kind of horse doctor, and there are a few references to his visit to an ill horse. The diary of Helen Meeker, 1886, contains entries regarding chores, those who came to visit, and daily accounts of the weather. A genealogy of the Meeker family is also included in the collection.

27. Addie E. Milks diary excerpts, 1922. c00548

- 1 folder
- This collection consists of excerpts from Addie E. Milks diary describing early pioneer life in Michigan, including health and medicine, relations with local Indians, religious and social activities. Includes a genealogy of the Sloan and McCormick families. Her mother, Ann McCormick Malone, moved with her family to Taymouth, Michigan, after the Revolutionary War. The editor/transcriber of the original diary is unknown.

28. Olive Butterfield Mosher autobiography, 1988. 00191

- 2 Volumes
- The Olive Butterfield Mosher papers contain a two volume autobiography, which was compiled by her son Ira William Butterfield in 1988. Volume one contains copies of her published works as well as copies from her journals and manuscripts. Volume two contains her poetry as well as genealogical information on the Mosher, Banks, and McCloy families.

29. Virginia Norfleet Reminiscences, n.d. c00149

- 1 folder
- This collection consists of a 14 page reminiscence of Virginia Sarah Camp Norfleet, giving a highly moralistic account of life in Tidewater Virginia from 1812 to 1894. There is a special emphasis on the Civil War and its impact. Mrs. Norfleet also discusses slavery, the schools she attended, and the town of Franklin, Virginia. The Camp family genealogy is described.

30. Parsons Family Papers, 1824-1910. 00020

- 3 cu. ft.
- The collection consists mainly of correspondence, diaries and account books of the Edward Parsons Family. Edward Parsons' letters to and from New York relatives make up the bulk of the personal correspondence. Topics include Edward's experiences at Hamilton College (Clinton, N.Y.) and his son Jacob's experiences at Michigan Agricultural College; "Michigan Fever" in 1835; and the Civil War. An almost complete set of diaries kept by Parsons from 1827 until his death in 1889

contains notes on weather conditions, social and family events and farm business. Also included are 3 sets of family account books dated 1852-1884, 1847-1850, and 1857-1889, and miscellaneous printed accounts on various topics. Finally, Parsons' involvement with the Congregational Church and Society, Grand Blanc, Michigan, is reflected in church account books, reports and legal documents.

31. Nell Pemberton-Rosenzweig Papers, 1978. c00540

- 1 item
- This collection contains a photocopy of an unpublished manuscript by Nell Pemberton-Rosenzweig, "Journey Into the Wilderness." It describes the history of the Pemberton family from 1863 to 1907, including the hardships they encountered in their move from Pennsylvania to Mecosta County, Michigan. The author's grandparents (her grandfather was a Methodist minister) illustrate the difficulty of life as 19th century pioneers as they overcome harsh weather, poor travelling conditions, and separation from loved ones. Pemberton-Rosenzweig also discusses how she became interested in her family history and came to write the story.

32. Porter Family Papers, 1836-1957. c00179

- 10 folders
- This collection contains correspondence and printed materials relating to the Porter, Prindle and Pierce families, primarily to Grace Porter Pierce of Grand Ledge, Michigan. The correspondence includes letters from Horace Greeley, connected by marriage with the Porters. It also includes letters to Grace Pierce from her brother Bert Porter, a soldier in the 8th U.S. Cavalry. Porter was stationed in Nebraska before being sent to the Philippines with American occupation forces in 1910. His letters express dissatisfaction with army life, and describe the Philippines and the army's attempts to quell native uprisings (1910-1912). Grace Pierce was an active member of the Ladies of the Modern Maccabees and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The collection contains correspondence and printed materials dealing with these organizations. It also includes marriage and school certificates; Civil War pension applications; horoscopes prepared for Grace Pierce; family genealogies; materials dealing with the history of Grand Ledge (1935-1936); and a letter from Richard Nixon to Grace Pierce (1957).

33. Powell Family Papers, 1803-1970, 1803-1887. c00059

- 3 folders, 1 Volume
- This collection contains materials relating to several generations of the family of John Powell of Lanesboro, Massachusetts. It includes the last will and testament (1826) of John Powell; nine letters (1803-1846) relating to his son John Leavitt Powell, discussing agricultural conditions in Oneida County, New York and Michigan; a farm account book (1846-1887) and several receipts (1842-1843) of Joseph Priestly Powell, son of John Leavitt Powell, who farmed in Ronald, Ionia County, Michigan; and a handwritten indenture (1853). In addition, the collection contains a family genealogy with explanatory notes compiled by Ralph W. Powell in 1970.

- 34. C.G. Robinson Papers, 1884-1896. 00162**
- 13 Folders
 - Diaries of Chancey G. Robinson of Mason, Michigan (1884-1895), depicting agricultural life and the town of Mason during that period. Particularly informative on the topic of swine-breeding and showing. Diaries also contain printed calendars, postal and exchange rates, and voting records, as well as personal financial records, addresses, and important dates. Includes a copy of the Constitution of the Michigan Victoria Swine Breeders' Association, letters to Robinson from area swine breeders (1893-1896), and a letter from the donor (1979) which gives information pertaining to the Robinson and Rayner families. Note: Chancey G. Robinson (1863-1897) was the manager of William H. Rayner's farm in Mason, Michigan. He married Ida Bateman on Sept. 26, 1883. They lived in the Rayner residence from the beginning of Robinson's employment there in early 1884 until they moved into their own home in 1895. Robinson remained in Rayner's employ until his death in 1897. The Robinsons had two sons, Homer and Eber J., the father of the donor.
- 35. Hilem C. Scofield Papers, 1898. c00556**
- 2 items
 - The collection contains a photocopy of Scofield's "Autobiography of a Pioneer Minister from 1823-1898," which was completed when he was seventy-five years old. In the autobiography, Scofield quotes from his own diary which he kept from about 1860 (See pp. 47). For the period preceding 1860, his narrative is based on recollection.
- 36. Leonard Smith Diaries, 1859-1874. 00121**
- 1 Volume
 - Collection consists of a typescript volume of the diaries of Rev. Leonard Smith (1833-1874) dating from 1859-1874 (diaries are missing for 1861, 1864, 1866, 1868, 1870-1872). This transcription includes photographs, legal documents, correspondence, maps, biographical information, genealogical charts and an index to names. Original diaries are in the Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois.
- 37. Pierpont Smith papers, 1829-1842. c00096**
- 2 folders
 - This collection contains letters received by Pierpont Smith of New York from friends in Dexter, Michigan, urging him to move back to Michigan. The letters discuss politics, agricultural prospects, and local gossip. Also included is a rough genealogy for the Smith family.
- 38. LeMoyne Snyder papers, 1917-1984. UA 10.3.97**
- 7.4 cu. ft., 7 film strips, 3 audio cassettes, 3 CD-ROMs.
 - The LeMoyne Snyder papers document the professional life of an expert in forensic medicine from his early medical practice in Lansing to his later years as a "medicolegal expert" in Paradise, California. The Correspondence series consists of

Snyder's correspondence that does not relate to his activities on the Court of Last Resort, his book "Homicide Investigation," or his other professional activities. Instead, it includes letters related to private consulting he did on cases and correspondence between friends and acquaintances. Some files contain photographs that may be disturbing in nature. The Personal Papers series includes correspondence with Snyder's younger brother Plummer, a brief genealogy, and alumni activities. There are also transcripts of oral histories of Snyder where he recounts his childhood on the MSU campus. The Court of Last Resort series contains administrative files about the organization of the Court, publicity, and the television show. The correspondence files contain letters with individual members about the running of the Court and how cases are progressing. The case files are Snyder's papers from individual cases including correspondence from the accused and their families, correspondence from members of the Court about the case, transcripts, and background information. The Professional Activities series contains materials related to Snyder's book, articles, speeches, professional organizations, and professional duties he performed. The collection also contains strips of film with images of autopsies, murder victims and related subjects. The oral history tapes and cds contain reminiscences from Snyder about his childhood on the MSU campus, recollections of Louise Snyder about an incident she and LeMoyne encountered involving the Hesse Crown Jewels, and LeMoyne playing the piano. The MSU related parts are transcribed. Note: LeMoyne Snyder was born on June 16, 1898 on the Michigan State University campus to Clara Maud Mifflin and MSU President Jonathan LeMoyne Snyder. He had two brothers Robert and Plummer. Snyder received his B.S. from MSU in 1919 and his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1923. Snyder returned to Lansing in circa 1928 and worked as an attending physician at Sparrow and St. Lawrence Hospitals. From 1930-1934, Snyder studied law with Judge L.W. Carr and passed the Bar Exam in 1934. In 1933 he became the Medicolegal Director for the State of Michigan Police, and held the position for 15 years. When MSU established the Department of Police Administration (now School of Criminal Justice), and the State of Michigan organized the Michigan Crime Laboratory, Snyder's interest in forensic medicine led him to play a significant role. In 1944 Snyder's book "Homicide Investigation" was published and became an important textbook for police academies and university courses. In the 1950s and 1960s Snyder participated in the Court of Last Resort, sponsored by "Argosy Magazine." The central members of the Court were Erle Stanley Gardner, Marshall Houte, Alexander Gregory, and Snyder. The Court of Last Resort examined cases where an inmate convicted of murder, and sentenced to life in prison or execution, continued to claim their innocence but had exhausted all financial resources to hire legal counsel. The purpose of the Court was not to serve as counsel but as publicity. The cases were then written up in the magazine, and through varying circumstance many of the inmates were paroled or pardoned.

39. James Taylor Papers, 1855-1900. 00026

- .6 cu. ft., 2 Volumes
- Primarily personal correspondence of James Taylor with friends and family, relating to higher education at institutes such as: Michigan Agricultural College,

the State Normal School, the University of Michigan, and Hillsdale College. Also discusses daily life, particularly of his family in Unadilla, Michigan. Teaching certificates and personal expense records of various members of Taylor's family, a commencement program from the University of Michigan Law School, a program for an Ann Arbor High School Exhibition, a passenger list from the R.M.S. Teutonic, a pamphlet discussing the taxation of church property, a brochure from a wagon maker, a business agreement and various business receipts from Taylor's agricultural equipment trade in Chelsea, Michigan, and a genealogy of the Taylor family.

40. Thomas - Prescott papers, 1824-1960. 00170

- 2 cu. ft.
- This collection documents the lives of the Thomas and Prescott families of Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The collection contains biographical papers, genealogy/lineage records, and correspondence of family members. Family papers included: Benjamin H. Thomas Jr., Thomas E. Thomas, B.H. Thomas, Eleanor L. Thomas, Rosannah Trypluna Prescott Thomas, Charles B. Thomas, Charles Frederick Thomas, Harold P. (Louise Johnson Thomas, Sarah Eleanor (Thomas) Andrews, Charles H.) Sarah B. Prescott.

41. Charles Hutchinson Thompson Papers, 1843-1916. 00024

- .66 cu. ft.
- This collection contains diaries and journals of Charles Hutchinson Thompson describing his daily activities; his work in the office of the Michigan Secretary of State and later in the Michigan Auditor General's office; and political, economic, and social affairs of his time. He includes personal observations about various political personalities and government activities of the time. Also included are diaries of Winfield Plumb, an enrolling clerk in the Michigan House of Representatives, describing Florida life; one diary of Elizabeth Sutton, whom Thompson later married; and one relating to an unidentified coal dealer in New York. In addition, there are account books, one of Thompson's and one of Alden Sutton, a New York baker and the father of Elizabeth Sutton; minutes of a newly formed literary club, the Capital Senate; an unbound, published genealogy of the descendants of John Thomson written by Thompson; and a letter describing domestic and social life in the Dakota Territory.

42. James H. Thompson Papers, 1910-1913. 00057

- .33 cu. ft.
- Correspondence and miscellaneous receipts and papers of James H. Thompson, a Lansing, Michigan, lawyer who was originally from Evart, Michigan. His business correspondence deals primarily with the giving of legal advice on real estate matters and with the collection of monies due his clients. A particularly interesting exchange is between the Original Gas Engine Company, for whom he was secretary at one time, and Morse Brothers Machinery and Supply of Denver, Colorado. There is also correspondence about various investments Thompson or his clients had made, including the Superior and Boston Copper Company of

Houghton, Michigan. Also documentation of two contested wills, that of Nettie Rosencrance and that of E.C. Thompson. Copies of several inquiries for and letters of recommendation and extensive correspondence pertaining to Republican politics and to the Presidential election of 1912. Correspondence with Triplex Tire Company about endorsing their tires, and bankruptcy papers for the Elk Cement and Lime Company. There is correspondence with newspapers and magazines about publishing articles and about subscription to their publications, and several clippings dealing with Thompson's Masonic activities. Much of Thompson's personal correspondence deals with the Masonic Order, and also with the history of the Thompson family. Miscellaneous papers include numerous calling cards of business associates, as well as a brokerage newsletter about the mining industry, advertisements for municipal bonds, and an article about interpretation of Sherman Law. Also a program for a 75th anniversary celebration at the University of Michigan and a hand-drawn map of some islands Thompson was considering purchasing. Primary correspondents include Dennis Alward, Charles Townsend, William A. Smith, Francis Clarke, and E.W. Olds. Note: James H. Thompson graduated from Michigan State Normal School (Eastern Michigan University) and got his law degree at the University of Michigan. He was a partner in the law firm of Thompson and Trumbull in Evart, Michigan, before moving to Lansing, Michigan. He was President of the Board of State Tax Commissioners and the State Board of Assessors, and between 1901 and 1909 he sat on the State Board of Education. He held various executive and counseling positions for the R.E. Olds companies, was legal counsel for the Ann Arbor Railroad, was a member of the Board of Directors and Owners of the People's Bank of Bath, Michigan, and he was Vice President of the Holmes Realty Company. He was active for many years in the Masonic Order, eventually becoming a Grand Master in 1913, and he was a strong advocate and supporter of the Republican Party.

43. John Thompson Genealogy Also sketches of families of Allen, Cooke and Hutchinson Publication. c00519

- 1 Volume
- This collection contains one unbound printed book containing the genealogy of the descendants of John Thompson (1616-1696), who immigrated to Plymouth, Massachusetts, from Wales in 1622. Genealogies of the Allen, Cooke and Hutchinson families are included in the Appendix.

44. Warden Family papers, 1832-1882. c00118

- 5 folders, 1 volume
- The Warden Family Papers consist of letters, diaries, poetry, certificates, and a family tree. The earliest letters in the collection are to Robert Warden from friends in Scotland. Later correspondence includes family letters as well as Civil War letters from Major Henry Dean, a family friend serving with the 22nd Michigan Infantry. Post-war correspondence includes a letter describing a trip from Acapulco to California, by way of Cape Horn (1868). Note: Robert Warden emigrated from Scotland around 1830 and settled in Green Oak, Livingston County, Michigan. He bought land in Green Oak with his cousin Kinsley

Bingham and farmed. Bingham later became governor of Michigan and a U.S. Senator.

45. Whiting Family Collection, 1932-1979. c00323

- 22 folders
- The collection contains: a genealogy of the William Henry Whiting and Hester Kitchen families entitled "The Whiting History", and a genealogy of the Fladeboe family entitled "Before and After Ole and Agate", both by Eunice Fladeboe Whiting; several newspaper editions; payment receipts from the city of Charlotte; "Cribbage Crazy", a manuscript by Eunice Whiting; a General Motors Magazine; a Hershey's Milk Chocolate wrapper and three war ration books from 1942.

46. Wilson Family Papers, 1863-1926. 00051

- 1 cu. ft.
- Primarily diaries of George W. Wilson and his son, Arthur S. Wilson, both farmers in Ingham County, Michigan, which discuss daily life, social events, and farming. Also includes farm accounts. One volume of farm accounts of G.W. Wilson's farm in Delhi Township, Michigan, and one including accounts of several public offices kept while Wilson was apparently Aurelius Township Treasurer (1871-1874), as well as his farm accounts. Insurance papers of George Wilson from the Agricultural Insurance Company of Watertown, New York (1875-1881) and various unrelated mortgages and deeds, all from Ingham County. The majority of these involves the Faurot family of Aurelius, Michigan and includes miscellaneous legal papers and accounts of Aurelius, and personal receipt. There is also a poem written by William Wilson about prison life while he was in Danville Prison, Georgia, during the Civil War; a Wilson family genealogy; and a letter from the donor. Also one book of lumber facts (size, strength, cost, etc.) dated 1882.

Church Collections

1. First Baptist Church history, 1958. c00085

- 1 folder
- This collection consists of a centennial history of the First Baptist Church of Davison, Michigan, consisting of yearly summaries of church activities, including budgetary concerns, the calling of ministers, baptisms, and revival meetings.

2. Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church Records, 1856-1997. 00190

- 1.0 cu. ft.
- The Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church records span the years 1856-1997 and contain meeting minutes, financial reports, parish records, and histories of the parish. The collection contains four bound volumes, with the first constitution of the church located in the front of volume one. Note: The Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church is one of the oldest all-African American Baptist churches in the United States. At first Prayer meetings were held in homes in Cass County, Michigan, until an official church was created in 1838. The first church building, a log cabin, was not built until

about 1850. The church was incorporated under the direction of Reverend David Lett in January 1848.

3. **First Universalist Church records, 1852-1971. 00189**
 - 2.5 cu. ft.
 - The First Universalist Church of Lansing records consist of accounting ledgers from the Church and church school, annual reports, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, histories of the Church, parish records, and treasurer's reports. Among the notable items are a photocopy of the 1852 charter and a scrapbook of histories of the church dating back to 1848. Note: Conflicting dates place the creation of the First Universalist Church of Lansing between 1848 and 1852. The congregation met in the Michigan Senate Chamber until the first Universalist Church was dedicated on October 14, 1863. In late September 1957, it merged with the East Lansing Unitarian Fellowship to become the Universalist-Unitarian Church of Greater Lansing. The name of the church eventually changed to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing.

4. **Methodist Episcopal Church Church Records, 1895-1941. c00376**
 - **10 volumes**
 - This collection contains ten small volumes from the Methodist Episcopal Church in Sherman, Michigan. The volumes contain records of Sunday School attendance and lessons, minutes of quarterly conferences, and minutes of the Ladies' Aid Society.

5. **R.W. Warren Collection, 1844-1852, 1876. c00342**
 - 1 folder, 1 volume
 - This collection contains meeting minutes from a Baptist Church society of Calhoun and Jackson Counties, Michigan; and the articles of incorporation of the First Baptist Church of Springport, Michigan. Also included are two receipts and a large account book listing the prices of various items.

6. **St. John's Student Parish History, 1983. c00193**
 - 1 folder
 - This collection contains a 25th anniversary history of St. John's Student Parish at Michigan State University, which originated from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in 1940. The history touches on religious, social and political issues in the years 1957-1983, discusses student activities, and lists parish staff members. Note: St. John's Student Parish was founded in 1957 and dedicated in 1958.

7. **Swartz Creek Community Methodist Church History, 1956. c00156**
 - 1 folder
 - This collection consists of a centennial history (1956) of the Swartz Creek Community Methodist Church in Swartz Creek, Michigan, prepared by church members Daniel and Marion Miller. Besides a history of the church, it contains a membership list, photographs of the church and church members, and histories of various church committees and organizations.

Government Records

1. **Berrien County tax receipts, 1838-1901. c00041**
 - 1 Folder.
 - This collection consists of tax receipts for land in Berrien County, Michigan.

2. **Cass County Records, 1832-1866. C00261**
 - 2 Volumes
 - This collection contains two volumes of records for Cass County, Michigan. One volume contains minutes of school board meetings for the town of Ontwa, Cass County, Michigan, 1832-1866. The other volume contains court records for the same county.

3. **Muskegon County Tax Records, 1861-1930. c00035**
 - 55 Volumes, 3 Folders.
 - This collection contains 55 volumes of tax rolls for Moorland Township, Muskegon County, Michigan, for the years 1861-1930. Also included is a volume of tax assessments for Muskegon County (1902), recorded by County Supervisor Tom J.G. Bolt. In addition, the collection contains two volumes (1893-1896) recording Bolt's visits as Commissioner of Schools to Muskegon County schools. The visitation records contain data on students, teachers, school buildings and equipment, and curricula.

Oral History Collections

The oral history materials in the collections are comprised of both University records and materials from outside the institution, and are quite extensive.

1. **Edward A. Brown, n.d. c00500**
 - 1 audiocassette
 - An audio cassette containing an oral history on fruit canning.

2. **Horace A. Cardinell papers, 1972, n.d. UA17.10**
 - 1 folder, 1 cassette
 - The collection consists of an oral history interview of Horace Cardinell conducted by Frank Dennis in 1972. In the interview Cardinell comments on his colleagues at MSU's Horticulture Department, especially F.C. Bradford and V.R. Gardner. Also discussed is the field work performed by Cardinell in relation to the department on research projects. Mrs. Cardinell also contributes anecdotes and details in the interview. Included is a biographical sketch of Cardinell released by the Brazilian government prior to his second appointment in that country. Note: Horace A. Cardinell, a 1915 graduate of Oregon State College, was employed during World War I by Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture. After returning to the United States in 1919, he worked for the Agricultural Extension Service at the University of Missouri. In 1923 he joined MSU's Horticulture Department. From 1943 to 1945 Cardinell served the U.S. Government as a Senior Extension Specialist with the Food Supply Division of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. He was instrumental in

establishing Brazil's Agricultural Extension Service System. He returned to MSU in 1945 and retired in 1960.

3. **Victor R. Gardner papers, 1972-1973. UA17.18**
 - 4 folders, 2 audio cassettes
 - In 1972 and 1973 Professor Frank Dennis interviewed Victor Gardner as part of an oral history project. Gardner's papers include tape recordings and transcripts of these interviews as well as his own written reminiscences. In these Gardner discusses his experience while a student at MSU from 1901 to 1905, the development of the Horticulture Department and his colleagues in the department (1923-1945), and achievements throughout his career. Other items include Gardner's letter to the Alumni Association Office listing his professional degrees and accomplishments, and a letter written after Gardner's death by one of his former students. It provides a brief but detailed account of his life for publication in a horticultural magazine. Note: Victor R. Gardner received a B.S. in Agriculture from Michigan State University in 1905. Upon completion of graduate work at Iowa State College, he accepted faculty positions at McDonald College, the University of Maine, Oregon Agricultural College, and the University of Missouri. Gardner returned to MSU in 1923 as head of the Horticulture Department, a position he held until 1945. He was also appointed Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station in 1929. He retired in 1949 with the rank of Assistant Dean.

4. **"Hannah Archives" project 1946-1973. UA 2.1.12.2**
 - 0.67 cu. ft.
 - This collection includes recollections, oral history interviews, and a tape recording on the accomplishments of John A. Hannah as president of Michigan State University (1941-1969).

5. **Robert E. Hicks Family Papers, 1836-1986. c00538**
 - .33 cu. ft.
 - The Robert Hicks Family papers consist of documents, oral history interviews, memorabilia, and two published family histories. An album and three folders contain photographs, news articles, documents, family histories, and a history of the development of the "Flowerpot" neighborhood in East Lansing, Michigan. Album also contains an outline of Thurber family history, an account of Robert Hicks' life from 1972 to 1986, and minutes from a Hicks Family Reunion. Letters discuss family activities, encyclopedia sales in Indiana, and farming in Canada. Oral interviews detail the life of Robert Hicks, his parents, and the development of the "Flowerpot" neighborhood. Also included is a history of the Sickie Family.

6. **Richard O. Niehoff Papers, 1910-1980. UA17.110**
 - .33 cu. ft.
 - The autobiography of Richard Niehoff entitled "Some Memories of my Life and Work – 1910 – 1980", along with the transcript of an oral history interview with Mr. Niehoff regarding his days with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

7. William Overlease Collection, 1890-1973. 00100

- 0.33 cu. ft., 29 Tapes
- Transcripts of oral history interviews, together with original tape recordings and supplementary photos, collected by William and Edith Overlease, documenting the history of hardwood logging and lumbering in Benzie County, Mich., including the communities of Benzonia, Frankfort, and Honor.

8. LeMoyne Snyder papers, 1917-1984. UA10.3.97

- 7.4 cu. ft., 7 film strips, 3 audio cassettes, 3 CD-ROMs.
- There are also transcripts of oral histories of Snyder where he recounts his childhood on the MSU campus. The oral history tapes and CDs contain reminiscences from Snyder about his childhood on the MSU campus, recollections of Louise Snyder about an incident she and LeMoyne encountered involving the Hesse Crown Jewels, and LeMoyne playing the piano. (See previous section for detailed description of this collection.)

9. Voice of American Homemakers Oral Histories Collection, 1981-1986. 00161

- 172 Items, 7 Volumes
- Oral histories (taped and transcribed) describing the lives of homemakers in 37 states from 1890 to 1940. They examine issues from growing up, to education, to food preparation, to courage, and they shed light on the changing role of the American homemaker. Also the full text of papers presented at the Humanists and Homemakers Seminar, and a published book that organizes the collection around key themes and findings from the interviews.

10. Mortimer A. Waldo Papers, 1904-1958. 00042

- 1 cu. ft.
- Mainly correspondence, telegrams, records, reports, and journals relating to Waldo's time in Russia with the Young Men's Christian Association and his service as vice-consul from America in Helsinki, Finland, during World War II. These papers paint a vivid picture of the Soviet people and their country and lifestyle. Waldo describes his work and his attitudes toward it, and he gives his own feelings about the World War, and how it affected him and his acquaintances. He discusses the diplomatic circle in Russia and Finland. He discusses the Russian Revolution of 1917 only vaguely, possibly due to censorship (some letters stamped "censored"), but he goes in to more detail about the Finnish Revolution of the same period. Financial records of the Y.M.C.A., loans given, and personal expenses are included. Also personal reviews of books he read and people he met. A number of letters and most of the records are in German or Russian. Post-war materials include correspondence, some in German, speech materials which he presented to the Lansing, Michigan, Rotary Club about his service, and , later, visit to Russia, news clippings and a concert program about Michael Press, a Soviet violinist who was at Michigan State University, a transcript of an oral interview with his wife, Eleanor Boyer Waldo, done after Waldo's death, and some tourist information about Japan. Also a childhood report card of Waldo's, some Sunday-school books belonging to his father, Alva, and calling cards for them both. A post-war greeting card holds a picture of Waldo's two daughters in their

middle childhood. One report from Finland was used by historian Samuel Morison in his report to the United States Department of State on the Peace Settlement. It recommended that the Allies recognize an independent Finland. Note: Mortimer Waldo (1891-1963), the son of a Methodist minister, grew up in the Charlotte, Michigan, area and graduated from Adrian College. He then studied law at Yale University, but left in 1916, before completing his degree, to work with the Red Cross and the Young Men's Christian Association's Prisoners' Aid Society in Omsk, Russia, until the Russian Revolution. From March to October of 1918, he was American Vice-Consul in Helsingfors (Helsinki) Finland, during their Revolution. After World War I, Waldo returned to Lansing, where he worked as an export agent for the Novo Engine Company and REO Motors. He married Eleanor Boyer in 1925, and in 1931, he founded the Waldo Travel Agency.

11. Jay Walker Interviews, 1940. c00133

- 1 folder
- This collection consists of Jay Walker's 1940 interviews with old-time residents of Oceana County, Michigan, compiling an oral history (1863-1926) of lumbering operations and fish and game laws in the area.

University Publications

1. **MSU Yearbooks** (1877 to present)
2. **Faculty and Student Directories** (1907 to present)
3. **Alumni and Faculty Catalogues** (1873, 1888, 1895, 1900, 1911, 1916, 1931)
4. **Course Catalogs** (1857 – present, early issues list enrolled students)
5. **Student Newspapers** (The Holcad 1909 - 1925, State News 1925 - present)
6. **Alumni Newsletters** (MAC/MSC Record 1896 – present, Alumni Magazine 1983 – present)

Other Resources

1. **Photographs** - The pictorial records of the University Archives and Historical Collections include more than 50,000 prints, thousands of transparencies, tintypes, ambrotypes, daguerreotypes, lantern slides, picture postcards, photographic albums, and over a half-million negatives. Many of the photographs are arranged by collection, others are arranged by subject.
2. **Audio-Visual Collection** - In addition to the photographic collection, the A-V materials here include maps, drawings, blueprints, movies, video and audio recordings of University events, people, places and other historically relevant materials in keeping with the Archives mission statement. Much of the film holdings relate to organized athletics at the University.
3. **Other Family and University Collections and Papers** describing personal accounts and activities
4. **Diaries** – Civil War, farm life, personal, travel, business
5. **Reference Books** (Local history)