

THE WILLIAM THOMPSON DAVIS PAPERS

A Special Collection in

The Archives and Library of

THE STATEN ISLAND MUSEUM

75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, New York 10301

Arranged and Described by

Gail Schneider

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS & RECORDS COMMISSION

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PROVENANCE:

In 1927, William T. Davis transferred his workroom, collections, and files from his house at 146 Stuyvesant, St. George, Staten Island, N.Y., to the new third floor of the Staten Island Museum building, 75 Stuyvesant Place. On his death, the will bequeathed his house and contents and a large endowment to the Institute, administrator of the Museum.

Over the years, he had collected and/or purchased many historical papers and these he had donated separately to the Institute. His first gift was made December 20, 1882 to the Natural Science Association of Staten Island. At that time, a Curator's book was kept for recording gifts but assigned no numbers. The first accession book was begun with the change to the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences in 1905. His first gift recorded in that book carried accession number 74 (1908) and his last gift was recorded in 1946 after his death.

His cabinets of files, notebooks, workbooks, photographs, journals, scrapbooks, and ephemera on the third floor of the museum building remained there until 1965 when they were moved down intact to the archives and library at 51 Stuyvesant Place. Since then, work was completed in 1967-8 on the photographs and albums through a New York State Council on the Arts grant. The major work on this grant was done by Mr. Hugh Powell. Indexing of the "Davis Notebooks" was done by Urban Corps interns and CETA Research Aides between 1969 and 1977.

It had been noted in his biography by Mabel Abbott that there were no letters in the Davis papers after his death, with the exception of those which he had inserted in the "Davis Notebooks." In 1969, boxes of files were delivered to the archives and library which purported to be archives of the Institute which had been in the care of Charles Leng, a long-time friend and association of William T. Davis. These files were deposited with the archives and library by Mr. Leng's son, Robert Leng, then Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Institute.

Upon inspection, however, it was discovered that roughly half of the materials in this collection were not in fact Institute archives, but were letters sent to Mr. Davis at his house or at the museum from entomologists, historians, city officials, natural history collectors, and personal friends. These were sorted from the mass of material and added to the Davis Collection. The sorting was assisted by a volunteer of many years, Mrs. Edith Meyer, a retired librarian.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

William Thompson Davis was born on Staten Island in 1862, the elder of two children born to George B. Davis and Elizabeth Thompson Davis. His parents were divorced sometime after 1872 and William and his sister, Elizabeth, lived with their mother in his grandfather's (John C. Thompson) house in New Brighton, Staten Island, New York. His grandmother, Elizabeth Johnson Thompson, was a strong influence on her grandson, as was a maternal aunt, whose love for natural history encouraged and educated William.

Early in his life he began to collect, identify, and record plants, birds, and insects. He subsequently began to specialize in entomology and especially in the cicada, becoming an international

authority on this insect and concentrating on the study of the periodical cicadae (seventeen-year and thirteen-year cicadas).

He had little formal schooling, attending two private schools—Koch and Methfessel—on Staten Island. He never attended college—his continuing education was the fields and the woods and his association with the naturalists he knew: Augustus R. Grote, Arthur Hollick, Nathaniel Lord Britton, and Charles R. Leng. He started to work as a clerk while still in his teens.

In 1881, he and several other young men including his close friends Britton, Hollick and Leng, organized the Natural Science Association of Staten Island, precursor of the Institute. He became its first curator. He remained a member, patron, and leader of the organization until his death: he was First Vice President from 1904 to 1930, President from 1930 to 1935, and President Emeritus from 1935 to 1945.

He changed his employment in 1883 when he accepted a job at the Produce Exchange. His spare time continued to be taken up with his interests in entomology especially, but also in natural history generally, to which was added a new interest in collecting and recording local history. In 1899, he met Bertha Fillingham and they were married in November 1900. Tragically, she became ill and died in December 1901. He never remarried.

He resigned from the Produce Exchange at 46 in 1909, henceforth to devote all his time to his interests in natural and local history, to his civic responsibilities as a member of local organizations and as a founding member of others. He was credited as a mentor on the parks system for Staten Island. He worked at developing an interest and concern about natural history in the youth. He influenced especially James Paul Chapin, Howard Henderson Cleaves, and Alanson Skinner, all of whom matured into careers in the sciences.

He was a member and officer of the Brooklyn Entomological Society, the New York Entomological Society, and the Entomological Society of America. He collaborated with the State Entomologist of New York in the compilation of a state list of insects. He published many papers in the bulletins of these and other entomological societies.

He was instrumental in the reorganization and incorporation of the Staten Island Historical Society, of which he was the first President. He assisted in the organization of the Staten Island Zoo.

Coincidental with his natural history investigations, he collaborated with Charles Leng over a period of many years in the collecting and organization of material into a new history of Staten Island. In 1930, "Staten Island and Its People," a five-volume work was published and remains the most recent history of the Island and a prime reference.

He had initiated the effort to save the Conference House in 1890 and has written the first definitive history of the national landmark; he had collaborated with Charles G. Hine on "The North Shore: Legends and Stories." He had worked in the field to collect records on "Homestead Graves" and later collaborated with Royden W. Vosburgh on the transcribing and recording of all graveyards and churches on Staten Island. He had found time to write and publish a little volume of essays combining his scientific and historical appreciation of Staten Island under the title "Days Afield." This was first published in 1896 and reprinted in 1937.

When he received his first camera in 1905, he began to photograph as he collected. He also collected photographs from friends and filed them in envelopes meticulously identified with name of photographer, date and subject.

Of all the founders of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, his spirit and philosophy have probably influenced the direction of the Institute the most. His birthday, October 12, is still celebrated. The traditions developed through his attention to preservation and conservation and love of nature have kept the Institute in the forefront of these efforts still today.

SCOPE & CONTENT:

A Note on the Arrangement: This is a pivotal collection of papers relating in many respects to the other Special Collections as well as to the Archives of the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences. This collection reflects Mr. Davis' life as a private citizen—as an entomologist and naturalist—as a published historian—and as an activist in the conservation and historic preservation. Any papers, however, relative to his activities as President, curator, vice-president, or other officer of the Association and/or Institute will be found with the Institute's archives.

Mr. Davis was systematic in keeping his papers in order, influenced by his scientific training. This was true of most of this collection, but the frequent moves by the Institute since his death disturbed some of the original order. We have followed the order as found in 90% of the mass of papers in order to restore separated papers to their logical place.

We have set up ten major series:

1. Family and Personal Papers
2. Letters and Correspondence
3. Journals
4. Notebooks
5. Conference House
6. Financial Papers
7. Photograph
8. Scrapbooks
9. Ephemera
10. Artifacts

Photographs were separately cataloged in 1967-8 and therefore are represented only by a box inventory.

Several months after completing and listing the arrangement, additional materials came to light. They have been added as Accretions to three series: Notebooks, Financial Papers, and Ephemera.

1. Family and Personal Papers

The papers of John C. Thompson, Davis' grandfather, are a subgroup. J.C. Thompson (1807-1872) was a storekeeper, horticulturalist, postmaster, town supervisor, Presidential elector, superintendent of the ferry, and deeply involved in the Quarantine controversy which resulted in the burning of the Quarantine, a state-owned facility, on Staten Island in 1859. He was one of

the two people arrested as ringleaders. His papers contain notes made by William T. Davis about his grandfather; a collection of letters, mostly regarding politics of the day, from Thompson to local people. Letters to John C. Thompson were written by Horace Greeley, Robert Dale Owen, and Lem Woodbury, among others. Bonds, deeds, mortgages, and promissory notes are arranged as financial papers. Ephemera include an interesting collection of theatrical handbills and political clips ranging from 1860 to 1872 and a full copy of a Hawaiian newspaper, "Nupepa Kuokoa." Some of the letters, vide Frederick Hollick, relate to the events of the Quarantine burning. These papers occupy two one-cubic-foot boxes.

FAMILY AND PERSONAL PAPERS related to William T. Davis include his own bibliographical listing (1884-1942), and a genealogy of the Davis family. The letters from Bertha Fillingham and her mother and cousin (1900-1932) are contained in this box. Mr. Davis was represented in various who's whos and American Men of Science: his biographical submissions to these reference works are included. Inventories of 146 Stuyvesant Place, his last home, compiled after his death, and a series of newspaper clippings about him (1920-1943) are included. These papers occupy one one-cubic-foot box.

2. Letters and Correspondence

This series consists of eight sub-groups.

LETTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE 1883-1943 contains letters to Mr. Davis from people in a variety of professions and from friends. The subjects covered by the letters range among personal and business correspondence, trivial letters regarding subscriptions, and historical and genealogical inquiries. These are contained in four one-cubic-foot boxes.

Letters from entomologists provided such bulk that they were separated and set up as a separate series:

LETTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE: Entomologists and Entomology. Both these groups are arranged alphabetically. We use the term "correspondence" advisedly, because it was Mr. Davis' habit to draft his reply to the letter on the back.

POSTALS: Mr. Davis habitually sent blank postcards stamped with his address to his correspondent to assure himself of quick reply to questions. Over a thousand of these returns have been arranged alphabetically in one box. The correspondents are the same as those arranged in the Letters and Correspondence.

Some of the letter-writers represented in these three groups are:

L+C 1881:

William Dunford Appel

Daniel Banks

Thomas Barbour

Howard R. Bayne, State Senator

L+C:E

William Beutenmuller

W.S. Blactchley

Andrew Nelson Caudell

Henry Dietrich

Letter-writers included:

L+C 1881:

William Beebe
Henry and Junius Bird
The Brittons
James Paul Chapin
Howard Henderson Cleaves
Raymond L. Ditmars
Francis Harper
Wirt Robinson (Col., West Point)
Raymond Torrey

L+C:E

George Engelhardt
E.P. Felt
Morgan Hebard
Louis H. Joutel
Harry Hazelton Knight
Howard Notman
James Abram Garfield Rehn
E.P. Van Duzee
Harry B. Weiss

ALANSON BUCK SKINNER was an entomologist and one of Mr. Davis "boys afield." His papers include letters he wrote to Mr. Davis from 1898 to 1926; a notebook of field trips; various articles and poems he wrote and illustrated, as well as articles he wrote for the Institute's *Proceedings* and other publications. He published many papers on the East Coast Indians for the American Museum of Natural History and the Museum of the American Indian-Heysen Foundation. Subsequently, he worked as anthropologist for the Milwaukee Public Museum and published many papers on the Menomoni Indians. A sampling of his publications is included. He died young as the result of an automobile accident. Mr. Davis wrote a memorial which is included as well as a bibliography which he compiled of Skinner's writings. (26.wtD:ABS one box).

ANNIE TRUMBELL SLOSSON was an entomologist living in Connecticut who carried on a constant correspondence with Mr. Davis. He wrote a memorial to her which was printed in the *Journal of the NY Entomological Society* and is included in this box along with 138 letters from her. She also wrote and published books on nature with a slight religious theme, many of which she sent to Mr. Davis, autographed, annotated and with letters attached. (1892-1926. 26.wtD:ATS one box)

ADOLPH W. CALLISEN moved to Staten Island early in the 20th century and became a close friend of Mr. Davis, through their mutual interest in the Antiquarian Society of the Staten Island and later the Staten Island Historical Society. Mr. Callisen provided a column for the local paper called "Uncle Toby's Column," which led them to be called "Uncle Toby." It was his habit to compose stories, poems, and dramas, type them and illustrate them, and bind them into small booklets which he would send as Christmas greetings to bind them into small booklets which he would send as Christmas greetings to Mr. Davis. These have come to be called "The Uncle Toby Books." This sub-group stores these books (1923-1943) in envelopes in one box. The second box holds two notebooks divided among four folders which were kept by Mr. Davis and in which are pasted most of the letters he received from Mr. Callisen. Manuscripts of historical talks delivered by Mr. Callisen before various organizations between 1923 and 1934 are included. The third box holds single items of correspondence and manuscripts as well as

photographs of Callisen. The ephemera include newspaper articles, obituary (1940) and biography, and a "Century Memorial." (3 boxes 26.wtD:AWC)

HARRY B. WEISS was an entomologist (State Entomologist, New Jersey), and also a bibliophile. His letters are stored with the entomologists' letters (26.wtD:L+C:E), but he sent Mr. Davis many annotated copies of entomological articles reprinted from various journals, and bibliophilic articles, some of which were printed in limited editions. These are stored in one box, 26.wtD:HBW.

1944-1945: LAST YEAR OF LIFE maintains the letters received by William T. Davis in the hospital together with memorials from Brooklyn Entomological Society, New York Entomological Society, SIIAS, Torrey Botanical Club, and the funeral registers. It also holds a memorial delivered in 1970 by Howard Henderson Cleaves, and an unpublished manuscript transcribed from tapes taken at a meeting held memorializing the 25th anniversary of his death. The tapes are stored with the oral history tapes of the Institute. (one box 26.wtD:1944-45)

3. Journals

This series covers the Journals kept by Mr. Davis and also a small collection of Diaries with related organizations.

JOURNALS The journals kept by Mr. Davis are uniform in size: legal size, marbled covers, opening at the top, containing about 500-600 pages. He began to keep these journals in 1879 in this form. By 1921, he evidently was no longer able to get the kind of journal he had been accustomed to use and made up journals out of legal-sized foolscap, held together with large metal clips. These are deteriorating badly: the paper is heavily oxidized and too dark to be copied except professionally. The clips have been removed and these journals as well as the earlier ones have been placed individually in tailor-made portfolios of acid-free Bristol board tied with cotton ties. These are arranged three to a one-cubic-foot box for Boxes 1 and 2, four portfolios in box 3, and two journals and a portfolio of Mr. Davis' indexes to the journals in Box 4. The inclusive dates are 1879-1938.

Obviously, use of these journals is restricted because of their fragility. The journals are being edited (1879-1880), independently of this grant for possible publication by a university or trade publisher. Therefore, the editor Norma Siebenheller made copies on acid-free paper of six volumes of journals and these copies are portfolioed and filed in boxes 5 and 6 with a transcript made in 1968 of excerpts from various journals. These are not restricted.

Mr. Davis kept these journals in a desultory fashion: he did not write in them daily, but rather when he had observations he wished to put down. The length of the notices vary from one line to several pages. He kept these journals as a record of his natural history and historical observations. A successful field trip with his friends and cronies during which one or more interesting observations might be made would be an occasion for recording a note in the journals. There are no subjective notices in these journals at all. Each page is numbered and the

indexes are arranged by species, names, and localities. The total number of pages exceeds 5,000 and the total number of one-cubic-foot boxes is six. (26.wtD:J)

DIARIES AND ORGANIZATIONS: Stored with this group is a collection of pocket diaries (1935-1943) which overlap the journal period. There are occasional journal-type entries in these diaries, but they were used mainly for meeting records and reminders. Therefore, stored with them are three groups of organizations which overlap the period and for which record of meeting dates appear in the diaries: New York Entomological Society in nine folders (1883-1938) including minutes of meetings of the New York Entomological Club (forerunner) from founding to dissolution (1880-1882); minutes of the Society for 1906, 1907, and 1938. Correspondence between Davis and the Society are filed herein as are various manuscripts of talks, and other minutes by "one Davis."

New York Produce Exchange (1889-1938): stored in three folders are reports of the Gratuity Fund (of which Davis was Secretary), for these years.

The third organization is the Staten Island Microscopical Society and consists of one folder of programs and notices for 1927-1937.

The diaries are stored in an acid-free envelope together with the folders of the above-mentioned organizations in one-cubic-foot box. (26.wtD:J:D+O).

4. Davis Notebooks

The largest series in this collection, it occupies 40 cubic feet. It was a research resource on Staten Island history for many years before the current archival program was instituted. The arrangement of the entire collection was begun with this series in which Davis' organization was followed.

The notebooks are three-ring "dime store" binders in which Mr. Davis filed, on lined notebook papers, his transcripts in pencil from newspapers and documents; or pasted on the same kind of paper, letters which he annotated, or clippings, also annotated. He attached photographs with the use of corners and annotated and dated the information about the photographs. He frequently updated the information and kept it current. Some notebooks were kept as special journals of trips. Others were kept as annual (filed by the years) records of organization activities: Staten Island Historical Society, S.I. Zoo, S.I. Institute, Entomological Societies; other notebooks recorded natural history on Staten Island and in other states systematically. A large group of the notebooks were collected and organized to relate to specific chapters in "Staten Island and its People," the history written by Leng and Davis and published in 1929. Other categories include Staten Island localities, houses (historical and others), families, transportation, local organizations, writers, poets, personalities.

The notebooks also contain ephemera such as pew-receipts, railroad time-tables, and pamphlets. This ephemera is pasted on the notebook papers by Mr. Davis. It was considered important to maintain his organization and these materials have not been removed.

In arranging these materials, the notebook covers have been Xeroxed on acid-free paper and the binders destroyed. The contents have been placed in acid-free folders in the order in which they came from the notebooks. The Xerox of the cover is placed on top. Folder lists were made for some folders and remain with them. Box lists were made for all boxes and are in the boxes as well as filed in binders for consultation. A card index was made by CETA workers in 1978 and is available for use in locating photographs. Where possible, fragile materials, or deteriorated materials, have been Xeroxed on acid-free paper and the original filed separately.

Boxes 1-6, folders DNI-DN31, contain records of historic houses on Staten Island and of localities, arranged by streets. Folders DN32 through DN45B memorialize individuals (August R. Grote, Jon Kieran, Maud Morgan, e.g.), of importance to Mr. Davis. Folders DN46 through DN 65B convey historic information by category (churches, transportation, e.d.). Folders DN66-DN68 report his trips off-island; the Staten Island Historical Society is covered in folders DN77-DN83 plus three boxes of accretions, and the Institute in following folders plus one box of accretion. The S.I. Zoo is covered in folders DN91a and b. Staten Island History, relating to specific chapters of Staten Island and Its People, is compiled in folders DN92-DN130. Natural history is covered by DN131-DN158, and conservation organizations in DN159-DN180 plus one box of accretion. Items relating to New York City history and to the boundary dispute between New Jersey and Staten Island as well as references to poets and authors are found in the folders, DN181-DN212. Four boxes of accretions contain transcripts, clippings, photographs, and records which were distributed among the previously arranged materials. Inclusive dates about which material was collected: 1620-1944. (26.wtD:DN, boxes 1-40)

5. Conference House

The Conference, or Billopp House, is located at the southernmost tip of Staten Island in Tottenville and across the Staten Island Sound from Perth Amboy, New Jersey. It bears the name—Conference House—because it was the scene of an unsuccessful Peace Conference between Benjamin Franklin and Lord Howe. The house belonged to Billopp who, at the time of the conference, had been imprisoned by patriots in New Jersey. Billopp owned most of the land surrounding the house, a grant which had been given to him by the Crown for certain successful endeavors.

One hundred years later the house was abandoned—most of the Billopps had immigrated to Canada after the Revolution—and was being vandalized. There had been several articles calling the attention of readers to the importance of saving the structure because of its historical relationship to the birth of the new nation.

Mr. Davis was perhaps the most active Staten Islander working for preservation of that building, an effort which took almost thirty years (1890-1920) to achieve. During that time, he conducted exhaustive research into the history of the house and the family which culminated in his publication (funded by him) of "The Conference, or Billopp House."

This collection of papers has been arranged with the manuscripts of historical research organized chronologically and followed by documentary evidence. This segment of the collection includes the Chronological Outlines of the lives of the principal Billopps which was

compiled by Mabel Abbott and added at her request to the Davis papers and in chronological order. The documentary evidence includes Photostats of the actual documents from Albany and/or England. (Folders 1-26, 1-9, boxes 1 and 2)

The collection includes Photostats and originals of the several early articles on the Conference House (folders 10-15, box 2).

The development of the movement to save the house is documented in this collection (folders 17-19, box 2; folders 1-9, box 3). The documentary collection concludes with the manuscript for the book and correspondence regarding its publication and sale and subsequent Conference House publications (boxes 4 and 5).

Box 6 holds the original illustrative materials and photographs and drawings used for the book "The Conference, or Billopp House." (26.wtD:CH)

6. Financial Papers

There are two sub-groups in this series: Personal Finances and Mortgages.

PERSONAL FINANCES includes correspondence regarding personal investments, his mother's will, and the inventory of the estate of Elizabeth Davis. It includes the transcript from the 1854 deed for his house at 146 Stuyvesant Place, and the insurance record, lot drawing, and valuation. Private financial records and a Record Book are also included.

This group has been increased by one box of accretions: income tax record (8 folders). The total size of the group is three one-cubic-foot boxes. (26.wtD:FP)

MORTGAGES Mr. Davis held mortgages on properties all over the City of New York. We followed his own organization by filing by mortgage number or mortgage group numbers. The materials originally were set up in three-ring binders and installed in acid-free boxes and folders. Accretions amounting to 19 folders or two boxes were added after the materials were listed. The total size of the group now is seven one-cubic-foot-boxes. The dates are 1934-1944 inclusive. (26.wtD:M)

7. Photographs

Thirty one-cubic-foot boxes of photographs taken and collected by William T. Davis are a major part of the collection. A large percentage of the collection contains photographs given to him by other photographers. These photos were indexed in 1967-1968 through a New York State Council on the Arts grant. A list of the boxes follows:

1. 623-1406 (group numbers)
2. 1304-1649 ""
3. 1773-1999 ""
4. 2000-2530 ""
5. 2531-2982 ""
6. 3188-A4128 ""
7. Postcards, not Staten Island

8. Photographs: other states
9. Photographs: other states
10. Postcards, including Sperr postals
11. Photographs, other states
12. Photographs, other states
13. Photographs, other states
14. Portraits
15. Staten Island Postcards
16. A4129-5000 (group numbers)
17. Churches & gravestones, glass negatives
18. Churches & gravestones, glass negatives
19. Staten Island houses, glass negatives
20. Staten Island houses, glass negatives
21. Davis & Hollick, insects & geology, glass negatives
22. Davis & Hollick, insects & geology, glass negatives (double box)
23. Davis & Hollick, insects & geology, glass negatives
24. Hunt and Sperr photos
25. Oversized photos
26. Photographs and snapshots of Mr. Davis
27. Albums of Davis trips
28. Four albums, old photographs of Staten Island (ca. 1870)
29. Family albums

8. Scrapbooks

Two one-cubic-foot boxes hold six scrapbooks, one of them (n.d.) belonging to Bertha Fillingham (Mrs. Davis), the other two (n.d.) ascribed to William Davis. Three are probably William T. Davis', since they are annotated in his hand. Two of these are dated: 1881-1885 and 1889. (26.wtD:S)

9. Ephemera

Most of William T. Davis' library was absorbed into the library of the Institute. These two boxes contain books and pamphlets arranged chronologically (1789-1939), which were found with his papers. They include: Clute's School geography, 1883 (Clute was the first historian of Staten Island), and Cornelius Kolff's "Staten Island Fairies." All of these items either are annotated by Davis, or are inscribed to him.

In addition to these boxes, we have added an Accretion of four boxes of clippings (annotated and unmounted), pamphlets, certificates, invitations, greeting cards, and other printed matter, all annotated and dated by William T. Davis. The total size of Ephemera, therefore, is six boxes. (26.wtD:E)

10. Artifacts

This two-cubic-foot box (Hollinger) contains personal items found with the Davis papers including his folding field glasses, fountain pen, collecting nets (which he made himself), a box of poems he wrote and had printed, a collecting box used by August R. Grote and given by him to Davis, and like items, usable for exhibition purposes. An accretion of membership cards and framed materials has been added. 2 cubic feet. (26.wtD:A)

Oversized Materials

Two print boxes (four cubic feet) of oversized material separated from all groups complete the storage containers for this collection.

Total size of collection: 127 cubic feet

WILLIAM THOMPSON DAVIS PAPERS
Box Inventories:

Series: Family and Personal Papers

Box 1/1

Folders		
1-6	Annotated bibliographies of Davis' work by WTD	1884-1942
7-10	Family documents, history and genealogy	(1697)-1932
11-14	WTD: honors, drawings and sketchbook by Davis;	1920-1943
15	biographical notes about Davis Inventories, 146 Stuyvesant Place, St. George, SI, NY (Davis' home)	

Series: John C. Thompson Papers (Davis' maternal grandfather)

Box 1/2

Folders		
1	Account book belonging to JCT	1845-1847
2-3	Notes by Davis regarding Thompson	1851-1872
4-8	Letters from Thompson Letters and other materials to Thompson	1837-1873

Box 2/2

Folders		
9	Promissory notes; financial papers	1845-1847
10	Letters to Thompson	1840-1872
11	Letters to others	1844-1872
12-14	Letters from Thompson; autographs	1855-1864

Series: Letters and Correspondence between 1883 and 1945 between Davis and Historians, other naturalists, civic leaders, et al.

Box 1/4

Folders		
1-7	Addicks - Avis	1897-1933
8-29	Bachrach, Inc. - Burns	1892-1944
30-39	H.H. Cady – Carlton Curtis	1890-1942

Box 2/4

Folders		
40-48	P.J. Darlington - Philip Dowell	1900-1943
49-50	Bertram Eadie -E. Wisenhardt	1913-1943
51-53	Florence Falk - Henry Fox	1907-1943
54-60	C. Stuart Gager - John A. Grossbeck	1887-1930
61-68	Robert Hagelstein - John Hutchins	1893-1930

Box 3/4

Folders		
69-71	H.A. Jacot – Franklin Jones	1908-1943
72-75	Walter C. Kerr - Dr. R.E. Kunze	1896-1943
76-78	L. Lacey - Lewis Historical Publishing Co.	1908-1933
79-87	Mackie - Murphy	1892-1933
88-96	Nash - J.T. Nichols	1902-1940
97-104	Lydia Ober - Overton; A.S. Packard - Mrs. W.H. Pouch	1891-1941

Box 4/4

Folders		
105-110	C.L. Ragot – Edwin Rundlett	1911-1943
111-126	Grace Safford – Herman Stutzer	1889-1942
127-136	M. Taylor - A.A. Taylor	1891-1942
137-146	Union County Historical Society; A.E. Verrill; Wager through Zapf	1907-1942

Series: Letters and Correspondence between Davis and other Entomologists

Box 1/5

Folders		
1-14	Ainslie, Aldrich, Allen, Baker - Bidy	1893-1943
15-33	Bird - Burrill and Carpenter - Crosby	1902-1944

Box 2/5

Folders

34-51	A.C. Davis - Charles Dury; Engelhardt - W.J. Gerhard	1903-1943
52-66	C.P. Gillette - C.F. Groth; Hall - J.S. Hook	1891-1941
67-73	H.E. Hubert - F.F. Hunt; C.W. Johnson - W. Junk	1898-1943

Box 3/5

Folders

74-86	G.J. Keller – Kny-Sheerr Corp; Roy Lathma – Charles W. Leng	1891-1940
87-102	M.D. Leonard – Frank Lutz; W. Lee McAtee – Roy Waldo Miner	1898-1943
103-117	H.C. Moennich – L.J. Muchmore; J.G. Needham – F.W. Nuenmacher; C.E. Olsen – E.J. Olsar; H.S. Parish – R.F. Pearsall	1903-1943
118-124	H.D. Pease – P.B. Powell	1908-1938

Box 4/5

Folders

125-143	W.F. Rapps – S.A. Rich; Mark Samuel – M.R. Smith	1893-1944
144-162	M.P. Somes – M.H. Swenk; E.W. Teale – Torre Bueno; Van Duzee – Viereck; J.S. Wade – W.M. Wheeler	1896-1940
163-164	J.J. White – Lewis B. White	1915-1932

Box 5/5

Folders

165-177	E.B. Williamson – Letters Books	1881-1930
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Box 1/1

Postals: it was Davis' habit to address blank postal cards and enclose in his letters for quick replies. There are over 1000 of these cards in this box.

Sub-group: Alanson Buck SKINNER

Box 1/1

Folders		
1	Letters from Skinner to Davis	1898-1926
1-6	Manuscripts including field trip journal by Skinner	1903-1925
7-8	Published papers on Indians by Skinner	1909-1915
9-10	Accretion: late-receipt of letters Published article by Skinner: "Recollection of an Ethnologist..."	1916-1922 1921

Sub-group: Annie Trumbull SLOSSON

Box 1/1

Folders		
1-3	Letters to Davis from Slosson	1903-1919
4-11	Published and annotated works by Slosson	1892-1920

Sub-group: Adolph W. CALLISEN

Box 1/3

Folders		
1-14	"Uncle Toby Books"—handmade booklets with typed or written text, illustrated in hand	1923-1943

Box 2/3

Folders		
1-4	Annotated notebooks, kept by Davis, of letters from Callisen to Davis	1918-1938
5	Manuscripts of talks delivered by Callisen before various organizations	1923-1934

Box 3/3

Folders

1-6	Letters and correspondence about various cartoons and manuscripts and translations	1929-1939
7-14	Photographs and articles and manuscript notes on the life of Callisen and his creation, Uncle Toby	1920-1940

Sub-group: Harry B. WEISS

Box 1/1

Folders

1-12	Scientific articles by Mr. Weiss	1934-1949
13-14	Bibliography of Weiss' papers	1937-1964
15-30	Bibliographic articles by Mr. Weiss	1932-1948

Series: William T. Davis, 1942 and the last year of his life, 1944-45

Box 1/1

Folders

1	Autograph book presented to Davis on his 80 th birthday	1942
2	Letters received at the hospital	1944-1945
3	Funeral registers	1945
4-10	Memorials	1945-1971

Series: Journals

Box 1/6

Volumes 1 through 3 1879-1897

Box 2/6

Volumes 4 through 6 1898-1912

Box 3/6

Volumes 7 through 10 1913-1928

Box 4/6

Volumes 11 through 12 1928-1938
Indexes for all volumes: Index Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4
Nature's Bookkeeping 1891-1895

Box 5/6		Xerox-copies of Volumes 1 and 2	1879-1891
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Box 6/6		Xerox-copies of Volumes 3 through 7	1892-1920
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Subgroup: Diaries and Organizations

Box 1/1

Folders			
Envelope I	Diaries		1935-1943
1-9	New York Entomological Society		1883-1938
1-2	New York Produce Exchange Gratuity Fund		1889-1938
1	Staten Island Microscopical Society		1927-1937

Series: DAVIS NOTEBOOKS

Box 1/31

Folders			
DN1-DN6	Log Cabins, Old Houses, Colonial Houses; Stillwell-Perine House, Cruser-Pelton House		1889-1943

Box 2/31

Folders			
DN7-DN9	Billopp or Conference House		1657-1944
DN10-DN13	Woods of Arden House, Britton Cottage, Cisco House, DeKay, Willcox, et al houses		1897-1941

Box 3/31

Folders			
DN14	Davis House		1910-1978
DN15	Lakeman-Cortelyou-Taylor House		1897-1933
DN16-DN17	Thompson, Norvell, and other houses		1881-1941
DN18-DN19	Christopher House		1684-1940

Box 4/31

Folders			
DN18- 18a.1	Bay Street		1884-1936
DN18b- 18c	NYC and LI houses		1935-1940

	DN19a-b	Arthur Kill Road houses	1860-1943
	DN19c	Vorlezer's House	1930-1951
	DN20-1-2	Amboy Road	1898-1937
Box 5/31			
	Folders		
	DN21	Richmond Road	1900-1935
	DN22	Fingerboard Road	1900-1933
	DN22a	Poppy Joe's Island	1906-1910
	DN23a and b	Clove Road and Valley	1900-1942
	DN24a and b	Richmond Terrace	1900-1938
Box 6/31			
	Folders		
	DN25	Woodrow	1913-1943
	DN26	Turnpike and Watchogue	1680-1936
	DN26A	Watchogue	1902
	DN27	Forest Avenue	1899-1933
	DN28-DN30	Views of Staten Island	1870-1929
Box 7/31			
	Folders		
	DN32-34	Hine, Hoyer, Simonson annotated photographs	1859-1902
	DN35a-36	Junius Bird – Captain Bob Bartlett & "The Morrissey"	1912-1946
Box 8/31			
	Folders		
	DN37	Charles Broughton	1912-1929
	DN38	John J. Clute, historian	1833-1929
	DN39	"Lahaway" New Jersey	1916-1937
	DN30-40A	Staten Island Families; Vanderbilt	1846-1932
	DN41	August R. Grote	1859-1927
	DN42	John Kieran	1943-1944
	DN43	Maud Morgan	1930-1937
	DN44	Annie Trumbull Slosson	1903-1943
Box 9/31			
	Folders		
	DN45a-b	Attic Club, Staten Island Museum	1928-1960

	DN46-49	Staten Island Ponds; Clove Valley	1859-1944
Box 10/31	Folders		
	DN50-52	Islands of Staten Island	1857-1940
	DN52A	Forts	1693-1936
	DN53	Mills	1811-1940
	DN54	Schools and colleges	1848-1943
	DN55-1 thru -3	Churches	1691-1943
Box 11/31	Folders		
	DN56	Moravian Church and Cemetery	1898-1941
	DN57a, b	Hotels	1838-1937
	DN58	Industrial	1854-1932
	DN59	Census	1835-1935
	DN60a, b	Ferries	1811-1933
Box 12/31	Folders		
	DN60-61	Ferries	1862-1929
	DN62	SI Steam Railway	1860-1932
	DN63	Lighthouses	1918-1938
	DN64	Hospitals	1858-1935
	DN65a, b	Public Buildings	1905-1935
	DN 66, 1,2	Western Trip	1931
Box 13/31	Folders		
	DN66-3	Western Trip	1931
	DN67-68	Other trips	1935, 1936
	DN69-71	Brushfires; S.I. Conservation	1899-1940
Series: DAVIS NOTEBOOKS			
Box 14/31	Folders		
	DN73-76	Staten Island Bird and Nature Club	1913-1935
	DN77a-79	Staten Island Historical Society	1925-1935

Box 15/31	<p>Folders</p> <p>DN80-83</p> <p>DN83-85</p>	<p>Staten Island Historical Society</p> <p>Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences</p>	<p>1934-1944</p> <p>1934-1937</p>
Box 16/31	<p>Folders</p> <p>DN86-88</p> <p>DN90</p> <p>DN91a, b</p>	<p>Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences</p> <p>Dutch Period</p> <p>Staten Island Zoo</p>	<p>1920-1941</p> <p>1609-1964</p> <p>1930-1936</p>
Box 17/31	<p>Folders</p> <p>DN91c</p> <p>DN92-94a</p> <p>DN95a-98</p>	<p>Staten Island Zoo</p> <p>Staten Island History</p> <p>Transcripts from SI newspapers</p>	<p>1682-1878</p> <p>1839-1879</p>
Box 18/31	<p>Folders</p> <p>DN99-</p> <p>DN100-104</p> <p>DN105a,b</p> <p>DN105c-107</p>	<p>Industries on Staten Island</p> <p>Transcripts from Staten Island Papers</p> <p>Weather</p> <p>Winter weather</p>	<p>1859-1864</p> <p>1650-1932</p> <p>1779-1926</p>
Box 19/31	<p>Folders</p> <p>DN108-112</p>	<p>Annotated materials related to the history "Staten Island and Its People"</p>	
Box 20/31	<p>Folders</p> <p>DN113-116A</p>	<p>Annotated materials related to the history "Staten Island and Its People"</p>	
Box 21/31	<p>Folders</p> <p>DN117-125</p>	<p>Annotated materials related to the history "Staten Island and Its People"</p>	

Box 21/31	Folders DN126 DN127a,b	Washington's Bicentennial Rural Staten Island	1932 1783-1859
Box 22/31	Folders DN 128- 133	Conference House Peace Meeting; Free Port, Root's Maps	1775-1939
Box 22/31	Folders DN 134- 147b	Natural History of Staten Island	1657-1944
Box 25/31	Folders DN148- 158	Natural History of Staten Island	1859-1943
Box 26/31	Folders 159-164	Natural History of Staten Island Conservation Groups of S.I.	1890-1941
Box 27/31	Folders DN165- 172	Entomological groups; nature clubs of Staten Island	1878-1944
Box 28/31	Folders DN173-175 DN176-177 DN178-180 DN181	Long Island Upstate New York Other states Annie Trumbull Slosson	1916-1979 1918-1935 1913-1941 1838-1926
Box 29/31	Folders DN182-183 DN184a- 185	The Lymans Legends of the old North Shore and Names and Nicknames – both by Davis	1906-1943 1670-1929

Box 30/31

Folders		
DN186	Days Afield – Davis	1893-1954
DN187-189	Old New York – Boundary Dispute NY & NJ	1828-1932
DN190-193	Poems; Johnson Family; Raymond Torrey	1708-1937

Box 31/31

Folders		
DN194-199	Harriet Beasley	1919-1959
DN200-212	Staten Island Families	1639-1940

Series: CONFERENCE, or Billopp, HOUSE

Box 1/6

Folders		
1-2	Billopp-Farmer (Farmer) family Captain Christopher Billopp Lieut-Colonel Christopher Billopp	1643-1802
13-26	Land papers and surveys; bonds and deeds. Christopher Billopp	1676-1808

Box 2/6

Folders		
1-16	Research into the Billopp House Manuscript items by W.T. Davis	1674-1928
17-19	Correspondence	1914-1926

Box 3/6

Folders		
1-9	(From Davis Notebooks) Conference House Association Notebooks	1910-1940

Box 4/6

Folders		
1-18	(Conference House, book by Davis) Correspondence between Davis and others, including printer, regarding the book	1926-1931

Box 5/6

Folders		
1-5	(Conference House, book) Corrected and annotated page Proofs	1926-1927

Box 6/6	Folders 1-9	(Illustrative Materials used for book) Photographs, Photostats, and drawings used for the book	1878-1929
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Series: PERSONAL FINANCES

Box 1/2	Folders 1-7	Personal Investments; correspondence Elizabeth Davis will and testament Estate of Elizabeth Davis	1925-1945
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Box 2/2	Folders 1-7	Transcript from 1854 deed for 146 Stuyvesant Place. Permanent funds, Corn Exchange Bank	1854-1943
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Series: MORTGAGES

Box 1/5	Folders 1-6	Mortgages 6/897, 6.898, 8.858	1933-1942
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Box 2/5	Folders 1-8	Mortgages 10.339-14.991	1934-1943
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Box 3/5	Folders 1-9	Mortgages 15.941-15.950	1935-1942
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Box 4/5	Folders 1-10	Mortgages 15/955-16.019	1934-1942
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Box 5/5	Folders 1-6	Mortgages 15.958-15.019	1902-1943
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Accretion: MORTGAGES

Box 1/2

Folders

1-8

Mortgages 1933

1933

Box 2/2

Folders

1-12

Mortgages

1934

Series: SCRAPBOOKS

Box 1/2

Three journal entries and
scrapbooks, ca. late 19th century

n.d.

Box 2/2

Three scrapbooks

1881-1889

Series: PERSONAL BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS, annotated and/or inscribed

Box 1/2

17 items

1789-1887

Box 2/2

23 items

1892-1939

Series: ARTIFACTS

Box 1/1

Personal items, other than books,
used by Mr. Davis. 17 items

n.d., 1919-
1940

Series: OVERSIZED MATERIALS

Box 1/2 (PB)

Certificates and honors

1909-1936

Box 2/2 (PB)

Certificates and honors; Records
of his gifts to museums; Crayon
portraits of him and his sister;
oversized photographs

1870-1936

ACCRETIONS:

Box 1/7

Folders 1-15	Annotated photographs – gifts	1833-1940
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Box 2/7

Folders 1-5	S.I.H.S. notes – Old North Shore publications	1919-1926
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Box 3/7

Folders 1-6	S.I. History notes; Perine House; S.I. Names and Nicknames	1896-1929
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Box 4/7

Folders 1-23	Ephemera – S.I. Nature Notes and clippings about Staten Island	1903-1937
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Box 5/7

Folders 1-8	Personal Finances	1929-1941
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Box 6/7

Folders 1-5	Staten Island Institute of A&S	1928-1931
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Box 7/7

Folders 1-12	Stoddard, Symes, Mershon (land problems)	1913-1939
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SECOND ACCRETION:

Box 1/17

Folders 1-14	Staten Island Historical Society 1	1923-1936
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Box 2/17

Folders 1-9	S.I.H.S. 2	1925-1930
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Box 3/17	Folders 1-15	S.I.H.S. 3	1928-1937
Box 4/17	Folders 1-23	Photographs of Davis 1	1888-1912
Box 5/17	Folders 1-21	Photographs of Davis 2	1912-1943
Box 6/17		Personal books, annotated & inscribed	1812-1913
Box 7/17	Folders 1-23	Bibliographical materials; gifts and memberships; personal publications	1905-1936
Box 8/17	Folders 1-19	Clippings: natural history	1916-1936
Box 9/17	Folders 1-23	St. Andrews Church, notes, transcripts, photographs	1867-1932
Box 10/17	Folders 1-18	Emergency Conservation Committee	1927-1933
Box 11/17	Folders 1-29	Staten Island and Its People annotated page proofs	1928
Box 12/17	Folders 1-20	Staten Island history transcripts and notes	1910-1936

Box 13/17	Folders 1-17	Staten Island history – transcripts and notes	1895-1929
Box 14/17	Folders 1-16	Norvell Bequest and administration Church and cemetery notebooks	1837-1928
Box 15/17	Folders 6	Scrapbooks and calligraphy books	1830-1898
Box 16/17	Folders 1-12	Staten Island natural history	1913-1942
Box 17/17	Folders 1-21	Staten Island natural history	1919-1933

William T. Davis material found in the attic of the Staten Island Museum

In a large metal cabinet:

First shelf:

Cicadae Locality Records

1. 1905-1920s
 2. Circa same period as above
 3. 1918 plus
 4. 1924-1927
 5. Reports 1928-1929
- (These are on very dry "dime store paper.")

Descriptions of New York State Orthoptera

Description. West Indies Cicadas

- New York Orthoptera family Tettiganiidae
- 17 year Cicadae. Staten Island, Long Island, N.Y. State

In an envelope: Records of Cicada collected at Winginia, Virginia 1916, 1917, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1924. (This was published in Journal of the New York Entomological Society, March 1926).

Second shelf:

Cicada Records. (Lists of insects received, correspondence, clippings)

1. 1930. 1-155 pp.
2. 1930-1931. 156-277 pp.
3. 1932. 278-366 pp.
4. 1932-1933. 367-475 pp.
5. 1933. 476-557 pp.
6. 1934. 558-643 pp.
7. 1934. 664-705 pp.
8. 1935. 706-820 pp.
9. 1935. 821-923 pp.
10. Dec. 1935-1936. 924-1013 pp.
11. 1936. 1014-1096 pp.
12. 1937. 1097-1187 pp.
13. 1937. 1188-1280.
14. 1938. 1281-1389 pp.
15. Nov. 1938-1939. 1390-1506.
16. 1939. 1507-1589 pp.
17. Nov. 1939-1940. 1590-1695.
18. 1940. 1696-1782 pp.

19. 1941. 1783-1909 pp.
20. 1942. 1910-2028 pp.
21. 1943. 2029-2127 pp.
22. 1944. 2228-2250 plus. (To 7/10/44. With index to page 2241)

In a cardboard box:

Tied up- Orthoptera of vicinity of New York City and vicinity etc. (Loose sheets)
Many loose leafs with notes on orthoptera.

Zoological Record. Cicadas. A. (There is a binder B, but it was not used by Davis).

Cicadas. Correspondence. Blaine, China & Meyers.

No. 34 – Notes on Cicadas with Descriptions of New Species 1942. (Photos of Cicadas).

No. 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33. (Photos of Cicadas).

Cicadas. Further North. Transcontinental cicadas.

Cicadas dissimiles. Cicada valrata. Etc.

(There is also an unused binder)