

Elwyn C. Davis Collection

Repository: Olive Free Library 4033 NY-28A, West Shokan NY 12494

Title: Elwyn C. Davis Collection

Date: 1816-1975 (bulk 1900-1950)

Extent: 10.5 linear feet

Conditions Governing Access: This collection is available to the public for use. Copyright for all publications and newspapers remain with the publishers. Title 17 of the U.S. code applies.

Language: English

Biographical History:

Elwyn Crispell Davis was born in February 23, 1890 in West Shokan, New York to Chase West Davis and Matie Crispell.

Elwyn C. Davis married Daisy Belle Simpson December 20, 1910 in West Shokan, New York. They had three children: Mariam Crispell Davis b. July 28, 1914 in Kerhonkson, NY; Cornelia May Davis b. June 27, 1918 in West Shokan, NY; Lillian Ellen Davis b. October 22, 1927 in West Shokan, NY, d. January 2, 1932.

Scope and Content:

The Elwyn C. Davis collection primarily consists of Davis's diaries dated between 1906 and 1975 and their respective transcriptions. In his diaries Davis records aspects of the weather such as temperature, precipitation, and cloud cover, as well as his daily activities including chores, social interactions, and local events.

The Davis collection additionally contains books about local history, ledgers for local businesses, schools attendance records, and daybooks for local residents in West Shokan. The business ledgers record the names of patrons, their purchases and total expenses. The school attendance records record the pupils' names, ages, grades, and their weekly attendance. Day books record the manual labor of the book's owner on the behalf of neighbors and local residents in terms of monetary values and vice versa. Day books were used to record favors traded and owed amongst neighbors and friends.

In many cases, the news clippings found within the collection are contained within the original postmarked envelopes received by Elwyn C. Davis. The remainder of news clippings are as yet unprocessed and are loosely placed in an archival container.

Arrangement:

Series 1 containing Davis's diaries and Series 3 comprised of news clippings are arranged chronologically by the date they were created. All other materials included in the Davis collection – photographs and ephemera - are arranged according to original order – the order in which the collection's creator placed the individual items or the order in which the Olive Free Library received the items.

Series 1: Diaries of Elwyn C. Davis, 1906-1975**Box 1:**

- Item 1: 1906 Diary
- Item 2: 1907 Diary
- Item 3: 1908 Diary
- Item 4: 1909 Diary
- Item 5: 1911 Diary
- Item 6: 1913 Diary
- Item 7: 1917 Diary
- Item 8: 1920 Diary
- Item 9: 1923 Diary
- Item 10: 1926 Diary
- Item 11: 1930 Diary
- Item 12: 1931 Diary
- Item 13: 1932 Diary
- Item 14: 1933 Diary
- Item 15: 1934 Diary
- Item 16: 1935 Diary with a Red Cover
- Item 17: 1935 Diary with a Blue Cover
- Item 18: 1936 Diary
- Item 19: 1937 Diary
- Item 20: 1938 Diary
- Item 21: 1939 Diary
- Item 22: 1940 Diary
- Item 23: 1941 Diary
- Item 24: 1942 Diary
- Item 25: 1943 Diary
- Item 26: 1944 Diary

Box 2:

- Item 1: 1946 Diary
- Item 2: 1947 Diary
- Item 3: 1948 Diary
- Item 4: 1949 Diary
- Item 5: 1951 Diary

- Item 6: 1952 Diary
- Item 7: 1953 Diary
- Item 8: 1955 Diary
- Item 9: 1956 Diary
- Item 10: 1958 Diary
- Item 11: 1959 Diary
- Item 12: 1960 Diary
- Item 13: 1961 Diary
- Item 14: 1962 Diary
- Item 15: 1963 Diary
- Item 16: 1964 Diary
- Item 17: 1970 Diary
- Item 18: 1975 Diary

Box 3:

Contains transcriptions of all the diaries found in boxes 1 and 2 with the exceptions of the 1926 and 1961 diaries. Box 3 also contains the Transcription of a 1912 diary although the original diary is not included in Box 1 or 2.

Series 2: Ledgers, Notebooks, and Record books

Box 4:

- Folder 1: Postcards addressed to Mrs. Charles Davis, c. 1912-1914 - Folder 2 - Life Sketch
DeWitt C. Davis +
p. 200
- Item 1: Minute Book for Bearsville Odd Fellows Lodge 533 1968
- Item 2: Olive Shokan Baptist Church Treasury book, 1887-1892
- Item 3: Olive Shokan Baptist Church Treasury book, 1902-1919
- Item 4: Olive Shokan Baptist Church Treasury book, 1919
- Item 5: Revell's Church Treasurer's Record Size No. 1, 1921
- Item 6: Ledger of DeWitt C. Davis, Town of Olive Surveying, 1859
- Item 7: Notebook of a Sawmill, 1919-1931
- Item 8: Record book of Taxable Inhabitants in Olive NY, 1886
- Item 9: Record of Taxable Inhabitants in Olive NY, undated
- Item 10: Ledger book of Martin H. Crispbell, 1874-1879
- Item 11: Pocket Diary of J.B. Davis, 1858
- Item 12: Notebook of unknown Individual about machinery, March 1913
- Item 13: Notebook of Elwyn C. Davis containing notes of Furs sold, 1909
- Item 14: Register of local Funerals, 1889-1906
- Item 15: Scrapbook of Death announcements and other local events, c 1890- 1935

Box 5:

- Item 1: *Illustrated New Websterian Dictionary* published by Syndicate Publishing Company; New York, 1912
- Item 2: Minute book of Onteora Central School Parent Teacher Association, 1952-1955

- Item 3: Minute Book of Onteora Central School Parent Teacher Association, 1955-1960
- Item 4: Expense Ledger of Local store, 1931-1932
- Item 5: *People's History of Kingston, Rondout and Vicinity 1820-1943* by William C. DeWitt, published 1944
- Item 6: Personal Expense ledger of Elwyn C. Davis, 1962-1968
- Item 7: *Complete Guide to New York, Manhattan, and Bronx*, published by Geographia Map Co. 1936-1937 edition
- Item 8: Diary of Lester Davis, 1916-1917
- Item 9: *The Ferrris Handbook to Summer Resorts in the Catskills* by R. Ferris, c. 1897
- Item 10: *Cobb's Toys: Pretty Stories for Pretty Children*, 1836
- Item 11: *Swinton's Word Book of English Spelling: Oral and Written*, published by American Book Company, 1872
- Item 12: *The Catskills* by T. Morris Longstreth published by The Century Co. New York, 1918
- Item 13: *Baldwin's Readers Sixth Year*, published by American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago, 1897
- Item 14: Holy Bible, published by American Bible Society, New York
- Item 15: The Hudson-Fulton Celebration Information Booklet, published by the Public Health and Convenience Committee of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission
- Item 16: *Hudson-Fulton Celebration*, pictorial guide, 1909
- Item 17: *Hudson-Fulton Celebration Official Guide, Historical Pageant*, 1909
- Item 18: *Hudson-Fulton Celebration Musical Festival*, program 1909
- Item 19: *Story of Columbus*, published by Art Press of Isaac H. Blanchard, New York, 1892
- Item 20: *Hudson-Fulton Celebration Souvenir Program*, 1909
- Item 21: *Childhood Bible Stories, Daring to Do Right* series 5: volume 4, published by Herald Publishing House, Cleveland, O., undated
- Item 22: *Land in the Sky: The Upper Esopus Region of the Catskills*, issued by the Upper Esopus Creek Fish and Game Protective Association, undated
- Item 23: *The Catskills via the Ashokan Trail and the Ulster and Delaware Railroad*, 1930
- Item 24: *Catskill Water: A General Description and Brief History*, published by the Board of Water Supply, New York City, 1917
- Item 25: *Souvenir of Ashokan Dam*, published by Kingston Souvenir Co. Kingston, NY, undated
- Item 26: *Matthew Blanchan in Europe and America from the papers of Major Louis DuBois*, published by DuBois Family Association and Huguenot Historical Society of New Paltz NY, 1979
- Item 27: Memorial Card of Mrs. D. C Davis, 1908
- Item 28: Memorial Card of DeWitt C. Davis, 1909
- Item 29: *The Young People of West Shokan Present Christmas Entertainment*, program, 1939 (two copies)

- Item 30: *The Story of the Schenectady Massacre*, booklet published by John J. Birch, chairman of the Committee on Memorial Publications, 1940
- Item 31: *The Delaware and Hudson Canalway: Carrying Coals to Rondout* by Dorothy Hurlbut Sanderson, published by Rondout Valley Publishing Co., 1965
- Item 32: *Dollies to Paint and Cutout and Dress*, published by Saalfeld Publishing Co., Akron, Ohio, c. 1925

Box 6:

- Item 1: Davis Family Portrait Album
- Item 2: Family Bible of C. & M. Davis, 1887
- Item 3: Commemorative Record of Biographical Information, Ulster County, NY, published by J. Beers Co., 1896

Box 7:

- Folder 1: School Workbooks of Elwyn C. Davis, undated
- Folder 2: School Workbooks of Elwyn C. Davis, undated
- Folder 3: Writing books of Thompson E. Crispell, undated c. 1875
- Folder 4: School Workbooks of Mariam Davis, 1927
- Folder 5: Day Books, 1840, 1855
- Folder 6: School Attendance Record book of District 7 1851-1857
- Item: Photograph of Shokan Baseball Team, 1905

Series 3: News Clippings

Box 8:

- Folder 1: 1928 news clippings
- Folder 2: 1929 news clippings
- Folder 3: 1930 news clippings
- Folder 4: 1931 news clippings
- Folder 5: 1931 news clippings continued
- Folder 6: 1932 news clippings
- Folder 7: 1932 news clippings continued
- Folder 8: 1933 news clippings
- Folder 9: 1933 news clippings continued
- Folder 10: 1934 news clippings
- Folder 11: 1935 news clippings
- Folder 12: 1936 news clippings
- Folder 13: 1937 news clippings
- Folder 14: 1938 news clippings
- Folder 15: 1939 news clippings
- Folder 16: 1940-1944 news clippings
- Folder 17: 1962, 1971, unknown

Box 9: Unprocessed news clippings of Catskill Mountain Star circa 1930-1970

Series 4: Photographs

Box 10: Photographs of Local places, local people, Davis Family

Series 4: Ephemera

Box 11: Ephemera - leather wallet, fly fishing hooks, receipts from 1700's for John Eckert, Deeds dated 1816-1909, postcards, etc.

Box 12: Ephemera– 1909-1967 ephemeral correspondence sent to Elwyn C. Davis and other members of the Davis Family from Raw Furs companies, Freeman Publishing Company, and family acquaintances; drawing stencils, blank greeting cards

Box 13: Postcards – blank, undated souvenir postcards for local Ulster County attractions and locations across the United States