

Oliver A. Farwell Papers MS-799

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Russell, revised by Rachael Bussert.



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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

5/18/2011

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Summary Information

Repository	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Creator	Farwell, Oliver A., (Oliver Atkins), 1867-1944
Title	Oliver A. Farwell Papers
Date [inclusive]	1849; 1866-1944
Extent	5.78 cubic feet 7 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize folder
Language	English
Language of Material	English
Mixed materials [Box]	1-7
Mixed materials [Folder]	55 N
Abstract	Papers, 1849; 1866-1944, of Oliver A. Farwell, a famous botanist and grandson of Daniel D. and Lucena Brockway. Includes business and personal correspondence, photographs, and records.

Preferred Citation

MS-799, Oliver A. Farwell Papers, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

Biography

Oliver A. Farwell, librarian, botanist, and drug inspector, was born on December 13, 1867 in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the son of Oliver Atkins Farwell and Charlotte (Brockway) Farwell and the grandson of Daniel D. and Lucena Brockway. In his early childhood his family relocated to the Copper Harbor area of Michigan. It was at the one-room schoolhouse at the Cliff Mine location that he received what is believed to be the only systematic teaching of botany that he ever had. Farwell later studied at Ypsilanti Normal School and taught in the Michigan public schools in 1899 and 1900. Thwarted by his mother in his desire to attend the Naval Academy at Annapolis (her father had died at sea and her husband had been almost lost at sea), Oliver pursued his interest in botany. Through family connections he was hired by the Parke, Davis and Company drug firm in Detroit where he became the curator of the herbarium and the librarian. He had the responsibility for the pharmacognosy of raw botanical products, a position he retained for the rest of his professional life. He was a member of the Society of Botanists of the Central States, the Michigan Academy of Sciences, the Torrey Botanical Club, New York Academy of Science, and the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, the Agassiz Association, and the National Geographic Society. He published many papers during his career concerning his specialized research on Michigan flora. The Brockway family is descendants of passengers on the Mayflower and as such Farwell was involved in the Society of Mayflower Descendants, the Sons of the American Revolution, The Pilgrim John Howland Society, the New England Society of Detroit, and the Governor & Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. Oliver A. Farwell passed away in Lake Linden, Michigan in 1944.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

Professional and personal correspondence, photographs, publications, artifacts, and records of Oliver A. Farwell.

Arrangement

The Oliver A. Farwell Papers is divided into four series: 1. Correspondence, 2. Professional Papers and Publications, 3. Genealogy, and 4. Personal Papers and Photographs. Series 1, Correspondence is

further divided into four subseries: 1. Farwell Family Correspondence, 2. Oliver A. Farwell Alphabetical Correspondence Files, 3. Personal Correspondence, and 4. Professional/ Botany Correspondence.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections 5/18/2011

Revision Description

This collection was processed as a part of the NHPRC Detailed Processing Project. 6/29/2012

Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

Acquisition

Seven paige boxes containing books, correspondence, business records, photographs, and artifacts belonging to Oliver A. Farwell were donated to the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections by Olive Farwell on November 1, 1974.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

MS-010: Brockway Diary Collection, 1866-1897.

MS-016: Daniel Brockway Family Collection, 1852-1924.

MS-019: Brockway Photograph Collection, Circa 1860-1970.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Parke, Davis & Company.

Family Name(s)

- Brockway family

Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Genealogies
- Manuscripts (Document genre)
- Notes
- Photographs

Geographic Name(s)

- Lake Linden (Mich.)
- Michigan

Subject(s)

- Botany--United States--Michigan

Series I, Correspondence

Collection Inventory**Series I, Correspondence 1866-1944****Scope and Contents**

Correspondence from members of the Farwell and Brockway families as well as correspondence concerning his work as a botanist and his personal business. This series is further divided into four subseries: 1.1 Farwell Family Correspondence, 1.2 Oliver A. Farwell Alphabetical Correspondence Files, 1.3 Personal Correspondence, and 1.4 Professional/ Botany Correspondence.

File Plan

Oliver A. Farwell maintained an alphabetical file system for his correspondence that has been maintained in Subseries 1.2. This alphabetical file consists of both personal and professional correspondence. Parts of this file system had been found with the Farwell family correspondence in Subseries 1.1 and it was decided that it would remain within this subseries. As a result correspondence from family members such as Charlotte Brockway Farwell can be found in both their own files and general family correspondence files.

Subseries 1.1, Farwell Family Correspondence 1882-1939**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence to Oliver A. Farwell from members of the Farwell and Brockway families including Charlotte Brockway Farwell, Paul Farwell, Olive Farwell, Dr. Jessie Farwell, Theodora Farwell, and Nell Farwell Gagg. While Oliver A. Farwell kept some of the family correspondence in alphabetical files, most of the correspondence was not separated by family member, but is arranged in loose chronological order by decade.

Box**Folder**

Subseries 1.1, Farwell Family Correspondence

Charlotte Farwell Correspondence (1 of 2) 1887-1908	1	1
Charlotte Farwell Correspondence (2 of 2) 1882-1898; 1910-1914	1	2
Theodora Farwell Correspondence 1893-1914	1	3
Paul Farwell Correspondence 1893-1908	1	4
Olive Farwell Correspondence 1895-1904, 1915	1	5
Nell Farwell Gagg Correspondence 1893-1915	1	6
Correspondence - Paul Farwell to Charlotte Farwell (1 of 2) 1887, 1906, 1907	1	7
Correspondence - Paul Farwell to Charlotte Farwell (2 of 2) 1907-1932	1	8
Correspondence - Brockway Piano 1931	1	9
Correspondence - Brockway Family 1886; 1894-1904	1	10
Correspondence - Family 1891-1899	1	11
Correspondence - Family 1900-1909	1	12
Correspondence - Family 1900-1909	1	13

Subseries 1.1, Farwell Family Correspondence

Correspondence - Family 1910-1919	1	14
Correspondence - Family 1910-1919	1	15
Correspondence - Family 1910-1919	1	16
Correspondence - Family 1910-1919	1	17
Correspondence - Family 1920-1929	1	18
Correspondence - Family 1920-1929	1	19
Correspondence - Family 1920-1929	1	20
Correspondence - Family 1920-1929	1	21
Correspondence - Family 1920-1929	1	22
Correspondence - Family 1920-1929	1	23
Correspondence - Family 1930-1939	1	24
Correspondence - Family 1930-1939	1	25
Correspondence - Family Undated	1	26
Correspondence - Family Undated	2	1

Subseries 1.2, Oliver A. Farwell Alphabetical Correspondence Files

Correspondence - Family Undated	2	2
Correspondence - Family Undated	2	3
Correspondence - Family Undated	2	4

Subseries 1.2, Oliver A. Farwell Alphabetical Correspondence Files 1883-1944

Scope and Contents

Alphabetized correspondence relating to both professional and personal matters.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence - A 1891-1916	2	5
Correspondence - B (1 of 3) 1888-1915	2	6
Correspondence - B (2 of 3) 1888-1915	2	7
Correspondence - B (3 of 3) 1892-1915	2	8
Correspondence - C (1 of 2) 1888-1915	2	9
Correspondence - C (2 of 2) 1890-1915; 1929-1936	2	10
Correspondence - D (1 of 2) 1888-1914	2	11
Correspondence - D (2 of 2) 1892-1920; 1933-1944	2	12

Subseries 1.2, Oliver A. Farwell Alphabetical Correspondence Files

Correspondence - E 1890-1913	2	13
Correspondence - F 1892-1916	2	14
Correspondence - G 1889-1915	2	15
Correspondence - H (1 of 2) 1886-1915; 1932	2	16
Correspondence - H (2 of 2) 1886-1915; 1932	2	17
Correspondence - I 1909	2	18
Correspondence - J 1886-1915	2	19
Correspondence - K 1894-1915	2	20
Correspondence - L 1885-1915; 1934	2	21
Correspondence - M (1 of 3) 1886-1916	2	22
Correspondence - M (2 of 3) 1889-1930	2	23
Correspondence - M (3 of 3) 1885-1915	3	1
Correspondence - N (1 of 2) 1894-1915	3	2
Correspondence - N (2 of 2) 1911-1916	3	3

Subseries 1.3, Personal Correspondence

Correspondence - O 1888-1915	3	4
Correspondence - P 1888-1916	3	5
Correspondence - Q 1896	3	6
Correspondence - R 1885-1915	3	7
Correspondence - S (1 of 2) 1886-1915	3	8
Correspondence - T 1880-1914	3	10
Correspondence - U 1888-1900	3	11
Correspondence - V 1888-1892; 1908	3	12
Correspondence - W (1 of 2) 1887-1914	3	13
Correspondence - W (2 of 2) 1883-1913	3	14
Correspondence - Y 1888-1916	3	15

Subseries 1.3, Personal Correspondence 1866-1932; 1944**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence relating to personal subscriptions and memberships, moving expenses, and other personal matters.

Subseries 1.4, Professional/ Botany Correspondence

	Box	Folder
Correspondence - Subscriptions and Memberships 1880-1896; 1922-1932	3	16
Correspondence - Moving 1904-1908	3	17
Correspondence - Miscellaneous 1872-1914; 1944	3	18
Outgoing Letters - Carbon Copies 1866-1891	3	19

Subseries 1.4, Professional/ Botany Correspondence 1888-1937**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence relating to Oliver A. Farwell's work as a librarian and curator of the herbarium at Parke, Davis, & Company in Detroit. Included in this subseries is correspondence related to Farwell's professional publications, donations of botanical samples to scientific institutions, botanical publications, and Farwell's work with the National Formulary Committee.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence - Botany (1 of 2) 1895; 1915-1931	3	20
Correspondence - Botany (2 of 2) 1931-1937	3	21
Correspondence - Gray Memorial Botanical Chapter 1889-1897	3	22
Correspondence - National Formulary Committee No. 4 1933-1935	3	23
Correspondence - National Formulary Committee 1933-1935	3	24

Series II, Professional Papers and Publications

Correspondence - Smithsonian Insitutute 1885-1915	3	25
Professional Correspondence (1 of 2) 1914, 1915; 1928-1932	3	26
Professional Correspondence (2 of 2) 1914, 1915; 1930-1932	3	27

Series II, Professional Papers and Publications 1849; 1882-1942**Scope and Contents**

Documents from Farwell's involvement in the American Pharmaceutical Association, American Geographic Society, Botanical Society of America, Michigan Academy of Science, and the Detroit Institute of Science. Also included in this series are documents from Farwell's work at Parke, Davis & Company in Detroit, notes and manuscripts relating to Farwell's research of Michigan flora, and a binder with bulletins, reports, programs, and correspondence from the National Formulary Committee of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

	Box	Folder
American Pharmaceutical Association (1 of 2) 1912-1928	3	28
American Pharmaceutical Association (2 of 2) 1918-1929	3	29
American Pharmaceutical Association Brochures 1918-1929	3	30
American Geographic Society 1929-1932	4	1
Botanical Society of America 1929-1931	4	2

Series II, Professional Papers and Publications

Botanical Society of America 1929-1932	4	3
Botany Manuscripts and Notes 1934, 1936, Undated	4	4
Parke, Davis, & Company 1892; 1909-1933	4	5
Publications/ Subscriptions 1909-1912; 1932	4	7
Transportation Research 1930-1932	4	9
Publications/ Subscriptions 1910; 1926-1933	4	8
U.S. Department of Agriculture Weather Bureau 1923-1930	4	10
Harrington's Analysis 1882	4	11
Detroit Institute of Science 1901-1915	4	12
Michigan Academy of Science 1894-1916	4	13
Torrey Botanical Club 1889-1896; 1912-1942	4	14
Oliver A. Farwell Botany Notes 1915, 1929, Undated	4	15
Personal Directory of World Botanists Undated	4	16
Binder, National Formulary Committee Bulletins 1925-1932	4	26

Series III, Genealogy

Liste der Gefässpflanzen nach Koch's Synopsis Florae Germanicae et Helveticae 1849	6	5
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Series III, Genealogy 1886; 1898-1938**Scope and Contents**

Membership applications, correspondence and genealogical research of the Farwell and Brockway families relating to Farwell's membership in the New England Society of Detroit, the Governor & Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Society of Mayflower Descendants , The Pilgrim John Howland Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and the Detroit Historical Society.

	Box	Folder
New England Society of Detroit 1901-1914	4	17
New England Society of Detroit Dinner Menu 1900	4	18
Governor & Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England 1929-1932	4	19
The Pilgrim John Howland Society 1916-1932	4	20
Pilgrim Executive Committee, Pilgrim Tricentenary Pageant 1921	4	21
Society of Mayflower Descendants (1 of 3) 1915-1924	4	22
Society of Mayflower Descendants (2 of 3) 1926-1932	4	23

Series IV, Personal Papers and Photographs

Society of Mayflower Descendants (3 of 3) 1926-1932	4	24
Sons of the American Revolution (1 of 4) 1923-1932	4	25
Sons of the American Revolution (2 of 4) 1916-1923	5	1
Sons of the American Revolution (4 of 4) 1898; 1913-1923	5	3
Sons of the American Revolution (3 of 4) 1916-1929	5	2
Sons of the American Revolution, Genealogical (1 of 3) 1886; 1918-1931	5	4
Sons of the American Revolution, Genealogical (2 of 3) 1919, 1921	5	5
Sons of the American Revolution, Genealogical (3 of 3) 1927-1938	5	6
Detroit Historical Society 1929-1932	5	6

Series IV, Personal Papers and Photographs 1870; 1890-1944

Scope and Contents

Personal finance correspondence, invoices, investment documentation, annual stock reports, tax documents, newsprint, artifacts and printed ephemera, and photographs of employees from Parke, Davis & Company and the Farwell and Brockway families.

Box **Folder**

Personal Finance Correspondence and Invoices 1924-1932

5

8

Series IV, Personal Papers and Photographs

Cameron Currie and Company 1906-1918	5	9
Income Taxes 1919-1931	5	10
Investments, Trusts, Securities & Annual Stock Reports (1 of 2) 1910-1916	5	11
Investments, Trusts, Securities & Annual Stock Reports (2 of 2) 1914-1932	5	12
Correspondence-Travel 1926-1932	5	13
Newspaper Clippings (1 of 2) 1940-1944	5	14
Newspaper Clippings (2 of 2) 1939-1943	5	15
Winifred Farwell Album 1890	5	16
Jessie Farwell Certificates 1917, 1918, 1927	5	17
Farwell/ Brockway Family Photographs (1 of 2) 1870, 1913, 1931, Undated	5	18
Farwell/ Brockway Family Photographs (2 of 2) 1936, Undated	5	19
Individual Portraits- Oliver A. Farwell 1913, 1915, Undated	5	20
Scenic/ Natural Photographs 1942, Undated	5	21

Series IV, Personal Papers and Photographs

Parke, Davis, & Company Photographs 1895-1904	5	22
Glass Plate Negative-Portraits Undated	6	1
Glass Plate Negative-Portraits Undated	6	2
Parke, Davis, & Company Photographs Undated	6	3
Photographs- Oversize Undated	6	4
		Box
Artifacts and Ephmera Undated		7
		Folder
Jessie Farwell Certificates/Diplomas 1891, 1904, 1914		55 N