

Daniel Brockway Family Collection MS-016

Personal Papers and Business Records

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

5/6/2010

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Summary Information

Repository	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Creator	Brockway, Daniel D., 1815-1899
Title	Daniel Brockway Family Collection
Date [inclusive]	1852-1924
Extent	7.02 cubic feet 16 manuscript boxes
Language	English
Language of Material	English
Mixed materials [Box]	1-16
Abstract	<p>Collection, 1852-1924, of the Daniel Brockway family, an early merchant and community building family in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. Contains correspondence, financial records and legal records of Daniel Brockway's many land and business ventures throughout the Great Lakes region, particularly the activity of several stores Brockway operated with his son, Albert A. Brockway, under the partnership D.D. Brockway & Son. The collection also includes records of several mining enterprises with which Brockway was involved, as well as personal records of several other members of Brockway's extended family.</p>

Preferred Citation

MS-016, Daniel Brockway Family Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

Biography

Daniel D. Brockway was born in Morrisville, Vermont May 2, 1815, but many of the details of his early life are unclear. As a youth, he moved with his family to Franklin County, New York, and then Chicago, Illinois, before arriving in Washtenaw County in Lower Michigan in 1831. It seems likely that he moved to Kalamazoo County, Michigan, in the early 1830s as he was married to Lucena Harris in Kalamazoo County, Michigan on January 21, 1836. Lucena was the daughter of Dr. James Harris, a noted pioneer in the Galesburg area of Kalamazoo County. The Brockways spent several years (probably 1837-1839) back in Franklin County, New York, farming and smithing.

In August of 1843, Daniel and Lucena moved to L'Anse, where he had been appointed government blacksmith and mechanic at the federal Indian Center. Daniel's brother, William, was serving as chaplain at Fort Brady in Sault Ste. Marie at the time and may have had an impact on the couple's decision to assist the Indians in this remote region of Michigan. While in L'Anse, the Brockways had three children; the first, Sarah, is reputed to be one of the first white children born in Lake Superior region.

Michigan's newly-discovered copper lands to the north of L'Anse were opened to mining in 1844 and by May 1846, the Brockways and their three children moved to Copper Harbor. They are reported to have built the town's first house, which Daniel operated as a hotel for many years (he would later operate the Phoenix Hotel in Eagle River). Although the family moved back to Galesburg from 1869-1872, the Brockways developed a variety of businesses throughout the Upper Great Lakes region over the next five decades. Daniel became involved in the operations of various mining companies, both in Michigan and in other western mining regions. He was still agent for the Cliff Mine at the time of his retirement in the mid 1890s. He was involved in a great number of land ownership arrangements, individually and with other members of his family. These holdings included land in the Upper Michigan counties of Houghton, Keweenaw, and Marquette, and in the Lower Michigan counties of Kalamazoo and Washtenaw (where he had various business dealings with a brother in Flint, Michigan), as well as Tennessee, New York, and Ontario, Canada.

Daniel Brockway is perhaps best known for his mercantile activity. He operated an early store, Brockway and Perry, in Copper Harbor with his son-in-law G.W. Perry. This operation likely ceased when Daniel moved the family to Lower Michigan in 1869, but upon his return to the district in 1872, Brockway opened a new store, D.D. Brockway & Son, at the Cliff mine with son Albert. The store changed location several times over the next twenty-five years and serviced many of the mines in Keweenaw County. He held several patents and purchased rights for the resale of several other patented items. Brockway was also involved in various public offices and political activities, including service on the L'Anse Bay and State Line Road Commission, the Mineral State Road Commission, and the Kalamazoo County Road Commission; as delegate to the Republican state convention; and several stints as postmaster at Copper Harbor / Fort Wilkins. He also organized the first school in Copper Harbor, contracting Susan Warren to teach his children in the front room of the family house in 1849.

In 1895, at age 80, Daniel retired with wife Lucena to Lake Linden. Lucena died on March 3, 1899, with Daniel following two months later on May 9, 1899. They are buried in Lakeview Cemetery near Calumet,

Michigan. The Brockways had four children, Charlotte L. (Farwell), Sarah ("Sallie") L. (Scott), Anna B. (Gray), and Albert A. Brockway.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

MS-016 contains correspondence, financial records and legal records of Daniel Brockway's many land and business ventures throughout the Great Lakes region, particularly the activity of several stores Brockway operated with his son, Albert A. Brockway, under the partnership D.D. Brockway & Son. The collection also includes records of several mining enterprises with which Brockway was involved, as well as personal records of several other members of Brockway's extended family.

Arrangement

The material is arranged in 7 record series: 1. Outgoing Correspondence, Mixed Authors, 1874-1906 2. Records of Daniel D. Brockway, 1852-1893 3. Records of Brockway & Perry Store, 1865-1866 4. Records of D. D. Brockway & Son Store, 1872-1901 5. Records of Albert Brockway, 1902-1918 6. Records of Other Brockway Family Members, 1857-1924 7. Mining Company Records, 1863-1890.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections 5/6/2010

Revision Description

This collection was processed during the NHPRC funded Detailed Processing Project. 7/26/2013

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.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Daniel Brockway Family Collection was donated to the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections by Olive Farwell, the Brockways' granddaughter in 1984.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Additional records of members of the Brockway family held by this institution include:

MS-010: Brockway Diary Collection, 1866-1897

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

MS-636: William H. Brockway Research Papers

MS-799: Oliver A. Farwell Papers

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Atlas Mining Company.
- Brockway & Perry.
- D. D. Brockway & Son.
- Michigan Mining Company.
- New England Copper Mining Company.

Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Financial records
- Ledgers (Account books)
- Legal documents
- Merchandise inventories
- Stock certificates

Geographic Name(s)

- Clifton (Mich.)
- Copper Harbor (Mich.)
- Keweenaw Peninsula (Mich.)

Personal Name(s)

- Brockway, Albert A., 1847-1934
- Brockway, Alonzo W., b. 1824
- Brockway, Daniel D., 1815-1899
- Childs, W. A., (William A.), 1844-1916
- Scott, Sarah L., b. 1844

Subject(s)

- Copper mines and mining--Michigan--Keweenaw Peninsula
- General stores--Michigan--Clifton
- General stores--Michigan--Eagle River
- General stores--Michigan--Lake Linden
- General stores--Michigan--Phoenix

Series 1, Outgoing Correspondence, Mixed Authors

Collection Inventory

Series 1, Outgoing Correspondence, Mixed Authors 1874-1906

Scope and Contents Note

The following volumes contain copies of mixed outgoing correspondence from Daniel Brockway and Albert Brockway, as well as outgoing business correspondence from the store of D.D. Brockway & Son. A letterpress volume of Brockway's Cliff Mine activities in 1880 is filed as item #4053 in the Roy Drier Collection (MS-020), and Brockway's diaries for 1866 and 1867 are filed with The Brockway Diary Collection (MS-010).

Processing Information Note

DDB = Letterpress volumes contain Daniel D. Brockway signatures; AAB = Letterpress volumes contain Albert A. Brockway signatures; B&S = Letterpress volumes contain D.D. Brockway & Son signatures.

	Box	Folder
Letterpress, DDB, B&S Jan. 1874-Jul. 1875	1	1
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S Aug. 1875-Mar. 1876	1	2
Letterpress, DDB, B&S Mar. 1876-Sep. 1877	1	3
Letterpress, DDB, B&S Aug. 1877-Oct. 1879	1	4
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S Mar. 1880-Jul. 1882	2	1

Series 2, Records of Daniel D. Brockway

Letterpress, DDB Aug. 1885	2	2
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S May 1885-Feb. 1886	2	3
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S Feb. 1886-Aug. 1887	2	4
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S Jun. 1886-Oct. 1888	3	1
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S Nov. 1888-Dec. 1891	3	2
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S Dec. 1891-Nov. 1906	3	3
MS-016.002 Series 2, Records of Daniel D. Brockway 1852-1893		
	Box	Folder
Personal Correspondence to Brockway 1856-1861	4	1
Personal Correspondence to Brockway 1867-May 1868	4	2
Personal Correspondence to Brockway Jun. 1868-Sep. 1868	4	3
Personal Correspondence to Brockway Oct. 1868-Dec. 1868	4	4
Personal Correspondence to Brockway Jan. 1869-Mar. 1869	4	5
Personal Correspondence to Brockway Apr. 1869-May 1869	4	6

Series 2, Records of Daniel D. Brockway

Personal Correspondence to Brockway Jun. 1869-Aug. 1869	4	7
Personal Correspondence to Brockway Sep. 1869-Dec. 1869	4	8
Personal Correspondence to Brockway 1870-Oct. 1873	4	9
Personal Correspondence to Brockway Oct. 1873-Mar. 1874	4	10
Personal Correspondence to Brockway Feb. 1874-1886	4	11
Daniel Brockway - Misc. Receipts & Statements 1868-1871	4	12
Daniel Brockway - Patent Usage 1867-1870, 1881	4	13
Daniel Brockway - Misc. Legal Records 1852-1883	5	1
Property Records, Lower Peninsula & Other States 1853-1869	5	2
Property Records, Upper Peninsula 1852-1884	5	3
Property Records, Canadian Lands 1867-1871	5	4
Property Tax Receipts 1864-1893	5	5
Daniel Brockway Postmaster & Road Commissions 1852, 1859, 1861	5	6
Mineral Range State Road 1859-1868	5	7

Series 3, Records of Brockway & Perry Store

Commissioner of Highways, Kalamazoo County 1871	5	8
Brockway Dakota Documents 1885-1887	5	9

MS-016.003 Series 3, Records of Brockway & Perry Store 1865-1866**Biographical Note**

The precise dates of this business enterprise between Daniel Brockway and G.W. Perry (one of Brockway's son-in-laws) are not clear, but it appears it may have begun as early as 1863 and lasted into 1869.

	Box	Folder
General Ledger, with index (front part of book) Aug. 1865-Oct. 1866	13	1

MS-016.004 Series 4, Records of D. D. Brockway & Son Store 1872-1901**Biographical Note**

Upon his return to the Lake Superior district in 1872, Daniel Brockway entered a new mercantile business with his son, Albert. The partnership lasted for twenty-five years, with formal dissolution and division of assets occurring on December 24, 1896 when Daniel retired to Lake Linden (see page 463 of item 8-2). It appears that the store moved locations with some regularity; the records indicate operations at Cliff Mine (Mar.-Jul. 1872), Eagle River (Feb. 1875), Phoenix (1877-1883), and again at Clifton (1883-1895). Entries for the year 1896 are made for Lake Linden.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence to D.D. Brockway & Son Jan.-Dec. 1873	5	10

Series 4, Records of D. D. Brockway & Son Store

Correspondence to D.D. Brockway & Son Jan.-Feb. 1874	5	11
Correspondence to D.D. Brockway & Son Mar.-Apr. 1874	5	12
Correspondence to D.D. Brockway & Son May-Sep. 1874	5	13
D.D. Brockway & Son - Canceled Checks 1885-1892	5	14
Cash Book Mar. 1872-Jun. 1876	7	1
General Ledger, with index Mar. 1872-Mar. 1874	7	2
Cash Book Jun. 1876 -Oct. 1883	7	3
Cash Book Nov. 1883-May 1903	7	4
General Journal Mar. 1872-Feb. 1875	8	1
General Ledger with index Feb. 1875-Sep. 1901	8	2
Cash Book Dec. 1877-Sept. 1901	8	2
Store Inventory Mar. 31, 1873	8	3
Store Inventory Feb. 17, 1875- Mar. 1883	8	4
Collections (front part of book) Nov. 1873-Jul. 1876	9	1

Series 5, Records of Albert Brockway

Store Inventories (back part of book) Dec. 1, 1877- Apr. 15, 1882	9	1
Order Book and Blotter Oct. 1883	9	2
Cash Book Aug. 1877	9	2
Merchandise Ledger with index Jan. 1879-Aug. 1880	9	3
Merchandise Ledger with index Sept. 1880-Aug. 1882	9	4
Merchandise Ledger with index Jul. 1872-Aug. 1895	10	1
Cash Book May 1877-Dec. 1878	12	1
Order Book and Blotter Dec. 1882-Oct. 1883	12	2
Order Book and Blotter Jan. 1883-Nov. 1883	12	3
General Ledger, with index (second part of book) Apr. 1874-Nov. 1877	13	1
Invoices Oct. 1875-Sept. 1877	15	1
Invoices May 1875-Jun. 1881	16	1

MS-016.005 Series 5, Records of Albert Brockway 1902-1918

Biographical Note

Series 6, Records of Other Brockway Family Members

Albert A. Brockway (1847-1934) was an active partner in the various stores operated by Daniel Brockway & Son, regularly overseeing all activities while his father was traveling. He also held several public offices, including the Treasurer's seats in Keweenaw County and Clifton Township. After the dissolution of the partnership in 1896, and Daniel's subsequent death in 1899, Albert resided in Lake Linden.

	Box	Folder
Albert Brockway, Correspondence, A-L 1902-1918	5	15
Albert Brockway, Correspondence, M-Z 1902-1918	6	1
Albert Brockway, Schoolcraft & Torch Lake School Census 1909-1910	6	2

MS-016.006 Series 6, Records of Other Brockway Family Members 1857-1924

Biographical Note

Alonzo W. Brockway (b. 1824) was Daniel D. Brockway's brother, initially working as an assistant blacksmith with his brother. William A. Childs (1844-1916) was the nephew of Daniel D. Brockway. He came to live with his uncle upon the death of his mother in 1953. In 1866 he joined the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, continuing in their employ until his death.

	Box	Folder
Alonzo Brockway, Oil Operations 1865-1866	6	3
Alonzo Brockway, Flint Businesses 1857-1861	6	4
Alonzo Brockway, Misc. Records 1858-1869	6	5

Series 6, Records of Other Brockway Family Members

Alonzo Brockway, Deeds on Flint Property 1858-1865	6	6
Alonzo Brockway, Tax Receipts & Redemptions 1857-1869	6	7
Sallie Scott Correspondence 1924	6	8
Farwell Insurance Documents 1871-1881	6	9
Brockway Genealogy Notes [Author presumed to be Oliver A. Farwell] Undated	6	10
Brockway Family Trees [Author presumed to be Oliver A. Farwell] Undated	6	11
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, A-Bu 1893-1921	11	1
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, C-Gib 1894-1916	11	2
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, Gil-K 1901-1921	11	3
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, L-Ma 1904, 1909, 1910, 1922	11	4
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, Mi-Ni 1876-1907	11	5
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, No-She 1884-1915	11	6
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, Shu-Wri 1897-1913	11	7

Series 7, Mining Company Records

MS-016.007 Series 7, Mining Company Records 1863-1890**Biographical Note**

Daniel Brockway was linked with several mining operations during his lifetime. The Atlas mine was located on property adjacent to the famous Cliff mine in Keweenaw County. Brockway is reputed to have been owner, director and agent for the company from 1849-1883. Although it was always hoped that the Atlas would uncover rich Cliff ores, the property never actually panned out. The Michigan mine, located south of Mosquito Lake (now Lake Medora) in Keweenaw County, was also an unsuccessful venture. Little information is available about the New England Copper Company, and it is unclear if Brockway had any real association with the company or if he merely recycled the surviving Cash book for use in the store years later. In addition to these properties, it is claimed that Brockway discovered and developed the Cape Mine (1849-1850) and served as agent for the Northwest Mine (1849-1850?), both in Keweenaw County. Brockway was made agent of the Cliff Mine following the death of Oliver Farwell (another son-in-law) in 1881. Although the mine was well past its prime, Brockway continued to search for profitable ore bodies until the mine was purchased by the Tamarack Mining Company in 1895. The records also indicate that Brockway undertook at least two trips west (1879 and 1886), prospecting properties in the Dakotas, Idaho and Colorado.

Subseries 7.1, Atlas Mining Company 1863-1890

	Box	Folder
Board of Directors/ Stockholders Meetings Dec. 1863-Jan. 1879	10	2
General Journal Feb. 1864-Mar. 1878	10	3
Stock Ledger Jan. 1864-Jun.1890	10	4
Check Roll of Labor Performed (Time Book) Jun. 1864-Apr. 1865	10	5

Subseries 7.2, Michigan Mining Company

Stock Certificates Jan. 1864-Jun. 1890	13	2
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Stock Transfer Book Jan. 1864-Jun. 1890	14	1
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Subseries 7.2, Michigan Mining Company 1863-1872

	Box	Folder
Contract Book (front part of book) Nov. 1863-May 1865	12	4
General Note		
Please do not separate pasted pages.		

General Ledger, with index Oct. 1863-Oct. 1872	14	2
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Subseries 7.3, New England Copper Mining Company 1864-1875

	Box	Folder
Cash Book (front part of book) May 1864-Apr. 1875	7	4
General Note		
Please do not separate pasted pages.		