



Coats and Davenport Families Collection

UA.28.47

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University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall
943 Conrad Road, Room 101
East Lansing , MI 48824
Business Number: 517-355-2330
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URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University Archives and Historical Collections
Creator:	Davenport, E. (Eugene), 1856-1941
Creator:	Davenport, Emma Jane
Creator:	Coats, Abby Jane
Title:	Coats and Davenport families collection
ID:	UA.28.47
Date [inclusive]:	1880-1900, 2023
Physical Description:	3 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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Biographical Note

Eugene Davenport was born in 1846 on a farm in Michigan. He attended Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University) and graduated in 1878 and later earned his master's degree in 1884. He returned to campus for further study in 1888 and became the farm superintendent in 1889.

In January 1895, Davenport became the dean of the College of Agriculture at the University of Illinois. In 1896, he became director of the Agricultural Experiment Station and then university vice president in 1920.

George W. Coats and Abbey Jane Richardson Coats had five children one of whom was Emma Jane. Emma Jane Coats married Eugene Davenport on November 2, 1881. They had two

children but only Margaret survived to adulthood. Margaret eventually married Harold Tukey, a horticulture professor at Michigan State University.

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Scope and Contents

The Coats and Davenport families collection contains correspondence between Emma Coats Davenport, her parents, and her husband describing day to day family life and life on the farm. The collection also contains letters from other friends and relatives. During the time Eugene and Emma lived at Michigan Agricultural College (M.A.C.) (now Michigan State University), the letters contain descriptions of campus life, people, and Eugene's activities. Later after they moved away, there are the occasional letters from people at M.A.C. including several from Hannah Beal, wife of William Beal. In addition, there are letters from Emma's sisters, Ethel and Alice, that describe their lives as students. Later letters from Eugene describe his work at the University of Illinois.

Some interesting points in the letters are Professor Davenport's correspondence with a former student who served in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War.

Family trips to Niagara Falls, Washington, D.C., southern states and out west are described within the letters.

Transcriptions of the letters can also be found in the collection along with a note from the transcriber, a genealogy chart, list of correspondents, and copies of some family photographs.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

Conditions Governing Access

Legal Status: Copyright: Public Domain. Property Rights: Michigan State University.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Farm life -- Michigan
- United States -- Description and travel
- Coats family (George Washington Coats)
- Davenport family (Eugene Davenport, 1856-1941)
- Michigan Agricultural College
- Michigan Agricultural College. Faculty
- Michigan Agricultural College. Students
- University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign campus)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Background Information, 2023	box 6771	folder 1
Transcriptions for 1880-1894	box 6771	folder 2
Transcriptions for 1895	box 6771	folder 3
Transcriptions for 1896	box 6771	folder 4
Transcriptions for 1897	box 6771	folder 5
Transcriptions for 1898	box 6771	folder 6
Transcriptions for 1899	box 6771	folder 7
Transcriptions for 1900	box 6771	folder 8

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Correspondence, 1880-1887	box 6771	folder 9
Correspondence, 1888	box 6771	folder 10
Correspondence, 1889	box 6771	folder 11
Correspondence, January- June 1890	box 6771	folder 12
Correspondence, July-October 1890	box 6771	folder 13
Correspondence , November - December 1890	box 6771	folder 14
Correspondence, 1891-1893	box 6772	folder 1
Correspondence, January 1894	box 6772	folder 2
Correspondence, February - March 1894	box 6772	folder 3
Correspondence, April - May 1894	box 6772	folder 4
Correspondence, June - August 1894	box 6772	folder 5
Correspondence, September - November 1894	box 6772	folder 6
Correspondence , January 1895	box 6772	folder 7
Correspondence , February 1895	box 6772	folder 8
Correspondence , March 1895	box 6772	folder 9
Correspondence, April 1895	box 6772	folder 10
Correspondence, May 1895	box 6772	folder 11
Correspondence, June 1895	box 6773	folder 1
Correspondence, July 1895	box 6773	folder 2
Correspondence, August 1895	box 6773	folder 3
Correspondence, September 1895	box 6773	folder 4
Correspondence, October 1895	box 6773	folder 5
Correspondence, November- December 1895	box 6773	folder 6
Correspondence, January - February 1896	box 6773	folder 7
Correspondence, March - April 1896	box 6773	folder 8
Correspondence, May - June 1896	box 6773	folder 9
Correspondence, July - August 1896	box 6773	folder 10
Correspondence, September - October 1896	box 6773	folder 11
Correspondence, November - December 1896	box 6774	folder 1
Correspondence, January 1897	box 6774	folder 2
Correspondence, February 1897	box 6774	folder 3
Correspondence, March - April 1897	box 6774	folder 4

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Correspondence , May 1897	box 6774	folder 5
Correspondence, June 1897	box 6774	folder 6
Correspondence, July - August 1897	box 6774	folder 7
Correspondence, September - October 1897	box 6774	folder 8
Correspondence, November - December 1897	box 6775	folder 1
Correspondence, January - February 1898	box 6775	folder 2
Correspondence, March - April 1898	box 6775	folder 3
Correspondence, May 1898	box 6775	folder 4
Correspondence, June 1898	box 6775	folder 5
Correspondence, July - August 1898	box 6775	folder 6
Correspondence, September - October 1898	box 6775	folder 7
Correspondence, November - December 1898	box 6775	folder 8
Correspondence, January 1899	box 6775	folder 9
Correspondence, February 1899	box 6775	folder 10
Correspondence, March 1899	box 6775	folder 11
Correspondence, April 1899	box 6775	folder 12
Correspondence, May 1899	box 6776	folder 1
Correspondence, June 1899	box 6776	folder 2
Correspondence, July - August 1899	box 6776	folder 3
Correspondence, September - October 1899	box 6776	folder 4
Correspondence, November - December 1899	box 6776	folder 5
Correspondence, January - February 1900	box 6776	folder 6
Correspondence, March 1900	box 6776	folder 7
Correspondence, April 1900	box 6776	folder 8
Correspondence, May 1900	box 6776	folder 9
Correspondence, June 1900	box 6776	folder 10
Correspondence, July - August 1900	box 6776	folder 11
Correspondence, September 1900	box 6776	folder 12
Correspondence, October 1900	box 6776	folder 13
Correspondence, November 1900	box 6776	folder 14
Correspondence, December 1900	box 6776	folder 15