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Daniel Brockway Family Collection Personal Papers and Business Records MS-016

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country
Historical Collections

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	Daniel Brockway Family Collection
ID:	MS-016
Date [inclusive]:	1852-1924
Physical Description:	7.02 Cubic Feet 16 manuscript boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Mixed Materials [box]:	1-16
Abstract:	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.

Preferred Citation

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

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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, Lucena, and their daughters Charlotte and Delia moved to L'Anse, where Daniel 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 the Upper Peninsula, the Brockways had four more 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 six children: Charlotte L. Farwell, Delia H. Perry, Sarah ("Sallie") L. Scott, Albert, Anna M. Gray, and Daniel, Jr., who died young.

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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.

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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.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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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.

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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

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Controlled Access Headings

- Merchandise inventories
- Financial records
- Correspondence
- Legal documents
- Ledgers (Account books)
- Keweenaw Peninsula (Mich.)
- Copper mines and mining -- Michigan -- Keweenaw Peninsula
- Clifton (Mich.)
- Copper Harbor (Mich.)
- Stock certificates

- General stores -- Michigan -- Eagle River
- General stores -- Michigan -- Phoenix
- General stores -- Michigan -- Clifton
- General stores -- Michigan -- Lake Linden

Collection Inventory

Series 1, Outgoing Correspondence, Mixed Authors, 1874-1906

Language of the Material: English.

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:

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.

Title/Description	Instances	
Letterpress, DDB, B&S, Jan. 1874-Jul. 1875	box 1	folder 1
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S, Aug. 1875-Mar. 1876	box 1	folder 2
Letterpress, DDB, B&S, Mar. 1876-Sep. 1877	box 1	folder 3
Letterpress, DDB, B&S, Aug. 1877-Oct. 1879	box 1	folder 4
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S, Mar. 1880-Jul. 1882	box 2	folder 1
Letterpress, DDB, Aug. 1885	box 2	folder 2
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S, May 1885-Feb. 1886	box 2	folder 3
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S, Feb. 1886-Aug. 1887	box 2	folder 4
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S, Jun. 1886-Oct. 1888	box 3	folder 1
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S, Nov. 1888-Dec. 1891	box 3	folder 2
Letterpress, DDB, AAB, B&S, Dec. 1891-Nov. 1906	box 3	folder 3

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Series 2, Records of Daniel D. Brockway, 1852-1893

Title/Description	Instances	
Personal Correspondence to Brockway, 1856-1861	box 4	folder 1
Personal Correspondence to Brockway, 1867-May 1868	box 4	folder 2
Personal Correspondence to Brockway, Jun. 1868-Sep. 1868	box 4	folder 3
Personal Correspondence to Brockway, Oct. 1868-Dec. 1868	box 4	folder 4
Personal Correspondence to Brockway, Jan. 1869-Mar. 1869	box 4	folder 5
Personal Correspondence to Brockway, Apr. 1869-May 1869	box 4	folder 6
Personal Correspondence to Brockway, Jun. 1869-Aug. 1869	box 4	folder 7
Personal Correspondence to Brockway, Sep. 1869-Dec. 1869	box 4	folder 8
Personal Correspondence to Brockway, 1870-Oct. 1873	box 4	folder 9
Personal Correspondence to Brockway, Oct. 1873-Mar. 1874	box 4	folder 10
Personal Correspondence to Brockway, Feb. 1874-1886	box 4	folder 11
Daniel Brockway - Misc. Receipts & Statements, 1868-1871	box 4	folder 12
Daniel Brockway - Patent Usage, 1867-1870, 1881	box 4	folder 13
Daniel Brockway - Misc. Legal Records, 1852-1883	box 5	folder 1
Property Records, Lower Peninsula & Other States, 1853-1869	box 5	folder 2
Property Records, Upper Peninsula, 1852-1884	box 5	folder 3
Property Records, Canadian Lands, 1867-1871	box 5	folder 4
Property Tax Receipts, 1864-1893	box 5	folder 5
Daniel Brockway Postmaster & Road Commissions, 1852, 1859, 1861	box 5	folder 6
Mineral Range State Road, 1859-1868	box 5	folder 7
Commissioner of Highways, Kalamazoo County, 1871	box 5	folder 8
Brockway Dakota Documents, 1885-1887	box 5	folder 9

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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.

Title/Description	Instances	
General Ledger, with index (front part of book), Aug. 1865-Oct. 1866	box 13	folder 1

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Series 4, Records of D. D. Brockway & Son Store, 1872-1901

Material Specific Details: A note about accounting records: Merchandise ledgers, order books and store blotters record sales to specific individuals (ledgers are organized by account and include an index, whereas the others note transactions sequentially). Sales paid in full at the time of purchase are recorded here alone; information concerning credit sales from these subsidiary books are also posted to the general journal and subsequently to the general ledger. Cash book and general journal transactions are transcribed into general ledgers directly.

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.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence to D.D. Brockway & Son, Jan.-Dec. 1873	box 5	folder 10
Correspondence to D.D. Brockway & Son, Jan.-Feb. 1874	box 5	folder 11
Correspondence to D.D. Brockway & Son, Mar.-Apr. 1874	box 5	folder 12
Correspondence to D.D. Brockway & Son, May-Sep. 1874	box 5	folder 13
D.D. Brockway & Son - Canceled Checks, 1885-1892	box 5	folder 14
Cash Book, Mar. 1872-Jun. 1876	box 7	folder 1
General Ledger, with index, Mar. 1872-Mar. 1874	box 7	folder 2
Cash Book, Jun. 1876 -Oct. 1883	box 7	folder 3
Cash Book, Nov. 1883-May 1903	box 7	folder 4
General Journal, Mar. 1872-Feb. 1875	box 8	folder 1
General Ledger with index , Feb. 1875-Sep. 1901	box 8	folder 2
Cash Book, Dec. 1877-Sept. 1901	box 8	folder 2
Store Inventory, Mar. 31, 1873	box 8	folder 3

Store Inventory, Feb. 17, 1875- Mar. 1883	box 8	folder 4
Collections (front part of book), Nov. 1873-Jul. 1876	box 9	folder 1
Store Inventories (back part of book), Dec. 1, 1877- Apr. 15, 1882	box 9	folder 1
Order Book and Blotter, Oct. 1883	box 9	folder 2
Cash Book, Aug. 1877	box 9	folder 2
Merchandise Ledger with index, Jan. 1879-Aug. 1880	box 9	folder 3
Merchandise Ledger with index, Sept. 1880-Aug. 1882	box 9	folder 4
Merchandise Ledger with index, Jul. 1872-Aug. 1895	box 10	folder 1
Cash Book, May 1877-Dec. 1878	box 12	folder 1
Order Book and Blotter, Dec. 1882-Oct. 1883	box 12	folder 2
Order Book and Blotter, Jan. 1883-Nov. 1883	box 12	folder 3
General Ledger, with index (second part of book), Apr. 1874-Nov. 1877	box 13	folder 1
Invoices, Oct. 1875-Sept. 1877	box 15	folder 1
Invoices, May 1875-Jun. 1881	box 16	folder 1

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Series 5, Records of Albert Brockway, 1902-1918

Biographical Note

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.

Title/Description	Instances	
Albert Brockway, Correspondence, A-L, 1902-1918	box 5	folder 15
Albert Brockway, Correspondence, M-Z, 1902-1918	box 6	folder 1
Albert Brockway, Schoolcraft & Torch Lake School Census, 1909-1910	box 6	folder 2

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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.

Title/Description	Instances	
Alonzo Brockway, Oil Operations, 1865-1866	box 6	folder 3
Alonzo Brockway, Flint Businesses, 1857-1861	box 6	folder 4
Alonzo Brockway, Misc. Records, 1858-1869	box 6	folder 5
Alonzo Brockway, Deeds on Flint Property, 1858-1865	box 6	folder 6
Alonzo Brockway, Tax Receipts & Redemptions, 1857-1869	box 6	folder 7
Sallie Scott Correspondence, 1924	box 6	folder 8
Farwell Insurance Documents, 1871-1881	box 6	folder 9
Brockway Genealogy Notes [Author presumed to be Oliver A. Farwell], Undated	box 6	folder 10
Brockway Family Trees [Author presumed to be Oliver A. Farwell], Undated	box 6	folder 11
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, A-Bu, 1893-1921	box 11	folder 1
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, C-Gib, 1894-1916	box 11	folder 2
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, Gil-K, 1901-1921	box 11	folder 3
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, L-Ma, 1904, 1909, 1910, 1922	box 11	folder 4
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, Mi-Ni, 1876-1907	box 11	folder 5
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, No-She, 1884-1915	box 11	folder 6
W.A. Childs Stock Investments, Shu-Wri, 1897-1913	box 11	folder 7

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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

Title/Description	Instances	
Board of Directors/ Stockholders Meetings, Dec. 1863-Jan. 1879 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 10	folder 2
General Journal, Feb. 1864-Mar. 1878 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 10	folder 3
Stock Ledger, Jan. 1864-Jun.1890 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 10	folder 4
Check Roll of Labor Performed (Time Book), Jun. 1864-Apr. 1865	box 10	folder 5
Stock Certificates, Jan. 1864-Jun. 1890	box 13	folder 2
Stock Transfer Book, Jan. 1864-Jun. 1890	box 14	folder 1

Subseries 7.2, Michigan Mining Company, 1863-1872

Language of the Material: English.

Title/Description	Instances	
Contract Book (front part of book), Nov. 1863-May 1865 General Note Please do not separate pasted pages.	box 12	folder 4
General Ledger, with index, Oct. 1863-Oct. 1872	box 14	folder 2

Subseries 7.3, New England Copper Mining Company, 1864-1875

Title/Description	Instances	
Cash Book (front part of book), May 1864-Apr. 1875 General Note Please do not separate pasted pages.	box 7	folder 4

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