

#2011-04
Christensen Family Papers

CHRISTENSEN FAMILY PAPERS
Content (ex: papers), date – date
8 Storage boxes = 1.6 linear feet

Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center
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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Acquisition: The papers were donated by Susan and Karen Christensen in 2010.

Access: The collection is open for research.

Copyright: The copyright held by the donor has been transferred to Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center, Davenport Public Library.

Photographs: Boxes 1, 2, 3

Location: SC Compact Shelving Range 37 Section 9

Processed by: K O'Connor 2011

HISTORY

This collection is from the descendants of the CHRISTENSEN family that emigrated from North Abild, Denmark on the western coast of that nation. Christian Peter CHRISTENSEN came to America in 1872 according to his obituary, returning to his homeland to marry Elena Marie SCHMIDT in 1878. The couple and their daughter Helen arrived in Iowa in about 1881. By 1900 their family had grown to include children Alvina and Carl. The family remained in Davenport, Iowa. Christian Peter died in 1923 and Elena in 1927. Both are buried in Fairmount cemetery.

Carl [the son of Christian Peter and Elena] became a carpenter and married Meta WISCH in Clinton, IA. Many of the items in the collection are tied to him. Alvina never married. She was a seamstress who worked for Harned & Von Maur and Robert Krause, as did Meta according to the 1916 Davenport city directory.

Helen married Mr. George SCOTT October 6, 1909. The series of postcards in the collection correspond to the time she and her husband traveled south for his work and lived in Virginia. Mr. Scott died in Lynchburg, VA in August 1911 and his body was brought back to Davenport and buried at Fairmount under the auspices of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Helen went on to work for the Clarissa C. Cook Home for the Friendless. Helen died in 1961. No obituary was located for her.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Christensen Family Papers dates from 1858 – 1970's and measures approximately 1.6 linear feet. The collection is arranged in five series: Photographs, Postcards, Personal and Business Documents, Davenport Public School items, Ephemeral items.

Series One (ca 1880-1940) Photographs-portraiture and a few residences.
Mostly local photographers. Some identification.

Series Two (ca 1900-1910) Postcards – many local sites and buildings.

Series Three (ca 1850-1972) Personal and business documents – diaries, mortgages and deeds, insurance papers, bank books, vital records from Denmark

Series Four (ca 1890-1945) Davenport Public Schools items – certificates, report cards, medal

Series Five (ca 1915-1945) Ephemeral items - union and fraternal organization memorabilia, local bank and store souvenir items, original turkey note

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1 – Photographs

No identification

Local photographers Allen, Brandt, Dahms, Elite, Free, Haugh

Box 2 – Photographs

No identification

Local photographers Hostetler, Huebinger, Hunt/Hurt/Lenz, Otto

One tintype

Images with no identification or photographer

Residence exterior photographs

1. 1931 North Howell Street, Davenport IA

Ca 1907-1908

4 x 6" mounted on 7 x 9" backing

Sepia

No photography studio

Alvina, Helen and Carl Christensen and dog

2. 1850 ? Sturdevant Street, Davenport IA

Ca 1895-1900

4.5 x 7.5" mounted on 8 x 10" backing

Sepia

Fowler View Company; 106-108 West Second Street, Davenport IA

Carl Christensen and Nellie [dog]

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Box 3 – Photographs [identified] and postcards

| | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Box 3 Folder 1 | CHRISTENSEN family-Christian Peter, Alvina, Mari, Helen, Carl and Prince the dog | ca1915 @ 1931 North Howell Street, Davenport IA; outside of the residence on the lawn; Snapshot |
| Box 3 Folder 1 | CHRISTENSEN, Alvin | Ca 1943 Army Aviation Cadet; Snapshot |
| Box 3 Folder 1 | CHRISTENSEN, Alvin | Ca 1944 with airplane; Snapshot |
| Box 3 Folder 1 | SCOTT, Helen | At Clarissa C. Cook home; Snapshot |
| Box 3 Folder 1 | SCOTT, Helen | Real photo postcard – young woman seated in chair. Bodice with bold vertical stripes |
| Box 3 Folder 2 | CHRISTENSEN, Carl CHRISTENSEN, Charles | Ca 1915; 2 x 6"; young men wearing hats; Photographer: Philleo 215 ½ W. 2 nd Street Davenport IA |
| Box 3 Folder 2 | WISCH, George | Ca 1917-1918; WWI man in uniform; Brother of Meta [WISCH] CHRISTENSEN |
| Box 3 Folder 3 | Adult woman and sixteen girls | Photographer: Haugh Cabinet card |
| Box 3 Folder 3 | Alvina [CHRISTENSEN] | Photographer: Haugh Cabinet card; woman wearing eyeglasses |
| Box 3 Folder 4 | Graf zeppelin | August 28, 1929; Photographer: A.E. Williams, <i>Davenport Times</i> newspaper Excellent condition |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | YMCA Building | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Central Park [aka VanderVeer Park] | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Davenport High School | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Orphans' Home | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Girls' cottages and campus Soldiers' Orphans Home | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | New Kimball Hotel | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Deer at Schuetzen Park | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Davenport CRI & P Passenger Depot | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | St. Paul's English Evangelical Lutheran Church | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | View of dam at Suburban Island | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Pavilion Central Park | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |

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| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Pavilion Central Park | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Outing Club | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Kirkwood Boulevard | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Davenport Public Library Carnegie Building | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Argyle Flats | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Walsh building | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 6 | Postcards from Iowa (other than Davenport) and Illinois | Real photo postcards and other; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 7 | Postcards from locales other than IL or IA | Real photo postcards; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 8 | Postcards from locales other than IL or IA | Not real photo postcards; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |

Box 4 – Personal and Business Documents

1894 City of Davenport Certificates of vaccination

1858-1880's Danish papers including

- Birth info Helen
- Marriage info Peter & Elena

Passport? – Christian Peter Christensen

Insurance documents

Miscellaneous documents

Birthday wishes from President Nixon to Alvina Christensen 1972

W-2 forms 1943-1952 of Helen Scott from employer Clarissa C. Cook Home

U.S. Income Tax Returns 1942-1944 Carl Christensen

Letter and note due 1924 Carl & Karen Christensen to Helen Scott

Deeds and mortgages

Misc. pertaining to 1925 North Howell St. Davenport Iowa

1962 correspondence regarding family history

Box 5 – Ephemera

The Prudential Insurance Company of America

Premium Receipt Book

Two receipts

Original turkey note

Danish Sisterhood Society

By-laws 1923 for Davenport Lodge Number 3

5 Receipts for U. S. Government bonds purchased June 17, 1944 by Carl Christensen

WWII Selective Service Registration Card April 1942

WWI Classification notification Jun 1918

Leather item engraved in gold "Pocket Letter Holder Carl Christensen Compliments of Mueller Lumber Company Tri City Yards" - fair condition

German Savings Bank 1869-1909

2.75" long sterling pocket knife, two blades. Inscribed as above on one side; Davenport Iowa on other with designs

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“Charga-Plate Associates of Davenport” for better service

Small metal plate bearing name and address of Mrs. C. Christensen 1925 N. Howell St.
Davenport IA A. In leather case. Measures 1.5 x 2.5”

Second Annual Booster Dinner given to the employes [sic] of Harned and Von Maur

Tuesday, February 29, 1916 -- 1916 Davenport city directory lists Alvina Christensen employed by
Harned & Von Maur as a seamstress

Miscellaneous ephemera

Hinky, Dinky Parlez Vous (1943) from Snug Harbor

Davenport Flyers, Inc. By-Laws & Regulations – Cram Field

Iowa Aeronautics Commission lists of airports, radio frequencies, etc.

Robert Krause Company (Davenport, Iowa) – Crow Over-Alls “don’t Scratch Matches on the Wall”

Jno. C. Matthes & Bros. Laundry Soaps

Ink blotters

Northwest Bank & Trust – electronic code number

Schlegel Rexall Drug Stores – Wampole’s Preparation; Bird Series 2

Schlegel Rexall Drug Stores – Wampole’s Creo-Terpin Compound; Bird Series 5

Scharff’s 150 Year Easter Sunday Calendar clipped from newspaper

Box 6 – Davenport Public Schools items

Davenport High School Commencement Programs for Jan. 1936, June 1937, Jan. 1942

Certificates of Promotion 1894, 1895 [3 copies]

Grammar School diplomas signed by Supt. J. B. Young 1895, 1898

Composition books – six

Book-keeping ledger – one

Medal for Deportment & Regularity of Attendance & General Progress [Kuhnen Medal]

Helen Christensen, third grade, 1894

Report cards

1897 School No. 4, teacher Laura Camp

1936 West Intermediate School, teacher Katherine Meyer

Box 7 – Diaries

Diaries 1930s-1960s

Box 8 – Ephemeral items

Jacobsen wooden cigar box – neighbors in 1900

Confirmation 1899 St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church for Alvina Christensen – rolled; dry & brittle

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

Badge and ribbon in very good condition and original envelope from
The Whitehead & Hoag Co.

Local Union No. 554 Davenport, Iowa

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

Due Books for Carl Christensen

1919-1922

1923-1926

1927-1930

1931-1934

1935-1938

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1943-1946

1947-1950

1951-1954

1955-1958

1959-1962

Due Book for Hans Hulbe

1911-1913

Fraternal Order of Eagles – possibly belonged to Mr. George SCOTT, husband of Helen Christensen.

Badge - Davenport Aerie No. 235

Small red paper square with red, white & blue ribbon “Rock Island Aerie, No. 956 June 16, 1908”

Three “Time Books” keeping track of hours worked and/or expenses for various addresses. One includes pays stubs for Carl Christensen.

1916 calendar book – household items and prices. May be keeping track of work done for people or may be items purchased. Miss Meta Wisch 824 West 4th Street. Employer Robert Krause Co.

Cash Book lists taxes, rent, supplies for various addresses 1942-1957

American Commercial and Savings Bank – passbook Miss Alvina Christensen

Northwest Davenport Savings Bank. Washington and Union Streets

passbook for Alvina Christensen 1914 – 1923 [by-laws of bank in English language in front;

German language in back of book]

passbook for Elena Marie Christensen 1919-1932 [English language only]

Our Tenth Anniversary – leaflet describing the story of how the bank began and progressed

1912-1922. Includes images of officers and directors

Northwest Bank & Trust Company – Always plenty of parking space

Savings passbook Helen Scott estate, Carl Christensen, executor