

Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center
Davenport Public Library
321 Main Street Davenport, IA 52801
www.davenportlibrary.com

Accession #2018-02 STAAB Collection of Family History Materials [Browne, Willson]

Physical Location: Range 33 Section 5

Four boxes

Items received December 2017 from donor Kathryn Staab of East Peoria, IL.

Per donor:

“Most of the contents of this box are related to Esther Priscilla BROWNE WILLSON, with some of it related to her son, John Browne WILLSON or her husband, Armour McKibben WILLSON. Esther and Armour lived in Davenport, IA from approximately 1942-1960. Esther Priscilla BROWNE was born in Fairfield, IA and died in Atlanta, GA in 1959. Armour WILLSON then moved back to Fairfield, IA until his death in 1974.”

Donor also noted the spelling of the surname BROWN and BROWNE were both used and that WILLSON does indeed have two “L”s.

BOX 1: Record Center Carton

Davenport High School Yearbooks – *The Blackhawk*

3 volumes: 1947 have 2 in collection
 1948 have 1 in collection
 1949 have 2 in collection

Condition: good but musty; embossed with his name

Provenance: belonged to John B. WILLSON, son of Armour and Ester WILLSON, graduate 1949

St. Ambrose College Yearbook – *The Oaks*

1 volume: 1954 0 in collection

Condition: good

Provenance: John B. WILLSON is pictured in the volume

Composite Print – St. Ambrose College Class of 1954

1 framed image – removed from black wooden frame [kmo]

Condition: good; approximately 11 x 13” bw by Bawden Bros. Inc. photographers

Provenance: John B. WILLSON is pictured

Apron – “Browns Market”

Cloth with red embroidery across bib

Condition: smells musty but physically in fine condition

Provenance: possibly from Fairfield, IA butcher shop run by Asahel “Zell” BROWN Sr. and son

Genealogy Materials

Materials were transferred from soiled expanding folders to clean, archival folders by KMO’Connor.

Condition: varies; some documents should have individual preservation measures

Ex: handwritten correspondence 1840’s 1860’s

The identification on the original folders was transferred to the new folders and was not always what was found in the container. Some of the contents were split into two or three archival folders rather than stuffed into one.

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"Family Records

John's birth certificate
Woody's discharge
Photostadt birth record"

PROCESSING NOTE: names include Walker, Griest, Brown, Browne
Transferred into one archival folder

"2011 Katherine Willson Goes in apple box" was written on a sticky note attached to the outside of the original folder. There were two manila envelopes inside - only one was labeled:

Labeled Envelope: "Property of John Willson Fairfield Iowa" on the front

"-genealogist Miss Helen Townsend Athens, Ohio" on back

PROCESSING NOTE: included correspondence 1862 from John G. Brown to Brother, possibly "Joel", Parson's College 1920 ephemera, Correspondence re: genealogy and family with Esther (Mrs. Armour) Willson

Unlabeled Envelope:

PROCESSING NOTE: included correspondence to/from Esther Browne, Mrs. Armour Willson, Sadie Creath, Mary Brown, Beecher Norris & Mrs.

PROCESSING NOTE: Contents of each envelope were transferred into two expanding folders

"Folder 2 Geneology [sic] stuff John's mother"

Original contents included loose items, 9 x 12" manila envelope, 6 x 9" manila envelope

PROCESSING NOTE: Items removed to three expandable archival folders

2a) loose paper documents from the expandable folder

2b) Contents of 9 x 12" manila envelope labeled "Masonic material, Letter Grandmother B to John G, Prayer book, Wedding cert"

Actual contents were: obituaries; images of Brown's Market, possibly in Fairfield, IA; box of images as noted below

2c) "John B. your great grandfather"; "Letter to John G. Brown from Sarah Walker 1840"; "Masonic Papers"

Folder 3 "Brown Family & Letters from John B. to Armour (1940's)"

Contents split into two archival folders

3a) contents of manila envelope labeled "All letters from John B. Willson to his father, Armour Willson"

3b) Contents of small manila envelope with no identification included: Images, obituaries, correspondence re: family lineage

Obituary of Asahel "Zell" W. Brown, Fairfield IA, 1928

Folder 4 "Geneology [sic] Daughters of American Colonists

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John's mother

Have back to Levi Walker"

Correspondence, newspaper clippings, genealogies

Artifact: scissors that belonged to Phoebe Manley

BOX 2: Small archive box

Photograph Album – CDVs, cabinet cards, tintypes, stamp portraits [1860-1900 roughly]

Leather bound with gold decoration; Handwritten inside cover "Dilly Driver SR/2.50"

Condition: latch broken on album; identification handwritten on many of the album pages; some images removed, some loose within album.

Provenance: family portraiture

Photography Studios [not a comprehensive listing]

Milton, IA

Des Moines, IA

Ottumwa, IA

Cantril, IA

Bonaparte, IA

Fairfield, IA

Sioux City, IA

Mt. Pleasant, IA

San Francisco, CA

Chicago, IL

Identification of subjects in photographs

Brown, Mrs. Judge

Lula

Sadie

Bryan, Will

Bryant, Priscilla

Stella

Hattie

Priscilla

Brown, Charley

Brown, David

Brown, Mrs. David

Stephens, Rev. F.

Brown, Davy

Brown, Walter

Boyd, Joe

Boyd, Mrs. Joe

Brown, Joel

Brown, Mrs. Joel

Brown, Dr. Ed J.

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Brown, Edwin
Parrott, Kate Manning
Brown, Ed (Dayton)
Brown, Willia
Brown, Dr. Chas.
Brown, Dr. Carlton
Brown, Bert
Brown, Minnie
Priscilla
Brown, Mary; Williamsen, Hattie; Piltkin, Mary
Piltkin, Mary
Brown, Judge
Walker, Stella B
Landes, Mrs. John
Manning, Mrs. E.
Robinson, Levi
Parrott, Kate Manning
Brown, Melvin (Dayton O)
Howard, Clara
Norris, Lissa Carrie
Sadie, Mary C. & mother

Print of female child in round frame

Sepia; 6 ¼" ; no photographer noted; no identification located

***CONDITION: Image was damaged upon receipt – torn from the center outward

Provenance: undetermined

BOX 3: Flat

Bound Volume: *The Life of William Penn* by Samuel M. Janney
1852; Philadelphia: Hogan, Perkins & Co.

Condition: Had leaves pressed among pages; removed but noted where had been in case significant.

Kept the leaves, at least temporarily. Generally good condition. [Located in Box 1 Record Center Carton]

Provenance: Handwritten information on inside page regarding John G. BROWN, Priscilla BROWN BRYANT, W.C. BRYANT.

BOX 4: Images: removed from small cardboard box "Bullock's Store for Men – Los Angeles"
Cased image containing 2 Daguerreotypes with following information included on small sheet of paper:

"Thomas & Suzanne Browne, parents of John G. Brown, David G. Brown, Joel Brown, Edwin Brown, Grandparents of Priscilla, Sudie, Mary, Asahel, D?? & Said Brown"

Tintypes – six unidentified

PROCESSING NOTE: *Phase box made for cased image storage; tintypes put in mylar and archival envelopes

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January 17, 2018

Updated March 21, 2018

Karen M. O'Connor