

Guide to the Samuel D. Downes Bank Papers, 1875-1910

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Samuel D. Downes Bank Papers, 1875-1910

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<https://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1996.064

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Downes, Samuel D., 1827-1903

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.33 linear feet

Abstract:

The Samuel D. Downes Bank Papers contain correspondence and bank forms of the Francestown, NH, Savings Bank.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Samuel D. Downes Bank Papers were purchased from Dewolfe and Wood of Alfred, Maine, on July 23, 1996.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in May 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Samuel D. Downes Bank Papers, 1996.064. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Samuel Dennis Downes was born April 25, 1827 at Francestown, NH, son of Edward and Mary (Dennis) Downes. He was post-master and town clerk in Francestown and represented the town in the State Legislature. He also served as treasurer of the Francestown Savings Bank. He married Martha Theresa Billings of South Deerfield, MA, on March 15, 1851 at Francestown. She was born February 13, 1825, the daughter of Timothy and Amy D. (Welly) Billings.

Samuel died July 31, 1903 at Francestown. Martha died February 28, 1908 at Brattleboro, Vermont.

Samuel and Martha had one son, William E. Downes born March 4, 1854 at Francestown. William married Emily Frances Tuttle March 4, 1875 at Francestown. She was born at Antrim,

NH, December 31, 1851, the daughter of William and Almira Tuttle. Emily died July 19, 1893 at Bennington, NH. William died May 5, 1924 at Grasmere, NH.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Samuel D. Downes Bank Papers includes routine correspondence and forms accumulated in Downes' capacity as treasurer of the Francestown Savings Bank. Correspondence largely concerns mortgages and loan repayment and requests, but also includes letters regarding the purchase, sale, or foreclosure of properties, and notes pertaining to stocks and investment holdings belonging to the bank. There are two letters that can be considered personal, from C. A. Jaquith, on March 3, 1881, and undated.

Letters from bank clients include some information about the local economic climate, and reflect local culture at the time. There are many interesting bits as to why loans cannot be repaid ("need to sell cabbages," "logs were frozen in"). Lawsuits and other legal claims are mentioned as well, including a letter from the Wilton Savings Bank that indicates that both banks were "joint victims in being holders of short time notes" by Cooley and Cole (August 11, 1898). Charles E. Farley writes an extensive letter about the sale of the savings bank to two gentlemen, and the intention of the buyers to "build up the town" (February 2, 1898).

Throughout the correspondence there are indications that the bank had fallen on hard times, and quite a few letters in 1898 include comments on the economic climate ("such times as these"). Correspondence mainly comes from towns in central New Hampshire, but other areas in New England and throughout the country are represented as well.

Bank business forms include mainly receipts. There are many collection and remittance notices from the Indian Head National Bank in Nashua, NH, for W. E. Downes in 1877 and 1878.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are arranged by type of material, then chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Correspondence, 1875-1877 June
- Folder 2 Correspondence, 1877 July-December
- Folder 3 Correspondence, 1878
- Folder 4 Correspondence, 1879
- Folder 5 Correspondence, 1880-1881
- Folder 6 Correspondence, 1882-1883
- Folder 7 Correspondence, 1884
- Folder 8 Correspondence, 1885
- Folder 9 Correspondence, 1890-1897
- Folder 10 Correspondence, 1898 January-June
- Folder 11 Correspondence, 1898 July-December
- Folder 12 Correspondence, 1899, 1906-1908, 1910
- Folder 13 Correspondence, undated

Folder 14 Bank business forms, 1875-1877
Folder 15 Bank business forms, 1878-1880
Folder 16 Bank business forms, 1881-1887
Folder 17 Bank business forms, 1890s
Folder 18 Interest accounts slips, 1880-1898

Subject Terms

People:

Downes, Samuel D., 1827-1903
Downes, William E., 1854-1924

Organizations:

Fracestown Savings Bank

Subjects:

Banks and banking
Correspondence

Locations:

Fracestown, NH

Occupations:

Bankers