Collection: Edward D. Thompson Collection

Object ID Number: 1999.001

Location: LMC Archive, room 204, shelf K 2

Dates: 1856 to 1889

Quantity: One legal size document box, 0.5 linear feet

Restrictions: No Restrictions

Abstract: This collection of archival materials contains legal and property documents, insurance documents, business receipts, bills, correspondence, tax receipts, and assorted materials that together detail the life of Edward D. Thompson and his experience as a businessman and tinsmith. This collection provides researchers with a better understanding of Edward’s business, and the nature of land and business dealings during this time. The majority of the materials in this collection focus on Edward’s life in the village of Whitehall during the latter half of the 19th century.

Historical Information: Edward D. Thompson was born in 1820 in Fredonia, New York. From age 16 to 22, he learned to be a tinsmith, and then left New York for Ohio. He stayed in Ohio for twenty years. On May 4, 1847 he married Lucetta W. Smith, a native to Ohio. He had six children with Lucetta, named Alice, Chas, Emma, Marion, Edward K., and Arthur. All but Alice and Marion lived to adulthood. In 1865, he moved to Muskegon and started a stoves and tin ware business. After one year there he moved to Whitehall for two years, during which he became sick from malaria and sold his business to a Mr. Morse. After staying east of Muskegon County for three months, he bought out F. Clark of Muskegon, remaining there for two years. He left for Chicago for his health after spending two years in Whitehall, and moved back because of his real estate interests after two years when he had recovered. He moved his business, Thompson & Co., Stoves, Tin Ware and Agricultural Implements, which he co-owned with his son Edward K., to Whitehall next to a furniture store on Colby St. In 1881, Edward was elected a trustee for the village of Whitehall. He died April 9th, 1889 in Whitehall, Michigan at the age of 61.

Scope and Contents: This collection of archival materials is organized into the following fourteen series: Quit-claim Deeds, Property Documents, Warranty Deeds, Insurance Documents, Business Receipts, Bills, Legal Documents, Mortgage Documents, Business Correspondence, Personal Correspondence, Redemption Certificates/Checks, Miscellaneous, Tax Receipts, and Patent Documentation.

The Quit-Claim Deeds series includes numerous quit-claim deeds from 1867 to 1886 for property in Iowa and Michigan in Ionia, Mason, and Muskegon counties. Includes names such as
Edward D. Thompson, Lucetta S. Thompson, Charles C. Thompson, Thomas P. Horton, and James Adams.

The Property Documents series contains the following: 3 land contracts from 1863 to 1881 for property in New York and Muskegon County, Michigan, a decree and order of sale in 1875 in Whitehall between Jonathon Thompson, John Michener, and Edwin A. Chubb, a bill of sale in 1885 in Whitehall, a work agreement in 1887 in Ionia County between Edward D. Thompson, Edward N. Thompson, and James M. Clark, 2 certificates of the Register of the Land Office from 1868 to 1873 in Ionia County between Thomas D. Horton, Andrew Johnson, and Ulysses S. Grant, and a Notice of Seizure of Land in 1886 in Muskegon County between William Woodcock and Isaac P. Smith.


The Insurance Documents series includes numerous insurance policies from 1885 to 1888 for properties in New York and Whitehall, Michigan between Thompson and Co., E.D. Thompson, C.C. Thompson, and Elizabeth Richardson.

The Business Receipts series contains: numerous bills and receipts of payment from 1872 to 1885 for merchandise, hardware, food supplies, and furniture, several receipts of payment from 1865 to 1887 for property and merchandise, several promise of payments from 1867 to 1878 for supplies, real estate, and mortgage, and a record of two notes for collection. Includes names and businesses such as Thompson and Co., Johnston Bro’s, C.W. Redfern, E.D. Thompson, Hanten and Forbes, C.G. Alley and Co., Albert Mears, The Whitehall Manufacturing Company, Staples and Covell, The Whitehall Forum, Geo J. Moog, Wilson and Hendrie, E.P. Ferry Lenacter and Co., and Fuller, Furch, and Fuller.

The Bills series includes numerous bills from 1866 to 1884 for supplies, hardware, groceries, and furniture. Includes names such as: E.D. Thompson, J.S. Wheeler, E.A. Chubb, The Whitehall Manufacturing Company, John Widoe and Son, Handy and Herrick, and Albert Mears.

The Legal Documents series contains: a couple of contract and bonds from 1863 to 1875 in New York and Michigan in Muskegon County, a certificate of Power of Attorney in 1885 in Whitehall, Michigan, a Certificate of Marriage in 1864 in Ionia County, Michigan, and a last will from 1885 in New York. Includes names such as: Elizabeth Richardson, Daniel F. Remely, The Wheeler and Wilson Manufacturing Company, John Michener, Ira Thompson, Samuel Aldrich, and Anna Odell.

The Mortgage Documents series includes the following: several mortgages from 1863 to 1881 for property in New York and Michigan, several assignments of mortgage from 1880 to 1885 in Muskegon County, Michigan, several discharges and releases of mortgage from 1863 to 1879 for property in New York and Oceana County, Michigan, and a satisfaction of mortgage from 1873 in Muskegon County, Michigan. Includes names such as: Elizabeth Richardson, Charles H.

The Business Correspondence series contains several letters from 1868 to 1886 and an envelope. Includes names such as: E.D. Thompson, R.D. Aufaitte, W.P. Berkhaus, Davis and Mason Lumber Manufacturers and Dealers, and J.S. Wheeler.

The Personal Correspondence series includes several letters from 1877 to 1888 between Arthur Thompson, Edward D. Thompson, Lollie, and Ira Thompson.

The Redemption Certificates/Checks series includes several checks from 1867 to 1876 and several redemption certificates from 1872 to 1877. Includes names such as: Fuller, Furch, and Fuller, E.A. Chubb, E.D. Thompson, A.C. Elseworth, and Miller Bro’s.

The Miscellaneous series contains a handwritten receipt from 1864, a late payment notice, a notice of trial verdict and announcement of sale of land from 1881, and a horse training and bridling manual from 1856. Includes names E.D. Thompson, John Michener, Thomas J. Waters, and J.J. Stuntzman.

The Tax Receipts series includes numerous tax receipts from 1866 to 1889 for property in New York, Indiana, and Michigan in Ionia, Ingham, Montague, Muskegon, Oceana, Shiawassee, and Whitehall Counties. Includes names such as E.D. Thompson, John Larvis, Thompson and Co., Lucy A. Goodrich, E.A. Chubb, Albert S. Parks, Nathan Richardson, and E.K. Thompson.

The Patent Documentation series includes several certificates of transfer of patents from 1875 to 1878, a badge from 1873, and an envelope. Includes names Joseph Mansfield, Isaac P. Smith, Edward D. Thompson, and James English.

Arrangement: The original order of this collection is unknown, as the collection was found in the museum archives. This collection was rearranged to best anticipate researcher needs and provide the best access possible.

Contents:

**Series 1: Quit-Claim Deeds**
Dates: 1867-1886
Quantity: 11

**Series 2: Property Documents**
Dates: 1863-1887
Quantity: 9

**Series 3: Warranty Deeds**
Dates: 1862-1888
Series 4: Insurance Documents
   Dates: 1885-1888
   Quantity: 4

Series 5: Business Receipts
   Dates: 1865-1887
   Quantity: 48

Series 6: Bills
   Dates: 1866-1884
   Quantity: 17

Series 7: Legal Documents
   Dates: 1863-1885
   Quantity: 5

Series 8: Mortgage Documents
   Dates: 1863-1885
   Quantity: 12

Series 9: Business Correspondence
   Dates: 1868-1886
   Quantity: 10

Series 10: Personal Correspondence
   Dates: 1877-1888
   Quantity: 5

Series 11: Redemption Certificates/Checks
   Dates: 1867-1877
   Quantity: 8

Series 12: Miscellaneous
   Dates: 1856-1881
   Quantity: 4
Series 13: Tax Receipts  
Dates: 1866-1889  
Quantity: 49

Series 14: Patent Documentation  
Dates: 1873-1878  
Quantity: 6

Detailed Descriptions:

Quit-Claim Deeds  

Property Documents  
Three Land Contracts from 1863 to 1881, one property in New York, two in Michigan in Whitehall, Muskegon County. Deed in New York between Henry I. Ruggles with wife and Elizabeth Richardson. Deeds in Muskegon County between C.C. Thompson, Lucetta S. Thompson, Emma L. Thompson, Edward D. Thompson, and Elinda V. Wiard.  
One Decree and Order of Sale in 1875, Whitehall, Muskegon County, Michigan between Jonathon Thompson and John Michener with Edwin A. Chubb.  
One Bill of Sale in 1885, Whitehall, Muskegon County, Michigan between Edward D. Thompson and Edward N. Thompson.  
One work agreement in 1887, Ionia County, Michigan between E.D. Thompson with Edward N. Thompson and James M. Clark.  
Two Certificates of the Register of the Land Office from 1868 to 1873, Ionia County, Michigan, to Thomas D. Horton, signed by President Andrew Johnson and President Ulysses S. Grant.  
One Notice of Seizure of Land in 1886, Muskegon County, Michigan between William Woodcock and Isaac P. Smith.

Warranty Deeds  
Insurance Documents
Four insurance policies from 1885 to 1888 from London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company and Glens Falls Insurance Company for two properties in New York and two properties in Whitehall, Michigan for Thompson and Co., E.D. and C.C. Thompson, Elizabeth Richardson.

Business Receipts
Six receipts of payment from 1865 to 1887 for property, property taxes, and merchandise between C.W. M’Kinzie, E.D. Thompson, John Stearns, Fuller, Furch, and Fuller, E. Strits, and Ezra M. Leonards.
One record of 2 notes for collection by E.D. Thompson in 1866.

Bills

Legal Documents
Two contract and bonds from 1863 to 1875 in New York and Muskegon County, Michigan, between Elizabeth Richardson, Daniel F. Remeley, The Wheeler and Wilson Manufacturing Company, and John Michener.
One Certificate of Marriage in 1864 in Ionia County, Michigan between Samuel Aldrich and Anna Odell.
One last will in 1885 in New York for Elizabeth Richardson.

Mortgage Documents
Five Mortgages from 1863 to 1881, one mortgage in New York, 4 mortgages in Michigan.
Three Assignments of Mortgage from 1880 to 1885 in Muskegon County, Michigan between Gerard A. Whitbeck, Lucin S. Cowler, Edward D. Thompson, Jonathon Thompson, Jr., Ira Thompson, Albert Stearns, A.J. Covell, and C.E. Covell.

Business Correspondence
Nine letters from 1868 to 1886 between Edward D. Thompson, R.D. AuFaitte?, W.P. Berkhaus, J. Warren Peake, Davis and Mason Lumber Manufacturers and Dealers, and J.S. Wheeler. One envelope from Davis and Mason Lumber Manufacturers and Dealers to Edward D. Thompson, date unknown.

Personal Correspondence
Five letters from 1877 to 1888 between Arthur, Edward D. Thompson, Lollie, and Ira Thompson.

Redemption Certificates/Checks
Four checks from 1867 to 1876 between Piper Thompson, Fuller, Furch, and Fuller, E.A. Chubb, Edward D. Thompson, A.C. Elseworth, and Miller Bro’s and Keep. Four redemption certificates from 1872 to 1877 to Oceana and Muskegon Counties between John R. Butler, Edward D. Thompson, and W.B. Wilson.

Miscellaneous

Tax Receipts

Patent Documentation
Four certificates of transfer of patents from 1875 to 1878 between Joseph Mansfield, Isaac P. Smith, Edward D. Thompson, and James English. One Badge for Mansfield’s Odorless Broiler, 1873. One envelope addressed to Edward D. Thompson from U.S. Patent Office, date unknown.