

SAMUEL D. DOWNES  
BANK PAPERS 1875-1910  
1 Box

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:**

Samuel D. Downes: (b. 1827) was born in Francestown, NH. 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 T. Billings of South Deerfield, MA (b. 1825). They had one son, William E. Downes (b. 1854).

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTES:**

Collection 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. Jaqui--?, on 3 March, 1881 and ND.

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 can not 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 (11 August, 1898). Charles E. Farley writes an extensive letter about the sale of the Saquchee? Company to two gentlemen, and the intention of the buyers to "build up the town" (2 February, 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 NH, but other areas on 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.

|        |                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| fld 1  | correspondence 1875- June 1877       |
| fld 2  | correspondence July- Dec. 1877       |
| fld 3  | correspondence 1878                  |
| fld 4  | correspondence 1879                  |
| fld 5  | correspondence 1880-1881             |
| fld 6  | correspondence 1882-1883             |
| fld 7  | correspondence 1884                  |
| fld 8  | correspondence 1885                  |
| fld 9  | correspondence 1890-1897             |
| fld 10 | correspondence Jan.- June 1898       |
| fld 11 | correspondence July- Dec. 1898       |
| fld 12 | correspondence 1899, 1906-1908, 1910 |

|        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| fld 13 | correspondence no date            |
| fld 14 | bank business forms 1875-1877     |
| fld 15 | bank business forms 1878-1880     |
| fld 16 | bank business forms 1881-1887     |
| fld 17 | bank business forms 1890's        |
| fld 18 | interest accounts ships 1880-1898 |

TRACINGS:

Banks & banking  
Downes, William E.

Francestown, NH