

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. 85

Date processed: July, 1978

- I. Title The DeForest Family Papers, 1809-1896.
- II. The papers of DeLauzun, J.H., G.F., & A.W. DeForest, part of which was deposited in the Library on June 10, 1946 by Mrs. George K. Hooper, grand-
In converted the deposit to a gift daughter of A.W.
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 10 inches
Approximate number of items: 23 (incl. 8 vols.)
- IV. Restrictions: None
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of
in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of
the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated
to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note: The DeForest family originated in the Walloon country
of northeastern France. In 1637, Isaac DeForest emigrated to New
Amsterdam, and his son, David, subsequently moved to Stratford and
founded the Connecticut branch of the family. The DeForests of New
Haven were direct descendants of David and Isaac.
DeLauzun DeForest (1781-1815) was a great grandson of David
DeForest of Stratford through his son Samuel. For a short time
DeLauzun owned a store in Bridgeport, but by 1803 he was living in
New Haven where he kept a bookstore.
John Hancock DeForest (1776-1839) was also a great grandson of
David DeForest through David's youngest son, Benjamin. He was born
in Huntington and became a merchant in Bridgeport with his older
brother, David C. DeForest, specializing in foreign trade. In 1818
he purchased the woolen factory in Humphreysville (Seymour) from
the estate of General David Humphreys and converted it into a cotton
mill, thus becoming one of the first cotton manufacturers in the U.S.
J.H. DeForest married Dotha Woodward of Watertown in 1811.
Among their four sons were: (1) George F. DeForest (1812-1883),
who graduated from Yale in 1831 and joined his father in the
Humphreysville mill. He managed the business alone after his father's
death. In 1845 he established a paper mill and several other enter-
prises and resided in New Haven and Seymour until 1857 when he
moved to Freeport, Illinois. There he entered the banking business
which he pursued until his death. (2) Andrew W. DeForest, the
youngest son of John W., was born in 1817 and died in 1900. In
1844 he married Lucretia Sturgess Bennett in Fairfield. He was
connected with the DeForest and Hotchkiss Company and later served
as president of the New Haven Gas Light Company. He lived in New
Haven all his life.

Biographical note: (continued)

For further information on the DeForest family, see:
A Walloon Family in America by Mrs. Robert DeForest
The DeForests of Avesnes by J.W. DeForest
American Ancestry, Vol. 3

VIII. Analysis: The collection consists of two boxes containing eight bound volumes of account books, journals, day books, letter books and diaries belonging to John H., George F., and Andrew W. DeForest and a personal document of DeLauzun DeForest. It is organized chronologically under the person generating the materials. The collection covers the years 1809 to 1896.

In addition, there is a scrapbook containing clippings from New Haven and New York newspapers, chiefly about financial matters: real estate transactions, taxable property in New Haven, etc. and some obituaries of prominent New Haveners, including an obituary of G.F. DeForest. There is no indication of who kept the scrapbook, but the clippings cover the period from 1878 to 1896 and may have belonged to Andrew DeForest.

Andrew DeForest's diaries are incomplete. The 1840-1854 volume has a note that it is Book #2, but we do not have Book #1.

The collection is noteworthy in its description of business affairs in the 19th century in the New Haven area, both in the account books and in the clippings.

For further information see:

Account Book Collection (#83) for ledgers of the DeForest and Hotchkiss Company - 1861-1869 and 1886-1890.

Sargent Family Papers (#70) for a title search on arDeForest House on Elm St. and photographs of the house which at one time belonged to David C. and Julia Wooster DeForest.

DEFOREST FAMILY PAPERS 1809-1896

TABLE OF CONTENTSBOX I - Papers of DeLauzun and John Hancock DeForest

- Folder A - DeLauzun DeForest - personal papers [1]
license to erect house on Chapel St. 1809
- Folder B - John H. DeForest - Letter Book 1818-1822 [1 vol.]
ca. 150 pp. copies of business letters-
Humphreysville Manufacturing Co.
- Folder C - Day Book 1818-1827 ca. 335 pp. [1 vol.]
- Folder D - Ledger 1818-1832 ca. 100 pp. [1 vol.]

BOX II - Papers of J.H., George F., and Andrew W. DeForest

- Folder A - Account Book & Journal, J.H. DeForest [1 vol.]
1832-1839 - ca. 73 pp. personal accounts
in back is Journal of George F. DeForest
1840-1851 - personal accounts
- Folder B - Diary of Andrew W. DeForest 1840-1854 [1 vol.]
(note in front that this is Book #2)
105 pp.
- Folder C - Diary of Andrew DeForest 1891-1894 [1 vol.]
40 pp.
- Folder D - Travel diary trip to Europe - A.W. DeForest [1 vol.]
summer of 1888
- Folder E - Scrapbook 1878-1896 ca. 50 pp. [1 vol.]
includes plan of third floor of A.W. DeForest's
house - clippings from New York and New Haven
newspapers.
- Folder F - Loose clippings from scrapbook 1876-1891 [14]
- Folder G - Miscellaneous papers (added July, 1980) [3]
- 1825 note to Mr. Daggett from David C.
DeForest (1774-1825)
- 1830 Poer of Attorney, Lydia DeForest
(wife of DeLauzun) to her son William B.
DeForest (1811-1887)
- 1832 letter in Arabic by Henry Alfred DeForest
physician and missionary to Syria (1814-1858)

FOLDER H Julia W. DeForest Papers