Christensen Family Papers

CHRISTENSEN FAMILY PAPERS
Content (ex: papers), date – date
8 Storage boxes = 1.6 linear feet

Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center
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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Acquisition: The papers were donated by Susan and Karen Christensen in 2010.

Access: The collection is open for research.

Copyright: The copyright held by the donor has been transferred to Richardson-Sloane Special Collections Center, Davenport Public Library.

Photographs: Boxes 1, 2, 3

Location: SC Compact Shelving Range ____ Section(s) ____

Processed by: KO’Connor 2011

HISTORY
This collection is from the descendents of the CHRISTENSEN family that emigrated from North Abild, Denmark on the western coast of that nation. Christian Peter CHRISTENSEN came to America in 1872 according to his obituary, returning to his homeland to marry Elena Marie SCHMIDT in 1878. The couple and their daughter Helen arrived in Iowa in about 1881. By 1900 their family had grown to include children Alvina and Carl. The family remained in Davenport, Iowa. Christian Peter died in 1923 and Elena in 1927. Both are buried in Fairmount cemetery.

Carl [the son of Christian Peter and Elena] became a carpenter and married Meta WISCH in Clinton, IA. Many of the items in the collection are tied to him. Alvina never married. She was a seamstress who worked for Harned & Von Maur and Robert Krause, as did Meta according to the 1916 Davenport city directory.

Helen married Mr. George SCOTT October 6, 1909. The series of postcards in the collection correspond to the time she and her husband traveled south for his work and lived in Virginia. Mr. Scott died in Lynchburg, VA in August 1911 and his body was brought back to Davenport and buried at Fairmount under the auspices of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Helen went on to work for the Clarissa C. Cook Home for the Friendless. Helen died in 1961. No obituary was located for her.

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SCOPe AND CONTENT NOTE

Christensen Family Papers dates from 1858 – 1970’s and measures approximately 1.6 linear feet. The collection is arranged in five series: Photographs, Postcards, Personal and Business Documents, Davenport Public School items, Ephemeral items.

**Series One** (ca 1880-1940)  Photographs-portraiture and a few residences. Mostly local photographers. Some identification.

**Series Two** (ca 1900-1910)  Postcards – many local sites and buildings.

**Series Three** (ca 1850-1972)  Personal and business documents – diaries, mortgages and deeds, insurance papers, bank books, vital records from Denmark

**Series Four** (ca 1890-1945)  Davenport Public Schools items – certificates, report cards, medal

**Series Five** (ca 1915-1945)  Ephemeral items - union and fraternal organization memorabilia, local bank and store souvenir items, original turkey note

CONTAINER LIST

**Box 1 – Photographs**
No identification
Local photographers Allen, Brandt, Dahms, Elite, Free, Haugh

**Box 2 – Photographs**
No identification
Local photographers Hostetler, Huebinger, Hunt/Hurt/Lenz, Otto
One tintype

Images with no identification or photographer

Residence exterior photographs
1. 1931 North Howell Street, Davenport IA
Ca 1907-1908
4 x 6” mounted on 7 x 9” backing
Sepia
No photography studio
Alvina, Helen and Carl Christensen and dog

2. 1850 ? Sturdevant Street, Davenport IA
Ca 1895-1900
4.5 x 7.5” mounted on 8 x 10” backing
Sepia
Fowler View Company; 106-108 West Second Street, Davenport IA
Carl Christensen and Nellie [dog]
## Box 3 – Photographs [identified] and postcards

| Box 3 Folder 1 | CHRISTENSEN family-Christian Peter, Alvina, Mari, Helen, Carl and Prince the dog | ca1915 @ 1931 North Howell Street, Davenport IA; outside of the residence on the lawn; Snapshot |
| Box 3 Folder 1 | CHRISTENSEN, Alvin | Ca 1943 Army Aviation Cadet; Snapshot |
| Box 3 Folder 1 | CHRISTENSEN, Alvin | Ca 1944 with airplane; Snapshot |
| Box 3 Folder 1 | SCOTT, Helen | At Clarissa C. Cook home; Snapshot |
| Box 3 Folder 1 | SCOTT, Helen | Real photo postcard – young woman seated in chair. Bodice with bold vertical stripes |
| Box 3 Folder 2 | CHRISTENSEN, Carl CHRISTENSEN, Charles | Ca 1915; 2 x 6”; young men wearing hats; Photographer: Philleo 215 ½ W. 2nd Street Davenport IA |
| Box 3 Folder 2 | WISCH, George | Ca 1917-1918; WWI man in uniform; Brother of Meta [WISCH] CHRISTENSEN |
| Box 3 Folder 3 | Adult woman and sixteen girls | Photographer: Haugh Cabinet card |
| Box 3 Folder 3 | Alvina [CHRISTENSEN] | Photographer: Haugh Cabinet card; woman wearing eyeglasses |
| Box 3 Folder 4 | Graf zeppelin | August 28, 1929; Photographer: A.E. Williams, Davenport Times newspaper Excellent condition |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | YMCA Building | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Central Park [aka VanderVeer Park | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Davenport High School | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Orphans’ Home | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Girls’ cottages and campus Soldiers’ Orphans Home | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | New Kimball Hotel | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Deer at Schuetzen Park | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Davenport CRI & P Passenger Depot | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | St. Paul’s English Evangelical Lutheran Church | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | View of dam at Suburban Island | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Pavilion Central Park | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
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| Box 3 Folder 5 | Pavilion Central Park | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Outing Club | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Kirkwood Boulevard | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Davenport Public Library Carnegie Building | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Argyle Flats | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 5 | Walsh building | Real Photo postcard; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 6 | Postcards from Iowa (other than Davenport) and Illinois | Real photo postcards and other; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 7 | Postcards from locales other than IL or IA | Real photo postcards; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |
| Box 3 Folder 8 | Postcards from locales other than IL or IA | Not real photo postcards; correspondence between Helen Scott and siblings ca 1909-1910 |

Box 4 – Personal and Business Documents
1894 City of Davenport Certificates of vaccination
1858-1880’s Danish papers including
- Birth info Helen
- Marriage info Peter & Elena
Passport? – Christian Peter Christensen
Insurance documents
Miscellaneous documents
Birthday wishes from President Nixon to Alvina Christensen 1972
W-2 forms 1943-1952 of Helen Scott from employer Clarissa C. Cook Home
U.S. Income Tax Returns 1942-1944 Carl Christensen
Letter and note due 1924 Carl & Karen Christensen to Helen Scott
Deeds and mortgages
Misc. pertaining to 1925 North Howell St. Davenport Iowa
1962 correspondence regarding family history

Box 5 – Ephemera
The Prudential Insurance Company of America
   Premium Receipt Book
   Two receipts
Original turkey note
Danish Sisterhood Society
   By-laws 1923 for Davenport Lodge Number 3
5 Receipts for U. S. Government bonds purchased June 17, 1944 by Carl Christensen
WWII Selective Service Registration Card April 1942
WWI Classification notification Jun 1918
Leather item engraved in gold “Pocket Letter Holder   Carl Christensen   Compliments of Mueller Lumber Company Tri City Yards” - fair condition
German Savings Bank 1869-1909
   2.75” long sterling pocket knife, two blades. Inscribed as above on one side; Davenport Iowa on other with designs

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“Charga-Plate Associates of Davenport” for better service
Small metal plate bearing name and address of Mrs. C. Christensen 1925 N. Howell St.
Davenport IA A. In leather case. Measures 1.5 x 2.5”
Second Annual Booster Dinner given to the employees [sic] of Harned and Von Maur
Tuesday, February 29, 1916 -- 1916 Davenport city directory lists Alvina Christensen employed by
Harned & Von Maur as a seamstress
Miscellaneous ephemera
Hinky, Dinky Parlez Vous (1943) from Snug Harbor
Davenport Flyers, Inc. By-Laws & Regulations – Cram Field
Iowa Aeronautics Commission lists of airports, radio frequencies, etc.
Robert Krause Company (Davenport, Iowa) – Crow Over-Alls “don’t Scratch Matches on the Wall”
Jno. C. Matthes & Bros. Laundry Soaps
Ink blotters
Northwest Bank & Trust – electronic code number
Schlegel Rexall Drug Stores – Wampole’s Preparation; Bird Series 2
Schlegel Rexall Drug Stores – Wampole’s Creo Terpin Compound; Bird Series 5
Scharff’s 150 Year Easter Sunday Calendar clipped from newspaper

Box 6 – Davenport Public Schools items
Davenport High School Commencement Programs for Jan. 1936, June 1937, Jan. 1942
Certificates of Promotion 1894, 1895 [3 copies]
Grammar School diplomas signed by Supt. J. B. Young 1895, 1898
Composition books – six
Book-keeping ledger – one
Medal for Deportment & Regularity of Attendance & General Progress [Kuhnen Medal]
Helen Christensen, third grade, 1894
Report cards
1897 School No. 4, teacher Laura Camp
1936 West Intermediate School, teacher Katherine Meyer

Box 7 – Diaries
Diaries 1930s-1960s

Box 8 – Ephemeral items
Jacobsen wooden cigar box – neighbors in 1900
Confirmation 1899 St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church for Alvina Christensen – rolled; dry & brittle
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
Badge and ribbon in very good condition and original envelope from
The Whitehead & Hoag Co.
Local Union No. 554 Davenport, Iowa
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
Due Books for Carl Christensen
1919-1922
1923-1926
1927-1930
1931-1934
1935-1938

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1943-1946
1947-1950
1951-1954
1955-1958
1959-1962
Due Book for Hans Hulbe
1911-1913

Fraternal Order of Eagles – possibly belonged to Mr. George SCOTT, husband of Helen Christensen.
    Badge - Davenport Aerie No. 235
    Small red paper square with red, white & blue ribbon “Rock Island Aerie, No. 956 June 16, 1908”
Three “Time Books” keeping track of hours worked and/or expenses for various addresses. One includes pays stubs for Carl Christensen.
1916 calendar book – household items and prices. May be keeping track of work done for people or may be items purchased. Miss Meta Wisch  824 West 4th Street. Employer Robert Krause Co.
Cash Book lists taxes, rent, supplies for various addresses 1942-1957
American Commercial and Savings Bank – passbook Miss Alvina Christensen
    Northwest Davenport Savings Bank. Washington and Union Streets
    passbook for Alvina Christensen 1914 – 1923 [by-laws of bank in English language in front; German language in back of book]
    passbook for Elena Marie Christensen 1919-1932 [ English language only ]
    Our Tenth Anniversary – leaflet describing the story of how the bank began and progressed 1912-1922. Includes images of officers and directors
Northwest Bank & Trust Company – Always plenty of parking space
    Savings passbook Helen Scott estate, Carl Christensen, executor