

Howd / Mosher Family Collection

A Finding Aid



Edwin Cook Howd and Mary Warner Gear Howd of Nunda

Livingston County Historian's Office

5 Murray Hill Dr.

Mt. Morris, NY 14510

December 2018

Prepared by Holly C. Watson, Deputy Livingston County Historian

I. Collection Summary

Title	Howd / Mosher Family Collection
Collection No.	C165
Extent	.75 linear foot
Date Range	1818-c.1960 (bulk 1852-1917)
Abstract	<p>This collection comprises correspondence, personal papers, and photographs created and preserved primarily by the Edwin Cook Howd family of Nunda, Livingston County, New York; the William Henry Mosher family of Nunda and Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan; and the Byron and Grace Anna Mosher Dawes family of Owosso, Michigan. The collection includes correspondence from relatives of Mary Warner Gear Howd from the New York City area, some business and estate papers, genealogical material, and Howd and Mosher family daguerreotypes, including one of William Henry Mosher while a gold miner in California. There is particularly good representation of Sarah Jane Howd McCartney in the form of three images of her, as well as some of her original poetry from Nunda and several love letters from Daniel D. T. Hadden of Mamaroneck, New York, in 1856.</p>
Languages	English.
Access and Restrictions	<p>Use of the documents in the collection is for serious research and by request and permission of the Livingston County Historian's Office. Any use of the material in publications must be cited as follows, "Courtesy of Livingston County Historian's Office, New York". Additionally, all documents should be handled with care.</p> <p>To arrange to conduct research with the documents in the collection, contact Amie Alden, Livingston County Historian by mail at: 5 Murray Hill Drive, Mount Morris, NY, by phone at (585) 243-7955 or (585) 335-1730 or by e-mail at Historian@co.livingston.ny.us.</p>
Copyright	There are no items subject to copyright.

Associated Places Cohocton, Steuben County, New York
 Mamaroneck, Westchester County, New York
 New York, New York
 Nunda, Livingston County, New York
 Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan
 Rye, Westchester County, New York
 Springfield, Massachusetts

Associated Names

Edwin Cook Howd (1803-1881)
 Mary Warner Gear Howd (1806-1871)
 Frances Caroline Howd (1841-1855)
 Mary Elizabeth Howd (1828-1837)
 Sarah Jane "Jennie" Howd McCartney (1826-1897)
 Anna Eliza Howd Mosher (1846-1910)
 William Henry Mosher (1832-1885)
 Tillie Aberle
 Emma Augusta Howd Copeland (1809-)
 Alfred Minott Copeland (1830-)
 Grace Anna Mosher Dawes (1870-1960)
 Byron Martin Dawes (1866-)
 Henry W. Gear (New York, New York)
 S. W. Gear
 Letitia A. Gear
 Oliver Gear
 Tillie Gear
 Mrs. Mary Gear
 Daniel D. T. Hadden
 Nan H. Horton (Palmyra, New York)
 Jerusha McNary Howd
 Henry G. Mosher (Eaton Rapids, Michigan)
 Lucy Mosher Conner
 Levi D. Mosher
 Alex McGrew
 H. M. Bell
 George Watson (Cleveland, Ohio)
 Emma E. Mosher
 Caroline Mosher (Mrs. Samuel Mosher)
 Jesse T. Smith
 Susan M. Gear Smith
 Alexander Howd Mosher (1868-1944)
 Annabelle Grace Mosher Woodard (1925-)
 Edwin William Mosher
 Henry Wells (New York, New York)

II. Biographical and Background Information

Edwin Cook Howd (1803-1881) was married in 1824 to Mary Warner Gear (1806-1871), and their children were Sarah Jane “Jennie” or S. Jennie Howd McCartney (1826-1897), Mary Elizabeth Howd (1828-1837), Frances Caroline Howd (1841-1855) and Anna Eliza Howd Mosher (1846-1910). The Howds spent most of their lives in Nunda and are buried there at Oakwood Cemetery.

Anna was married to William Henry Mosher (1832-1885) in about 1862 and the couple moved to Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan, settling permanently by about 1866. Their surviving children were Alexander H. Mosher (1868-1944), Grace Anna Mosher Dawes (1870-1960), and Edwin William Mosher.

Grace was married to Byron Martin Dawes in 1890 and she was primarily responsible for preserving the materials in this collection in what the family called “Aunt Grace’s Trunk.” Diane Mosher Collier donated the materials in this collection as part of a larger bundled purchase by the Livingston County Historical Society and Museum in November 2018. The ephemera and most of the photographs were donated to the County Historian’s Office, while the Museum kept several textile items and objects. These included a coverlet woven in Mt. Morris in 1838, needlework samplers by Frances Caroline Howd, and a few assorted daguerreotypes and letters.

III. Arrangement and Access Notes

The materials in this collection arrived in bundles which, when unfolded, did not appear to have distinct organization; they were therefore sorted generally by recipient and placed chronologically in folders. The daguerreotypes and convex photographs were stored in a small cardboard box or were loose when acquired, and were rehoused into acid- and lignin-free archival boxes and/or tissue. All print photographs, daguerreotypes, and convex photographs were scanned and are available in digital form from the County Historian. Those related items retained by the Livingston County Historical Society and Museum were either photocopied for inclusion in the collection or digitized and shared with the County Historian’s Office.

IV. Contents List

- Box 1** Daguerreotypes and convex glass photographs of Howds, Mosher's, and Dawes (15 items)
- Box 1 F1** Howd and Mosher genealogy: family records, notes, clippings, and DAR applications
- Box 1 F2** Letters to and from Edwin C. Howd, 1837-1879; also co-partnership agreements with George F. Ladd, 1837, and Nunda Fire Warden appointments, 1848-1862
- Box 1 F3** Letters to and from Mary Warner Gear Howd, 1827-1869
- Box 1 F4** Letters to Anna Eliza Howd Mosher, 1858-1871
- Box 1 F5** Letters to Anna Eliza Howd Mosher, 1884-1908
- Box 1 F6** Letters to William Henry Mosher, c. 1862-1884
- Box 1 F7** Letters to Miss Sarah Jane "Jennie" Howd, 1856-1881
- Box 1 F8** Letters to Sarah Jane "Jennie" Howd McCartney, 1882-1893
- Box 1 F9** Poetry and drawings by Miss Sarah Jane "Jennie" Howd, c. 1852-1855
- Box 1 F10** Copies of letters from Philo Mosher to family during Civil War, 1863-1865, and letter regarding Philo's death in 1881
- Box 1 F10** Assorted Owosso, Michigan items regarding Mosher descendants, 1878-1885
- Box 1 F11** Letters to Grace Anna Mosher Dawes, 1881-1944
- Box 1 F12** Assorted Gear and Howd items, including locks of hair, letter to Mrs. Mary Gear, and Henry W. Gear business items
- Box 1 F13** Photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Henry McCartney and Grace Anna Mosher Dawes (8 items)
- Electronic Files** Images of Frances Caroline Howd; William Henry Mosher; and William Henry Mosher's siblings and mother (3 items)

IV. Related Materials

**Livingston County Historical Society and Museum
Geneseo, New York**

Textiles, several images, needlework samplers, and accessories related to the Howd / Mosher Family Collection were retained.