

Catamount Hill Association Collection
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The Catamount Hill Association was formed in 1875, as former residents of the Catamount Hill area in Colrain, Massachusetts gathered together for a reunion. This reunion went so well, that others were planned. Every five years, the group will gather together to renew old acquaintances, visit sites in Colrain, and remember the past. The Association expanded their scope to include not only reunions, but also preservation of historic and natural features of the Catamount Hill area.

This collection was put together by members of the Association over time. In July 2016 the collection was donated to the Historic Deerfield Library. The collection consists of photographs, books, pamphlets, account books, a scrapbook, a diary, and memorabilia. In April 2022 additional items were added to the collection.

Box 1

Association account book dating from 1890.

Booklet titled "From Homesteads to Cellar Holes on Catamount Hill, Colrain, Massachusetts."
Reprinted from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Volume 96 (1942), pages 60-69. Donated by Prentice Crosier, 2016. (2 copies)

Booklet titled "Report of the Third Catamount Hill Reunion, Coleraine, Mass. August 13 and 14, 1885". Published in 1886 by Mrs. W. B. Walden, Book and Job Printer, North Adams, Mass. Donated by Prentice Crosier 2016.

Booklet titled "The first School-house Flag" published by The Catamount Hill Association 1912. Provenance: Freeman Davenport, Elmer Davenport, Florence Davenport Reynolds.

Catamount Hill Association 1875-1900 - A book published in 1901. Case bound cover added circa 1985 by Ralph and Frances Crosier.

Dennis Rice's Ledger and Farm Diary beginning in 1869. Donated by his descendant Alex Marte from California. [Dennis Rice and his wife Clarissa Maxam participated in the gold Rush.]

Farm Diary of Levi Davenport. Brief entries from January 1, 1883 to January 29, 1884. Levi Davenport (1804-1885) lived on Catamount Hill all his life. Provenance: His son Freeman Davenport (1848-1923), his grandson Elmer Davenport (1895-1969), his great-granddaughter Florence Davenport Reynolds.

Francis Nims Thompson documents—a letter dated July 31, 1935 from Thompson to Ruth Purrington sending his regrets about missing the reunion; a typewritten address given by

Thompson in 1940, mentioning events in his father's life; a typewritten address given by Thompson in 1925 and mentions Thompson's Colrain roots.

Manuscript titled: "A Study of the Migration Patterns of the Residents of Catamount Hill, Colrain, Massachusetts, 1775-1870." Undergraduate Honors thesis, Department of History, by Sarah E. Cano, University of Massachusetts, Boston, Massachusetts. Fall 1991. The author later returned to her birth name, Sarah E. Johnson. She is a descendant of Hill resident, Sam Brown.

"Old-Time New England" Vol. xxvi No. 4 April 1936. Contains a story written by Colrain resident Adelaide R. Kemp titled "The First Recorded Schoolhouse Flag". From Florence Davenport Reynolds.

Photographs: "Indians", tepees, and a photograph of a log building with horse and rider. Purchased 2010 from Nancy Dole Books and Ephemera, Shelburne Falls, MA. These are images from a Catamount Hill Association pageant at Hillside Park in Colrain, August 1912. These images were clipped from a photo album and mounted back-to-back. Donated by Prentice Crosier 2016; 3 color snapshots of Churchill Schoolhouse circa 1989. Donated by Prentice Crosier, 2016; 8 different reprints of photographs taken by Maude Maria Shippee with Brownie 2A camera during the 1912 pageant. The pictures show the early settlers and the raising of the schoolhouse; photograph of Dr. Ammon Farnsworth Davenport (1827-1911); photograph of Albert J. Davenport (1845-1876).

"Puzzle of Catamount Hill. Being a report of pioneer life in Franklin County, Massachusetts during the century after the War of Independence 1780-1880" written by Elmer F. Davenport. Copyright 1969.

Quinquennial Registration Book. Used continuously since 1890 to record attendance at quinquennial reunions.

Quinquennial Meetings-Misc.—List of dates and locations of meetings from 1875-1995; review of the 8th Meeting Reunion 1915; Report of the 9th Meeting Reunion 1920; Notes of the agenda of the 14th Meeting Reunion 1940

Contents of a small scrapbook assembled by Florence Davenport Reynolds. Contains many items including newspaper clippings, vintage as well as late 20th century photos, some of family members with what is perhaps a 1912 reproduction Catamount flag.

Box 2

Block of wood that came from the first building of the First Baptist Church of Colrain. Most of the founding members were Catamount Hill residents, including Joseph Davenport. The church was located on Adamsville road. Donated by Sarah Davenport Clough.

Commemorative medal in a paper envelope with handwritten note reading "Medal from U.S. Treasury Dept. to Mr. F. L. Davenport, del. by Lorenzo Griswold." Lorenzo Griswold was the owner of the cotton mills in Colrain and in Turners Falls, MA. Given to Freeman Levi Davenport. The metal is from the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, 1998. Donated by Freeman Davenport's great-granddaughter, Tawn Reynolds Feeney, in 2016.

Davenport Family Photo Album. 19th century photo album. Provenance: Freeman Davenport, Elmer Davenport, Florence Davenport Reynolds, Catamount Hill Association.

"Elder" Edward Davenport's hymnal. Printed in Greenfield, Massachusetts 1817. Leather bound. found in a used bookshop by Ronald Warriner of Vernon, Vermont. Donated to the Association after the 1990 Quinquennial Reunion because he read about the Association in a newspaper and contacted Prentice Crosier. Believed to be carried in Rev. Davenport's saddlebags on his missions to Indian communities. Davenport (1774-1864) was minister of the 2nd Baptist Church of Colrain, MA and the subject of a portrait by Hadley-born painter Joseph Goodhue Chandler at Colrain Historical Society.

Memorabilia scrapbook containing photos, letters, clippings, flyer, and card mailings of Association events, arranged chronologically by year. Mostly covers 1980 through the 2016. Includes a few items from early 20th century and the 1930s and 1940s. Compiled by the Association in January, 2016.

Silver-plated coffin plaques of Susan Davenport (1814-1885) and Levi Davenport (1804-1885). Susan's inscription reads: "Susan Davenport Died June 15th, 1885 AE 70 yrs." Levi's inscription reads: "Levi Davenport . Died, Apr. 2nd, 1885. AE 80 yrs." Donated in 2015 by Tawn Feeney.

Memory book of Martha Shippee Farley (1809-1907). She was a teacher in Rutland, NY and later married Isaac Farley and lived on the Charlemont side of Catamount Hill. The book contains genealogical references of the Farley family, along with a letter from her cousin Ellen A. Ives.