

Inventory of the

**H.W. Fay Portrait
Collection**

In the

Regional History Center

RC 26

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Paul Nehring, Sr. donated the H.W. Fay Collection of portraits to the Northern Illinois University Archives on February 16, 1966. In May 1978, University Archivist, Mr. J. Joseph Bauxer, transferred the collection to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center, literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to material in the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 7.0
 Number of containers: 10
 Northern Illinois Regional History Center
 Collection 26

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Herbert W. Fay Collection contains 9 boxes of material directly related to and including Fay's portrait collection. Box 1, housing material dated between 1864-1945, contains several file folders of general and personal correspondence and portrait loan agency clippings, all reflective of Fay's occupation as an historical portrait collector. Also included in this group are printed materials (broadsides leaflets, etc) related to Fay's social and political interests and his participation in fraternal organizations. Boxes 2-8 contain Fay's portrait collection. Boxes 2-4 contain old portraits of DeKalb County citizens, Chicagoans and Illinois state officials. Box 4 also contains old photographs of the DeKalb County area. Boxes 5-7 contain portraits of people representing all spheres of life. Box 8 contains portraits which remain to be identified, 4 books and a tin plate of Horace Fay. Glass lantern slides, dating from about 1899 to 1921, make up Box 9. About 30 of the 66 lantern slides deal with DeKalb and the N.I.S.N.S./N.I.S.T.C. [now N.I.U.] campus. [See also the Abraham Lincoln related lantern slides in UA 11 Box 5]

The portraits found in boxes 2-8 were assembled by Fay during the period dating approximately 1890 to 1920. The date recorded on the reverse of the photograph is generally the year in which Fay received it. Subject and qualifier indices are available.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Herbert W. Fay was born February 28, 1859, in Squaw Grove Township, DeKalb County, Illinois, and was the son of Edwin H. and Ann Haywood Fay, natives of New York and Maine, and the grandson of Horace W. Fay who came to DeKalb County from New York in 1838. Mr. Fay attended the common schools for his primary education and studied for four years at Monmouth College. After completing his course work, he taught school briefly and then came to Hinckley, purchasing a third interest in the Hinckley Review in partnership with the Tomblin

Brothers. In 1882 he became sole proprietor. On September 24, 1884, Fay married Nellie Sebree and moved from Hinckley to DeKalb where he purchased a half interest in the DeKalb Review with D.W. Tyrell. In DeKalb Fay was a county surveyor and served for three years on the board of education.

Mr. Fay was a collector of historical portraits. This collection was begun by Fay in 1869 and contained fifty thousand photographs of some of the most notable people in the world. His collection included ninety different sittings of Lincoln and twenty-five of Longfellow. He was the owner of the McNulta negative of Lincoln and had photographs of kings, queens, presidents, ex-presidents, judges of the supreme court, United States Senators, representatives, authors, scientists, inventors, artists, etc. He became the associate editor of National Cyclopedia of American Biography and many of the portraits used to illustrate the work are from his collection. He furnished 500 pictures of prominent people for the Americanized edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica and his series of Lincoln portraits were used in McClure's Life of Lincoln. In later years Mr. Fay went to Springfield as custodian of the Abraham Lincoln Monument.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Ames, Daniel C.
 Archaeology
 Broadsides
 DeKalb (Ill.)
 Fay, Herbert W.
 Grand Army of the Republic
 Knights of Pythias
 Lantern Slides
 Maple Park (Ill.)
 N.I.U.
 Photographs
 Suffrage
 United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1A-B	Correspondence, 1880-1945
	2	Personal Correspondence, 1900-1945
	3	Daniel C. Ames Letters, July 1864-June 1865, includes information on Ames family, and 52 nd Illinois Infantry
	4	Talbot Letters to H. W. Fay; Ichang, China 1912
	5	Photo Service Letters, 1839-1932
	6	Portrait Loan Agency Clippings
	7	Political Campaign Literature, 1905-1933
	8	Social Welfare Literature, includes Suffrage, 1897-1917
	9	Knights of Pythias, 1905-1944; Odd Fellows, 1924
	10	Civil War Rosters, 1886-1915
	11	Civil War Broadside - Sherman's Battles, Lincoln portrait
	12	Entertainment, lectures, revivals, 1864-1921
	13	Marriage Announcements and Obituaries, 1892-1917
	14	Fay Photo Engravings and Business Cards
	15	Mastadon Bones, Jacob Hockstrawser Farm, Maple Park, 1907 (9 Photographs, 2 Proof Sheets)
2		Photos of DeKalb County Citizens (960)
3		Photos of Chicago Judges (30), Chicago Mayors (15), Chicago World's Fair (14), Chicagoans (149), DeKalb (10), DeKalb County Citizens (288), DeKalb Group (10), DeKalb School (69), Illinois Towns: Austin, Illinois (1), Cortland, Illinois (2), Geneva, Illinois (1), Hinckley, Illinois (5), Kingston, Illinois (1), Lee, Illinois (1), Malta, Illinois (8), Maple Park, Illinois (1), Shirley, Illinois (1), Squaw Grove, Illinois (1), Sycamore, Illinois (4), NIU Faculty (106), NIU Students (179), Northern Illinois (2)
4		Photos of Churches (20), DeKalb and DeKalb County (823), DeKalb City View (6), DeKalb Commercial District (16), DeKalb County Citizens (35), DeKalb County Musicians (7), DeKalb Industries (36), Homes (61), Illinois Governors (21), Illinois Judge (1), Illinois Lawyers (49), Illinois Merchants and Manufacturers (29), Illinois State Officers (4), Illinois State Representatives (36), Illinoisans,

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
4		Miscellaneous (18), Judges, Illinois Supreme Court (24), Schools (13), Senators from Illinois (22), Sycamore (3), U.S. Presidents (24), and U.S. Representative from Illinois (19)	
5		Photos of Actors (79), Actresses (147), Agriculture (5), Animals and Birds (66), Army (21), Artists (135), Caricature (19), Civil War (24), Clergy, Catholic (58), Clergy, Protestant (142), Criminals (4), Dancers (2), Educators (92), Entertainers (2), Ephemera (7), Feminist and Social Reformers (17)	
6		Photos of Frontier and West (35), Indians (16), Indians: Apache (9), Brule Sioux (2), Eskimo (2), Hopi (2), Kiowa (1), Modoc (1), Navajo (2), Nez-Perce (1), Ogallala Sioux (1), Panwee (1), Piegan (3), Pima (1), Pueblo (1), Seminole (2), Shawnee (2), Sioux (27), Ute (2), Umatilla (1), White Mountain Apache (1), Laborers (1), Lawyers (4), Literary Figures - Female (194), Literary Figures - Male (118), Magicians (2), Manufacturers (8), Miscellaneous (8), Musicians (84), Navy (16), Nobel Prize Winners (5), Philosophers (7), Physicians (561), Presidents, Foreign (11), Presidents, U.S. (79), Press Members (295), Prime Ministers (5), and Prize Fighters (7)	
7		Photos of Candidates (36), Explorers (11), Foreign Countries: Abyssinia (1), Algeria (2), Bavaria (2), Belgium (1), Canada (48), China (7), Cuba (4), Denmark (2), Egypt (5), England (46), France (45), Germany (18), Greece (3), Holland (3), India (4), Ireland (1), Italy (6), Japan (12), Korea (1), Lithuania (1), Madagascar (1), Norway (2), Persia (1), Philippines (1), Russia (14), Samoa (5), Serbia (2), Siam (1), Spain (17), Sweden (5), Turkey (4), Religious Figures (3), Royalty (12), Scientists and Inventors (212), Society (6), Temperance Groups (2), Vice Presidents (22), Women (54)	
8		Unidentified Photographs (418) Books:	
	1	Life and Moral Axioms of Confucius by Marcenus R.K. Wright, 1870	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
8	2	Governmental Instructor by J.B. Shurtleff, 1866	
	3	Encyclopedia of Valuable Information, n.d.	
	4	Reptile Life by Walford B. Johnson and Stanley C. Johnson, 1912	
	5	Tin Plate Portrait, Horace Fay, n.d.	
9		Lantern Slides, ca. 1899-1921 (66) NISNS and NISTC (25), DeKalb (2), Indian Trail (2), Advertisements (3), U.S. Capitol (1), Unidentified building (1), Indians (4), Nature and landscapes (17), Dan O'Leary (1), Gen. Foch (1), Woodrow Wilson (1), Unidentified people (8).	
		<u>ADDENDUM</u>	
10	1	H.W. Fay Correspondence, 1893-1920	
	2	Ellwood Telegram, 1885 [copies]	
	3	A.W. Fisk Correspondence, 1886-1887	
	4	John Lewis Correspondence, 1887-1888	
	5	Henderson & Olson, Lee, 1913	
	6	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1886-1948	