

James family papers, 1841-1986

Overview of the Collection

Creator	James family
Title	James family papers
Dates	1841-1986 (inclusive) 1841 1986
Quantity	.42 cubic feet (2 boxes, 1 package)
Collection Number	3575 (Accession No. 3575-005)
Summary	Papers of a family of immigrants from Cornwall, England, who lived in Wisconsin before travelling by wagon train to Oregon and Washington State in the early 1850s.
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	The papers are open to all users.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Samuel James, his wife Anna (Foxwell) James, and their four sons left Cornwall, England, for America in 1842. In England they were successful farmers and landowners, who emigrated more for political and philosophical reasons than because of economic hardship.

The James family first stayed in a Cornish settlement near Racine, Wisconsin, in the summer of 1842. They lived there for seven years, but it is clear from the name they chose for their fifth son, Richard Oregon, born in 1846, that the Oregon country had already caught their fancy. The extremes of climate in Wisconsin, which caused the children to be ill much of the winter, as well as published accounts of the good life (and mild weather) in Oregon, eventually motivated the family to journey westward.

The journey was undertaken in two stages. Setting out in October, 1850, the family spent the winter in Dudley, Iowa. There they prepared for their Oregon Trail journey. They resumed travel in April of 1851 and arrived at their destination on September 9 of the same year.

The family's first Oregon homestead was on the Clackamas River near Milwaukie, Oregon. Damp weather, poor pasturage, and a return of the illness experienced in Wisconsin encouraged them to seek a better location the following year. On October 12, 1852, they settled at Grand Mound Prairie on the Chehalis River, northwest of present-day Centralia, Washington.

The family prospered at Grand Mound Prairie and got along well with the native Chehalis Tribe. During the Indian wars of 1855 and 1856 (which involved tribes other than the Chehalis), they found it necessary, with other local white settlers, to construct a stockade, which was called Fort Henness.

In 1859 Samuel and his grown sons established new homesteads at Lone Rock (now known as James Rock) on Grays Harbor, at the mouth of the Chehalis River in Washington. They travelled frequently between the homesteads.

Samuel James died in 1866 at the age of 61. Anna Maria died 13 years later at the age of 73. Their children and descendants continued to live and prosper in the settlement which became known as Jamestown, situated between the present-day Washington towns of Rochester and Grand Mound.

Content Description

These papers represent some of the earliest documentation of pioneer settlements in Washington Territory. The collection consists primarily of the correspondence of Samuel James and his wife, Anna Maria Foxwell James, with their relatives in the U.S. and Cornwall, along with letters exchanged among their descendants. The letters, along with a diary (photocopy), a writing, several publications, a photograph, and a program, provide glimpses into the family's thoughts and actions over a period of 70 years.

Also included are several later family histories (1980, 1986) that were written or co-authored by one of the donors of the papers, David James. These vivid accounts provide details of the family's movements and discussions of their motivations, as well as photographs, maps, drawings, and family trees.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

The creators' literary rights have been transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in four series:

- Personal papers
- James, Anna Maria (Foxwell)
- James, Samuel
- Shephard, Mary Ann Frances (James)

Acquisition Information

Two installments of material were acquired by the University of Washington Libraries from Esther Shephard. Included were a letter written by Anna Maria James to her sister Elizabeth in 1852 (donation date unknown) and a fourteen-page diary kept by Samuel James (donated in 1940). The original diary has been missing from the University of Washington Libraries since the 1950s; however, photostats had been made by Albert V. Shephard (grandson of Samuel) while conducting research for his book

Migration of a Family (privately printed in 1941). Photocopies of those photostats were part of a later gift from David James and are housed in folder 1/11.

David James donated materials in 1984, 1990, and 1991.

Processing Note

Processing of the papers was completed in 1993.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Personal papers

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Correspondence		
Box/Folder		
1/1	Foxwell, John to William James	1842
1/2	James, Samuel II to Thomas Foxwell	1856
1/3	James, Thomas to his fiancée, Harriet Bullen	1867
1/4	Laity, Eliza James to Washington Territory register, Vancouver, regarding land claim and reply	1888
1/5	Gartrell, Harry to his cousin Samuel James II	1888
1/6	Shephard, Lulu to father Ellis Shephard	1895
1/7	James, John Rogers to his sister	1896
1/8	Shephard, Louise Engelker to Ellis Shephard	1901
1/9	James, John Rogers to William James	undated
Box/Folder		
1/10	Birth record for the James children	1834-1842
Package:Oversize		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3	Marriage certificate of John James and Lottie Carroll	1904
Box/Folder		
1/11	Diary - Samuel James (copy)	circa 1830-1851
1/12	Photograph	1870
1/13	Program - presentation of memorial at Fort Hennes, Washington	1926
1/14	Covers	circa 1874 or 1877
1/15	Writing - "Family Stories as Told at Foxwell Family Reunion"	1983
Publications		
Box		
1	James, David A., <i>From Grand Mound to Scatter Creek</i>	1980
1	Todd, A. C. and David A. James, <i>Ever Westward the Land</i>	1986

James, Anna Maria (Foxwell)

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Incoming letters		
Box/Folder		
2/1	Unidentified From a friend in England.	undated
2/2	James, Samuel, husband of Anna Maria James	1863
2/3	Mitchell, James	1872
2/4	Stocking, Eliza James, daughter of Anna Maria James	1862
Outgoing letters		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/5	Foxwell, John, brother of Anna Maria James	1842
2/7	Foxwell, Elizabeth, sister of Anna Maria James Original and copy.	1852
2/8-9	Foxwell, John	1860
2/10	Brother	1864
2/11	Brother	1870
2/12	Foxwell, Elizabeth	1870
2/13	Foxwell, Mrs. Thomas	1870
2/14	Foxwell, John	1875

James, Samuel

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Incoming letters		
Box/Folder		
2/15	James, Anna Maria Foxwell, wife of Samuel James	1848
2/16	Johns, William	1848
2/17	Mitchell, James	1847
2/18	Mitchell, James	1850
2/18a	Foxwell, Thomas, brother of Anna Maria James	1851
2/19	Roundtree, J., neighbor of Samuel James	1854
Outgoing letters		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/20-21	Foxwell, John	1841
2/22	Foxwell, Thomas	1850
2/23	Foxwell, John	1870

Shephard, Mary Ann Frances (James)

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Incoming letters		
Box/Folder		
2/24	James, Samuel II, brother of Mary Ann Frances Shephard	1903
2/25	Shephard, Ellis, son of Mary Ann Frances Shephard	1907
2/26	Shephard, Lulu, daughter of Mary Ann Frances Shephard	undated
Outgoing letters		
Box/Folder		
2/27	Shephard, Ellis	1912
2/28	Shephard, Kathryn and Marjory, grandchildren of Mary Ann Frances Shephard	1912

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

British Americans--Washington (State)--Archives
 British Americans--Washington (State)--Correspondence
 Frontier and pioneer life--Washington (State)--Grays Harbor County
 Frontier and pioneer life--Washington (State)--Jamestown
 Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.)
 Overland journeys to the Pacific
 Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)
 Pioneers--Washington (State)--Archives

Pioneers--Washington (State)--Correspondence
Women pioneers--Washington (State)--Correspondence

Personal Names :

James, Anna Maria, 1806-1879

James, Samuel, 1805-1866

Family Names :

Foxwell family--Correspondence

James family--Archives

James family--Correspondence

Geographical Names :

Grays Harbor County (Wash.)--Description and travel

Grays Harbor County (Wash.)--Social life and customs

Jamestown (Wash.)--Description and travel

Jamestown (Wash.)--Social life and customs

Form or Genre Terms :

correspondence

Diaries

Publications

writings

2006



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