John Ainsworth Mills Family Papers, 1799-2002

Overview of the Collection

Creator Mills, John Ainsworth, 1930-
Title John Ainsworth Mills Family Papers
Dates 1799-2002 (inclusive)
1799 2002
1844-1965 (bulk)
1844 1965
Quantity 6 document cases and 1 flat box containing:
47 cartes-de-visites
38 cabinet photographs
7 daguerreotypes
1 ambrotype
9 glass lantern slides
7 photographic prints
manuscripts, printed materials, and ephemera
Collection Number Coll 1 (collection)
Summary Papers of the family of John Ainsworth (Jack) Mills, Portland, Or., banker and civic leader, including photographic materials, manuscripts, biographical and genealogical materials, and financial records. Included are materials relating to the Mills and Low families of New York City and Long Island, and the Lewis, Couch, and Ainsworth families of Portland, Or.
Repository Oregon Historical Society, Davies Family Research Library
Davies Family Research Library
Oregon Historical Society
1200 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR
97205
Telephone: 503-306-5240
Fax: 503-219-2040
libreference@ohs.org
Access Restrictions The collection is open to the public.
Languages English
Sponsor Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Funding for preparing this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Biographical Note

John Ainsworth (Jack) Mills, Portland banker and civic leader, was born in Portland, Or., on September 25, 1930, the son of Abbot Low Mills, Jr. (1898-1986) and Katherine Ainsworth Mills (1903-1993). He
is the descendent of many prominent families in Portland and in the New York City area, including the
Mills, Low, Smith, Couch, Lewis, and Ainsworth families.

The Low family first gained prominence as merchant seamen and ship owners in 18th century New
England. Many family members settled in Salem, Mass. Around 1830, as the Salem harbor became
difficult to navigate, Seth Low (1782-1853) moved with his wife Mary Porter Low (1786-1872) and
their children to Brooklyn, N.Y. There the family achieved great success in shipping and overseas
trade. Their activities extended as far as China, and they became leaders in the silk and tea trade,
among other commodities. Their ships included the well-known clippers, Houqua and N.B. Palmer.
Seth Low's children included Abiel Abbot Low (1811-1893), who served as the head of the firm of A.
A. Low & Brothers; the ship captain Charles Porter Low (1824-1913), who later became a prominent
land developer in Santa Barbara, Calif., after 1873; Edward Allen Low (1817-1898); and Josiah Orne
Low (1821-1895). A daughter, Ellen Porter Low (1827-1898), married Ethelbert Smith Mills, scion of a
wealthy land-owning Long Island family. A son of Abiel Abbot Low, Seth Low (1850-1916) was a well-
regarded political figure who served as mayor of Brooklyn, president of Columbia University, and reform
mayor of the consolidated New York City.

The Mills Family was connected to the Lows, as noted above, through the marriage of Ellen Porter
Low to Ethelbert Smith Mills (1815-1873), but also through the marriage of Josiah Orne Low to Martha
Elizabeth Mills (1819-1884). The Mills family came to America from England in 1630, when they settled
in Jamaica, Long Island. In 1683 Timothy Mills purchased extensive properties near Smithtown, Long
Island, including what is now Mills Pond. The family later intermarried with the Smith, Helme, and Low
families. One son of Ethelbert Smith Mills and Ellen Porter Low Mills was Abbot Low Mills (1858-1927),
who came to Oregon around 1883 and eventually settled in Portland.

In the east, Abbot Low Mills pursued a somewhat independent career, starting a tea business as a
teenager in Richmond, Va. He later graduated from Harvard University (1881) and entered the family
business in New York City. After moving to Oregon around 1882 with a Harvard classmate, William
Addison Howe, he tried chicken farming in Yamhill County, then opened a bank in Colfax, Wash., with
Charles F. Adams in 1885. Mills helped to found the town of Pullman, Wash., and may have served in
the Washington territorial legislature. In 1889 he and Adams organized the Security Savings and Trust
Company in Portland. In 1899 Mills became vice president of Portland's First National Bank and in
1903 was elected its president. He was active in numerous political and civic organizations throughout
the state. Elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1903, he became Speaker of the House
in 1904.

In 1891 Abbot Low Mills married Evelyn Scott Lewis (1865-1936), the daughter of prominent Portland
merchant Cicero Hunt Lewis and granddaughter of pioneer John Heard Couch, who had developed the
original city center. Among the couple's children were Abbot Low Mills, Jr. (1898-1986), who followed
his father into a banking career. In 1924 the younger Mills married Katherine Ainsworth, daughter of
banker John Churchill Ainsworth (1870-1943), himself the son of a leading Portland businessman John
Commingers Ainsworth (1822-1893). Mills, Jr. worked first as vice president of the First National Bank,
then moved in the late 1900s to the U.S. National Bank, which had been founded by the Ainsworths
and was headed by Mills's father-in-law. In 1952 Abbot Low Mills, Jr., was appointed a governor of the
Federal Reserve Bank in Washington, D.C. by President Harry Truman. He was re-appointed under
succeeding presidents and served until 1965. His wife, Katherine Ainsworth Mills, served as the head of
volunteers for the American Red Cross.

The Ainsworth Family began in Oregon with John Commingers Ainsworth (1822-1893), who was one
of the most important business and civic leaders in late 19th century Portland. Born into a poor family
in Ohio, Ainsworth began working on river steamboats in his teens, eventually becoming a captain on
the Mississippi River. He came to California during the 1849 gold rush, moved to Oregon the following
year, and took command of the Willamette River steamboat Lot Whitcomb. He went on to build and
operate a fleet of steamboats on the Columbia River and founded the Oregon Steam Navigation Company in 1860, and later the Oregon Portage Railroad. Ainsworth's dominance of transportation on the Columbia River was a boon to the development of Portland, which came to be a nexus of inland waterways and ocean-going shipping. Eventually he founded the Ainsworth National Bank, which became the United States National Bank in 1902.

Leadership of the bank passed to Ainsworth's son, John Churchill Ainsworth (1870-1943), whose daughter Katherine married Abbot Low Mills, Jr., in 1924. Their children included John (Jack) Ainsworth Mills (1930- ), who was educated at Cornell University and became vice president of the U. S. National Bank. In 1952 he married Katherine Leadbetter (1932- ), member of another prominent Portland family. It was Jack Mills who preserved the present collection of family papers and presented them to the Oregon Historical Society in 2002.

Content Description

The collection consists of a variety of items from various periods in the family's history. The most complete segment is the photographic documentation of the Low family in the mid 19th century, including albums of cartes-de-visites and cabinet photographs, probably compiled by Ellen Porter Low Mills (1827-1898). Included here are portraits from the Matthew Brady studio in New York City, probably dating from the 1860s. Mainly represented in these albums are the children and grandchildren of Seth Low (1782-1853) and Mary Porter Low (1786-1872). Also of note is a collection of daguerreotypes documenting this same generation. Among the photographic prints, of note is an oval enlargement of a portrait of Portland merchant Cicero Hunt Lewis.

Among the manuscript materials of particular interest are two legal documents concerning the slaves of William Mills (1757-1839), of Smithtown, N.Y. Also included are steamboat pilot's licenses of John Commingers Ainsworth (1822-1893) dating from the early years of his nautical career in Oregon. The appointment diaries of Abbot Low Mills, Jr., document his activities as a governor of the Federal Reserve Board in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The financial records relate mainly to three family members, Ellen Porter Low Mills, her son Thomas Helme Mills (1850-1876), and John Commingers Ainsworth. Of particular note are Ainsworth's two stock certificate books for the Crane and Driggs and the Gambrenus mining companies, containing information on investors and transactions.

The biographical and genealogical materials are helpful in understanding the complex relationships among the family members represented in the collection.

The artifacts received with the collection (now part of the Oregon Historical Society's artifact collection) include a pocket watch once owned by the writer Mark Twain and given to John Commingers Ainsworth, and a watch fob once belonging to John Heard Couch, an early Portland pioneer.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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John Ainsworth Mills Family Papers, 1799-2002
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**Preferred Citation**

John Ainsworth Mills Family Papers, Coll 1, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

**Administrative Information**

**Arrangement**

The Mills Family Papers are arranged into five series:

- **Series A. Biographical and genealogical materials, circa 1956-2002**
- **Series B. Manuscript materials, 1799-1965**
  - Subseries 1: Mills Family
  - Subseries 2: Ainsworth Family
- **Series C. Financial records, 1854-[circa 1910]**
  - Subseries 1: Mills Family
  - Subseries 2: Ainsworth Family
- **Series D. Ephemera, [circa 1880-1998]**
- **Series E. Photographic materials, 1844-1982**

**Custodial History**

Parts of the collection were created by various members of the Mills, Low, and related families. It is likely that the Low family photograph albums and the cased images were collected at first by Ellen Porter Low Mills (1827-1898), and passed down to her son Abbot Low Mills, and hence to his son, Abbot Low Mills, Jr., and grandson, the donor John Ainsworth Mills. The Ainsworth family materials came to the donor John Ainsworth Mills from his mother, Katherine Ainsworth Mills.

**Separated Materials**

The following items were transferred to the Oregon Historical Society Artifact Collection:

- Pocket watch, believed to have belonged to Mark Twain, given to John Commingers Ainsworth, circa 1880.
- Masonic medal awarded to John Commingers Ainsworth.
- Commemorative medal of the U.S. National Bank, Portland, Oregon, 1929.
- Corporate seal of the Ainsworth National Bank, Portland, Oregon.
- Watch fob in the form of a ship capstan, once worn by John Heard Couch.

**Related Materials**

The University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections, holds the papers of Abbot Low Mills (Ax 191 (i)); Abbot Low Mills, Jr. (Ax 199 (i), Ax 205, and A 236); John Commingers Ainsworth (Ax 11 (i) and MF 89); and John Churchill Ainsworth (Ax 796).

The Library of Congress, Manuscript Division, holds the Low-Mills family papers, 1767-1971 (bulk 1806-1940), (mm 81030619 ).
Bibliography


Detailed Description of the Collection

Series A: Biographical and genealogical materials, circa 1956-2002

This series contains privately printed pamphlets written by family members. Particularly detailed is the pamphlet "Old Low, old Low's son," by Abbot Low Moffat, which traces all descendents of the Seth Low and Mary Porter from the early 19th to the mid 20th centuries. "The White House Ashtray Caper" contains a reminiscence of President Richard Nixon by John Ainsworth Mills. Oversize genealogies trace the various branches of the Mills, Low, Couch, Lewis, and Ainsworth families.

The series is arranged alphabetically by title.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/3</td>
<td><em>My parents: Katherine Ainsworth, Abbot Low Mills, Jr.</em> By John Ainsworth Mills</td>
<td>2002 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td><em>Old Low, old Low's son: the descendants of Seth Low and Mary Porter; 1807-1956.</em> By Abbot Low Moffat. 1956.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>Pamphlets by Abbot Low Mills, Jr. <em>Abbot Low Mills, 1981 November</em> <em>Gran'ma Lewis, undated</em> <em>Sarah Heard Lewis, &quot;Aunt Sally&quot;, 1982 February</em> <em>Way back when.</em> 1983 November</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/1</td>
<td>Oversize genealogical charts</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series B: Manuscript materials, 1799-1965

Manuscript materials include handwritten documents, typescripts, and certificates. Of special note are two documents relating to slaves owned by William Mills of Smithtown, Long Island. One is a manumission document for a slave named Robbin, dated 1799; and the other is a bill of sale for a slave named Clarissa and an unnamed girl, dated 1816. It should be noted that slavery was legal in New York State until 1827. The appointment diaries of Abbot Low Mills, Jr., cover his years as a governor of the Federal Reserve Bank, 1952-1965. The diaries are typescripts housed in ring binders and list Mills' meetings, appointments, and whereabouts. They do not contain personal comments or other annotations. Also included in this series are two certificates appointing Abbot Low Mills, Jr. to the Federal Reserve Bank, signed by presidents Harry Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Steamboat pilot licenses for John Commingers Ainsworth are signed by notable Portlanders, including John Heard Couch.

The series is arranged by family, thereunder chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 1: Mills Family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder</td>
<td>Document of manumission for the slave, Robbin, owned by William Mills</td>
<td>1799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/7</td>
<td>Document of sale for the slave, Clarissa, and unidentified girl, from William Mills to Richard Robinson</td>
<td>1816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>Appointment diaries of Abbot Low Mills, Jr., as a governor of the Federal Reserve Bank, Washington, D.C.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box/Folder</td>
<td>2 volumes</td>
<td>1952-1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/9</td>
<td>2 volumes</td>
<td>1956-1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>2 volumes</td>
<td>1960-1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/11</td>
<td>1 volume</td>
<td>1964-1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder</td>
<td>Certificate of appointment of Abbot Low Mills to the Federal Reserve Board, signed by Harry S. Truman</td>
<td>1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Container(s)</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>-------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/3</td>
<td>Certificate of appointment of Abbot Low Mills to the Federal Reserve Board, signed by Dwight D. Eisenhower</td>
<td>1958</td>
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</table>

**Subseries 2: Ainsworth Family**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>Steamboat pilot licenses of John Commingers Ainsworth</td>
<td>1860-1872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes letter of transmission from Abbot Low Mills, Jr., 1961.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Reminiscences of John Commingers Ainsworth, 1877, transcribed by his daughter Belle Ainsworth</td>
<td>1902 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manuscript in leather-bound notebook.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Railway passes of John Commingers Ainsworth</td>
<td>1880, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>Railway passes of G. W. Boschke (probably collected by the Ainsworth Family)</td>
<td>1911-1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/4</td>
<td>Certificate to John Churchill Ainsworth from the &quot;Oregon Voter&quot;</td>
<td>1943</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series C: Financial records, 1854-circa 1910**

The financial records come from the Mills and Ainsworth families. The Mills records relate to Ellen Porter Low Mills and include a checkbook used by her son Thomas as trustee for a post office property in Brooklyn, 1874, probably part of the legacy of her husband, Ethelbert Smith Mills, who had died the year before. The Ainsworth records include stock certificate books for the Gambrenus Gold and Silver Mining Company and the Crane and Driggs Gold and Silver Mining Company, both of Portland, Or., 1864 and 1869. These books were probably owned by John Commingers Ainsworth and contain stubs listing names of investors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subseries 1: Mills Family</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>Ellen Low Mills, checkbooks, Naussau National Bank and Franklin Trust Company, Brooklyn, N.Y.</td>
<td>1893-1895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>Ellen Low Mills, cancelled checks</td>
<td>1893</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

John Ainsworth Mills Family Papers, 1799-2002
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv98844
<table>
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<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/7-8</td>
<td>Thomas Helme Mills, checkbook and cancelled checks as trustee for post office property, Brooklyn, N.Y., Brooklyn Trust Company</td>
<td>1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>Ethelbert Smith Mills and Ellen Low Mills, miscellaneous checks and promissory notes</td>
<td>1854-1872</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subseries 2: Ainsworth Family**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>Checkbook, Ladd &amp; Tilton, Bankers, Portland, Or., probably owned by John Commingers Ainsworth</td>
<td>1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>Checkbook, First National Bank, Portland, Or., probably owned by John Commingers Ainsworth</td>
<td>1873-1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>Stock certificate book, Gambrenus Gold and Silver Mining Company, Portland, Or.</td>
<td>1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>Stock certificate book, Crane and Driggs Gold and Silver Mining Company</td>
<td>1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>Checkbook, Bank of British Columbia</td>
<td>1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Blank checks, United States National Bank, Portland, Or.</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series D: Ephemera, circa 1880-1998**

Of interest in the small amount of ephemera are calling cards for both Ellen Low Mills and her son, Abbot Low Mills.

The series is arranged by genre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder</td>
<td>Calling cards and cases for Ellen Low Mills, Abbot Low Mills, Liberta Jahn, and J.H. Valentine</td>
<td>circa 1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>Blotter book</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>Invitation to ball for the Oregon Historical Society's 100th anniversary and the opening of Johns Landing, 1998; and</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Series E: Photographic materials, circa 1850-1982

The photographic materials relate primarily to the Low family of New York and include a large number of cartes-de-visites, cabinet photographs, and daguerreotypes dating from around the 1860s to the 1880s. Most of the cartes-de-visites were contained in a photograph album that appears to have been compiled by Ellen Porter Low Mills. Among these is an image of the young Seth Low (1850-1916), who would become the mayor of New York City and president of Columbia University. The studios represented were located primarily in New York City and Brooklyn and include the studio of Mathew Brady. Also represented are a few Portland studios, including Joseph Buchtel. Although some of the images were originally identified, much of the identification came from comparison to other images of the same people. The word "probably" was used in cases where the identification was fairly certain, and "possibly" where the identification was more conjectural. Many of the album pages were blank. Items were removed from the albums for preservation purposes, but the original albums have been retained and are housed in Box 6. A number of the daguerreotypes are hand colored. The lantern slides depict Katherine Ainsworth Mills, the donor's mother, as a girl with her horse. Of special interest among the oversize photographs is an enlargement of a portrait of Cicero Hunt Lewis, a prominent Portland businessman of the late 19th century.

The series is arranged by format.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Album 1: Low Family—cartes de visite</strong></td>
<td>circa 1860-1875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Box/Folder

4/1 Pages 1-3
- Probably Harriet Low Hillard (1809-1877)
- Probably Seth Low (1782-1853)
- Probably Mary Porter Low (1786-1872)

4/2 Pages 4-6
- Probably Abiel Abbot Low (1811-1893), Mathew Brady studio
- Possibly Ann Davidson Bedell Low, Mathew Brady studio
- Possibly Charles Porter Low (1824-1913)

4/3 Pages 7-9
- Possibly Ellen Porter Low Mills (1827-1898)
- Possibly Charles Porter Low (1824-1913)
- Unidentified woman

4/4 Pages 10, 11, 13
- Possibly Edward Allen Low (1821-1895)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4/5          | Unidentified woman | 4/5 Pages 14-16  
Producly Charles Porter Low (1824-1913)  
Possibly Sarah Maria Tucker Low (d. 1910)  
Probably Charles Porter Low |
| 4/6          | Unidentified woman | 4/6 Pages 17-19  
Possibly Martha Elizabeth Mills Low (1819-1834)  
Probably Josiah Orne Low (1821-1895)  
Probably Martha Elizabeth Mills Low |
| 4/7          | Unidentified woman | 4/7 Pages 20, 22, 23  
Possibly Edward Allen Low (1858-1880)  
Probably Edward Allen Low  
Mary Ann Archer Lord (1840-1925) |
| 4/8          | Unidentified woman | 4/8 Pages 24-26  
Possibly Harriet Low (1842-1884?)  
Probably Ellen Almira Low Pierrepont (1846-1884)  
Harriet Low |
| 4/9          | Unidentified woman | 4/9 Pages 27-29  
Possibly Emma Cutler Low (1848-1927)  
Possibly Katherine Hillard (1839-1915)  
Unidentified man |
| 4/10         | Unidentified woman | 4/10 Pages 30-32  
Possibly Mary Low Huntington (1854-1883)  
Unidentified man  
Probably Rosalie Hunter Low (1866-1934) |
| 4/11         | Unidentified woman | 4/11 Pages 33-35  
Possibly David Low (1871-1952)  
Unidentified woman  
Probaby Mary Ann Archer Lord (1840-1925) and her son  
Ernest Archer Lord (1866-1885) |
| 4/12         | Unidentified woman | 4/12 Pages 36-38  
Unidentified boy  
Unidentified woman  
Ernest Archer Lord (1866-1885) |
| 4/13         | Unidentified woman | 4/13 Pages 39-41  
Josephine Lord Richardson (1872-1946) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4/14         | Pages 42-44, all by Mathew Brady studio  
                Probably Abbot Augustus Low (1844-1912)  
                William Gilman Low (1844-1936)  
                Seth Low (1850-1916) |       |
| 4/15         | Pages 45-48  
                Two boys, unidentified  
                Unidentified woman  
                Unidentified boy  
                Unidentified boy (same as above) |       |

**Album 2: primarily Low and Mills families—cabinet photographs**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>circa 1875-1885</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4/16       | Loose photos laid in  
                Possibly Ann Davidson Bedell Low  
                Probably Edward Allen Low (1817-1898)  
                Frank Lyman (1852-1938)  
                Josiah Orne Low (1821-1895)  
                Unidentified man |       |
| 4/17       | Pages 1, 5, 6, 8, 9  
                Mary Porter Low (1786-1872)  
                Possibly Abbot Low Mills (1858-1927)  
                Possibly Abiel Abbot Low (1811-1893)  
                Probably Abbot Augustus Low (1844-1912)  
                Mary Porter Low (1786-1872)  
                Possibly Abbot Low Mills (1858-1927)  
                Possibly Abiel Abbot Low (1811-1893)  
                Probably Abbot Augustus Low (1844-1912) |       |
| 4/18       | Pages 11-13  
                Unidentified man  
                Unidentified family  
                Possibly Alice Orne Low Sand (1846-1912) |       |
| 4/19       | Pages 15, 19, 20, 23  
                Unidentified woman  
                Unidentified woman (same as above)  
                Unidentified child  
                Three children, probably of George Augustus Archer and  
                Mary Ann Low Archer: Annie Mililani Archer (1870-1942); |       |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>George Frost Archer (1871-1953); and Kate Archer Young (1874-1941)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Album 3: Low family —cabinet photographs</strong></td>
<td>circa 1875-1885</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Box/Folder</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 4/20 | Pages 2, 3, 5, 10  
Probably Charles Porter Low (1824-1913)  
Probably Sarah Maria Tucker Low (d. 1910)  
Unidentified woman  
Unidentified girl | |
| 4/21 | Pages 11, 13, 18, 22  
Unidentified man  
Unidentified man  
Unidentified man  
Unidentified woman | |
| 4/22 | Album 4: Leather case containing two cabinet photographs  
Evelyn Scott Lewis Mills (1865-1936); and Evelyn Scott Lewis Mills holding baby Lewis Hunt Mills (1892-1953) | circa 1893 |
| 4/23 | Group of four loose cabinet photographs  
Probably Edward Allen Low (1858-1880)  
Possibly Francis Low, son of Charles Porter Low  
Frank Blackwell, taken in 1878  
Unidentified woman | |
| 4/24 | Group of six loose cabinet photographs and one carte-de-visite  
Unidentified man (carte-de-visite), Joseph Buchtel studio, Portland, Or.  
Unidentified boy  
Unidentified man  
Unidentified woman  
Unidentified woman  
Unidentified woman and infant | |
| 4/25 | Laser prints from two glass lantern slides, depicting Katherine Ainsworth Mills on her horse Rowdy | circa 1920 |
### Cased images and lantern slides

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td><strong>Box/Folder</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5/1</td>
<td>Seth Low (1782-1853)—daguerreotype, with oval photograph laid in, probably Mary Porter Low (1786-1872) Written in pencil on case bottom: &quot;Father aged about 68.&quot;</td>
<td>circa 1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>Probably Annie Lyman —daguerreotype Written in pencil on case bottom: &quot;Lyman.&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/3</td>
<td>Probably Mary Porter Low—daguerreotype Stamped in oval frame: &quot;C.H. Williamson.&quot; Written in pencil in case bottom, &quot;Mother aged 66.&quot;</td>
<td>circa 1852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/5</td>
<td>Probably Ellen Porter Low Mills and her children Ethelbert Smith Mills and Ellen Low Mills —daguerreotype (colored) Same session as image in 5/4 above, but different pose.</td>
<td>circa 1854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Susan Quigley, nurse, and possibly Thomas Helme Mills (1850-1876) and Ethelbert Smith Mills (1853-1922), sons of Ellen Porter Low Mills—ambrotype Slip of paper, laid in, with ink inscription: &quot;Susan Quigley - nurse. Thomas &amp; Bertie.&quot;</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/7</td>
<td>Ellen Porter Low Mills—daguerreotype On slip of paper laid in: &quot;Ellen P. Low - 17 years.&quot; On another slip of paper laid in: &quot;Ellen Porter Low - Granpa Mills' mother.&quot;</td>
<td>circa 1844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>Three women, unidentified, possibly Ellen Porter Low Mills (on right) and two of her sisters —daguerreotype (colored)</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/9</td>
<td>Katherine Ainsworth Mills (1903-1993) riding her horse Rowdy —9 glass lantern slides</td>
<td>circa 1920</td>
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**Original albums**
Images (listed above) removed for preservation.
<table>
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<tr>
<td>6/1</td>
<td>Album 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/2</td>
<td>Album 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/3</td>
<td>Album 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/4</td>
<td>Album 4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box/Folder</td>
<td>Oversize photographs</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>7/5</td>
<td>Cicero Hunt Lewis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photograph was probably encased in an oval frame at one time.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7/6</td>
<td>Ainsworth and Mills photographs</td>
<td>1982, April 3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Commingers Ainsworth (1822-1893)—photogravure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abbot Low Mills (1858-1927)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Churchill Ainsworth (1870-1943)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abbot Low Mills, Jr. (1898-1986)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outing in Oregon, circa 1904—four autos on a beach, John</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Churchill Ainsworth in third car from left, with hat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/7</td>
<td>Dedication of Governor Tom McCall Preserve, Rowena Plateau</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gov. Dan Evans of Washington (state), Gov. Tom McCall of Oregon, and Gov.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cecil Andrus of Idaho. Color photograph with signatures of each governor on</td>
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<td>mat.</td>
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</table>

**Names and Subjects**

**Subject Terms:**
Bankers--Oregon--Portland.
Slaves--New York.

**Personal Names:**
Ainsworth, Belle.
Ainsworth, J. C. (John Commingers), 1822-1893
Ainsworth, John Churchill, 1870-1943
Couch, John Heard, 1811-1870
Low, Abiel Abbot, 1811-1893—Photographs
Low, Mary Porter, 1786-1872—Photographs
Low, Seth, 1782-1853—Photographs
Low, Seth, 1850-1916—Photographs

John Ainsworth Mills Family Papers, 1799-2002
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv98844
Low, Charles Porter, 1824-1913—Photographs
McCall, Tom, 1913- —Photographs
Mills, John Ainsworth, 1930-
Mills, Katherine Ainsworth, 1903-1993
Mills, William, 1757-1839
Mills, Abbot Low, 1858-1927
Mills, Abbot Low, 1898-1986
Mills, Ellen Porter Low, 1827-1898
Mills, Ellen Porter Low, 1827-1898—Photographs

Geographical Names:
Portland (Or.)--History.
Smithtown (N.Y. : Town)

Form or Genre Terms:
Cabinet photographs--19th century.
Cartes-de-visite--19th century.
Checkbooks--19th century.
Daguerreotypes.
Free papers--New York (State).
Lantern slides--Oregon--20th century.
Ledgers (account books)--Oregon--20th century.
Photographs.

Other Creators:
Personal Names:
Mills, Abbot Low, 1898-1986 (creator)

May 2003

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