

Barre History Collection

**Deane C. Davis (1900-1990)
Papers, 1877-1990, Bulk: 1960-1990
BHC 343-346, 339F, 340F, 529**

Introduction

This collection contains a limited number of personal papers and photographs of Deane C. Davis, president of National Life Insurance Company and governor of Vermont, for the period 1969 to 1972. It is housed in four archival flip-top boxes, two flat boxes, and one folio volume; it consumes approximately 4 linear feet of shelf space. Additional items donated by grandson Michael Davis were added in October 2019.

Biographical Note

Deane Chandler Davis was born in East Barre, Vermont, to Earle Russell Davis and Lois Salome Hillery on November 7, 1900. At age five he was sent to live with his grandparents on Pike Hill in Corinth, Vermont, due to the illness of his brother, Raymond Davis. He lived with his grandparents for two years and loved his life on the farm; it was there that he first developed a lifelong interest in Morgan horses. He graduated from Spaulding High School in Barre in 1918.

After continuing his education and eventually graduating from Boston University Law School in 1922, Davis became a lawyer in Barre, Vermont. He went on to serve in several public offices including as a member of the Barre City Council, as a state's attorney for Washington County, and as a superior court judge. He left his private law practice in 1940 to work for the National Life Insurance Company as their general counsel and president in 1950. He served as Chief Executive Officer of National Life from 1960 to 1966 and was subsequently chairman of the board (1966-1968). Deane C. Davis was the 74th Governor of Vermont, serving two terms from 1969 to 1973.

Deane C. Davis married Corinne Eastman on June 14, 1924, and the couple had three children: Deane C. Davis Jr. (who died in 1929 at age four in a house fire), Marian Davis and Thomas Davis. Following Corinne Eastman Davis' death, he remarried to Marjorie Phyllis Smith Conzelman of Barre, Vermont, and acquired two step-children, Peter and Patricia Conzelman. Deane C. Davis died in Berlin, Vermont, on December 8, 1990.

Scope and Content

The collection contains limited personal papers and photographs of Deane C. Davis, a former president of National Life Insurance Company and the 74th governor of Vermont. Materials in the collection are divided into six series: personal memorabilia, political items, photographs, writings, video and audio, and miscellaneous. The photographs and writings comprise a substantial portion of the collection and primarily document Davis' activities from the late 1960s to the 1980s.

The photographic prints consist of a number of political and Republican Party subjects as well as equestrian images, including a photograph of Denny Emerson, a 1970 gold medalist,

riding Deane Davis' Morgan stallion, Lippitt Tweedle Dee. Other photographs consist primarily of color slides documenting a trip to Japan and various Southeast Asian countries, especially Malaysia, Thailand, and Cambodia, in 1966. Additional miscellaneous items within the collection include brochures, photographic prints, and color slides of trips to Korea and Japan in either 1966 or 1972. Two other photograph albums presented to Davis by the Japanese government in 1972 chronicle a U.S. Governor's Conference to Hyogo Prefectural, held in April 1972.

Writings in the collection include drafts of papers and articles as well as two copies of published books by Deane. The books, *Life Insurance & Business Purchase Agreements* (1950) and *Professional – Partnership, Purchase Plans* (1961), appear to reflect Davis' professional expertise. The drafts of his other works relate to other interests including autobiography ("Growing up in Vermont") and Morgan horses ("The Morgan Horse and the Vermonter – A Working Partnership").

Other materials of interest within the collection are video and audio recordings, especially those featuring interviews with Davis, made in the 1970s and 1980s. The collection also includes extensive newspaper clippings during Davis' years as Vermont governor (1969-1972) as well as a small number of invitations and other ephemeral items related to his two terms as governor. The collection also contains photographs and correspondence between Deane and former Dartmouth College and National Life Insurance president, Ernest Martin Hopkins (1877-1964).

Related Collections

This collection is supplemented by the Deane C. Davis Papers Addendum (BHC 542-544).

The Leahy Library of the Vermont Historical Society also holds the papers of Davis' second wife, Marjorie, and her Smith ancestors for the period 1892-1991 (Doc 737-739, MSA 724, MSA 738), and a separate collection of her photographs (FB-124). The papers include some political-related material, Christmas cards, letters to both Marjorie and Deane, memorabilia, house plans, one daily planner from 1990, and some photographs. The papers also include manuscript notes on a meeting regarding American POWs with leaders from North Viet Nam that Deane and Marjorie Davis attended in Paris on June 4-5, 1971 (Doc 739:27.1). Marjorie Davis's photograph collection and an unprocessed collection of negatives include many images of Deane C. Davis.

The Leahy Library also holds the papers of Deane Davis's first wife's family, the Thomas H. Cave Family Papers (MSA 868); and the papers of his son, Thomas C. Davis (Doc 805).

Additional material from the business and political careers of Deane C. Davis are in the library's broadside, photograph, audio, video, and printed collections and in the VHS museum's collection.

Inventory

I. Personal Memorabilia

- BHC 343:01 Personal memorabilia and history
 02 Honorary degrees and recognitions, 1957-1978
 03 "Glenorie and Other Poems," Mary E. Davis, 1877
 04 *Life Insurance & Business Purchase Agreements* by Deane C. Davis, 1950
 05 *Professional – Partnership, Purchase Plans*, Deane C. Davis, 1961
 06 National Life of Vermont, 1984 and undated

II. Political

- BHC 343:07 Campaigns
 08a Governor of Vermont inauguration (see newspaper clippings, BHC 339f)
 08b _____, itinerary, April – June, 1971
 09 Political invitations, 1969-1971

III. Photographs

- BHC 343:10 Photographs, political
 11 _____, Republican Party and miscellaneous
 12 _____, Campaign party, December 1979
 13 _____, Companies and associations
 14 _____, Horses, including 1970 equestrian gold medalist, Denny Emerson, riding Lippitt Tweedle Dee (Deane Davis' Morgan stallion)
 15 _____, miscellaneous
 BHC 345:01 _____, Slides, Hop & Gillie, Hanover, NH, 1963-1964
 02 _____, _____, Tokyo, Japan, December 1966, page 1
 03 _____, _____, Tokyo, Japan, December 1966, page 2
 04 _____, _____, Bangkok, Royal Palace, Siamese dancers, Johore, 1966
 05 _____, _____, _____, floating market, October 1966
 06 _____, _____, _____, Royal Palace – Anna and the King of Siam, November 1966
 07 _____, _____, Hong Kong – Over Vietnam, October 1966
 08 _____, _____, Angkor Wat, October, 1966
 09 _____, _____, Kuching, Dayak Longhouse, November 1966
 10 _____, _____, Bangkok, floating market, Temple of the Dawn, Royal Barges, Oct. 1966
 11 _____, _____, _____, Angkor Thom, Floating Market, October 1966
 12 _____, _____, Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom, October 1966
 13 _____, _____, Jesselton, Market at Kota Balud, Mt. Kinalalu, November 1966
 14 _____, _____, Bangkok, temples, solid gold Buddha, reclining Buddha, Marble Temple, October 1966
 15 _____, _____, Taipei, Taiwan, October 1966
 16 _____, _____, Kuching Sarawak, Dayak Longhouse, November 1966
 17 _____, _____, Angkor Thom, October 1966

- 18 _____, _____, Johore – Mosque, Sultan’s Residence, Kuching, Sarawak,
Nov. 1966
- 19 _____, _____, San Francisco, horses, October 1966, page 1
- 20 _____, _____, San Francisco, horses, October 1966, page 2
- 21 _____, _____, Manila, Nagasaki – Pease Statue, Trip to Unzen, Kyongju,
Korea – Chinmae, Corregidor to Cine, November/December 1966
- 22 _____, _____, Kyoto, Festival and Golden Pavilion, October 1966
- 23 _____, _____, _____, Festival of the Ages, Nara and deer, October 1966
- 24 _____, _____, _____, Festival of the Ages, Nara and deer, October 1966
- 25 _____, _____, Train to Nikko, Nikko Temples, October 1966, #D
- 26 _____, _____, Nikko, October 1966, #E
- 27 _____, _____, Kamakura, Buddha, Nikko – Kegon Falls, Hairpin turns,
Oct. 1966, #F
- 28 _____, _____, Miyanoshita – Mt. Fuji, Fujiya Hotel & gardens, October
1966, #G
- 29 _____, _____, _____, to Hakone, to train to Kyoto, Mt. Fuji from train,
Temple, October 1966, #H
- 30 _____, _____, Train to Kyoto, Nara, #I
- BHC 339F:01 _____ (oversize), 80th birthday party, Ramada Inn, with Ronald & Nancy
Reagan, 1980

IV. Writings

- BHC 343:16 Indices to papers and speeches, 1984
- 17 “Nuthin’ But the Truth,” working paper
- BHC 344:01 “The View from the Pike,” Deane C. Davis, draft, Chapters 1-3
- 02 _____, _____, _____ Chapters 4-6
- 03 _____, _____, _____ Draft II
- 04 “Growing Up In Vermont,” Deane C. Davis, temporary index, preface and
notes
- 05 _____, _____, Volume I, pages 1-107
- 06 _____, _____, _____, pages 108-153
- 07 _____, _____, Volume II, pages 154-288
- 08 _____, _____, Volume III, pages 289-359
- 09 _____, _____, _____, pages 360-432
- 10 Memoirs, miscellaneous correspondence
- BHC 345:31 “Justice in the Mountains”, pages intro-102
- 32 _____, _____, _____, _____ 103-214
- 33 New England Press, Royalties and correspondence
- 34 “The Granite Center of the World” by Deane C. Davis
- 35 “The Morgan Horse and the Vermonter – A Working Partnership” by
Deane C. Davis, *Vermont Life*, Autumn 1975

V. Miscellaneous

- BHC 345:36 Health pamphlets and notes
- 37 Ernest Martin Hopkins (“Hop”), correspondence, 1956-1965
- 38 _____, _____, photos and miscellaneous, 1950s-1960s

- 39 Order of the Absolute Rulers (OAR), 1960
40 Trips to Korea and Japan, brochures and photographs, 1966 and 1972 (?)
41 Vermont Symphony Orchestra, 1971, 1983-1984
BHC 339F:02 Book plate and printing block for "Deane C. Davis"
03 *Principles of Equitation*, Baretto de Souza, 1922 (with Davis' signature)
04 Honor distinction scroll, Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce, 1975
05 Photograph album, trip to Japan from Japanese Government, April 1972
06 _____, U.S. Governor's Conference to Hyogo Prefectural, Japan, April 1972
07 Royal Order of Jesters, articles and membership book
BHC 340F:01 Certificate, Civil Defense Advisory Council, 1970
02 Newspapers clippings, August 1968, Marjorie on Campaign trail
03 _____, 1968, campaign and election results
04 _____, December 1968, Republican Governors Conference, Palm Springs, California
05 _____, January 1969, Deane C. Davis Inauguration
06 _____, February 1969, honoring Marjorie Davis, First Lady
07 _____, March 1969, Dwight D. Eisenhower death, Vt. Sales tax info
08 _____, April 1969
09 _____, August 1969
10 _____, September 1969
11 _____, October 1969, VP Spiro Agnew visit, Nat'l Morgan Horse Farm
12 _____, November 1969, Vietnam event in Montpelier
13 _____, December 1969, heavy snow
14 _____, January 1970, heavy snow
15 _____, February 1970
16 _____, March 1970, re-election
17 _____, April 1970
18 _____, May 1970
19 _____, June 1970
20 _____, July 1-22, 1970
21 _____, July 22-31, 1970
22 _____, August 1970, Second campaign
22.1 _____, October 1970, Nixon visit
23 _____, November 1970, Election results
24 _____, December 1970, Governor's Conference, Sun Valley, Idaho
25 _____, January 1971, second inauguration
26 _____, March-April 1971, kidnap plot
27 _____, May 1971
28 _____, June 1971
29 _____, July 1971
30 _____, August 1971
31 _____, September 1971, Senator Winston L. Prouty dies
32 _____, December 1971
33 _____, January 1972
34 _____, February 1972

- 34.1 _____, March 1972, Cochran ski family honored
- 35 _____, April 1972
- 36 _____, October-November 1972
- 37 _____, January 1973, farewell address
- 38 _____, November-December 1990, Davis death
- 39 _____, 1991, autobiography
- 40 _____, 1900-1979, life chronology
- 41 _____, Miscellaneous undated and February 1968

Folio BHC 529 Scrapbook of news clippings, 1968-1971 (not chronological)

VI. Video and audio

- BHC 346:01 Reel I Film, Deane Davis "Legendry," VPR November 1978
- 02 VHS videotape, Baby tape, copy II, 1987
- 03 _____, Lenora, black mare, September 1989
- 04 _____, Barre Opera House, September 1983
- 05 _____, The Vermont Symphony Story, September 1987
- 06 _____, "Gala" Barre Opera House honoring Deane C. Davis, May 1983, produced by Ormsby Stores, Barre, Vt.
- 07 _____, Davis campaign TV commercials, undated
- 08 Cassette audiotape, J. Edward Peters Morgans, undated
- 08.1 _____, horse judging clinic
- 09 _____, Washington Week in Review, 1-23-1981
- 10 _____, Nixon
- 11 _____, Johnson
- 12 _____, Republican National Convention, Ford introduction, 1988
- 13 _____, Bush and Dukakis
- 14 _____, Check Point, Richard Blum, Vt. Legal Aid, January 1971
- 15 _____, You Can Quote Me, WSKI, July 15, 1982
- 16 _____, Interview, UVM, Prof Fred Webster relative to farm situation July 16, 1988
- 17 _____, _____, Bill Payne re: agricultural problems, July 19, 1988
- 18 _____, _____, Robert Davis, Cabot, Vt., "Future Dairying in Vt.," July 25, 1988, copy 1
- 19 _____, _____, _____, _____, copy 2
- 20 _____, _____, Arthur Ristau, August 8, 1988
- 21 _____, _____, Oral history by Deane Davis with Lorenzo Chiodi
- 22 _____, _____, _____, business Barre, Italian
- 23 _____, WCAX
- 24 _____, Message from Stanton Burgess
- 25 _____, Announcement speech to legislature – will not run and leaving for Japan at closing of session
- 26 _____, Plymouth dedication, Davis – Allen Foley and Middlebury students' forum
- 27 _____, Jack Rudel radio commentaries WCNS 98.3, French dialect and National Life

28 _____, Union Mutual 100th anniversary, 1974 & Digging for Water

Judeen Barwood

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