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Lawton Family Collection MS-785

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical
Collections

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biography	4
Collection Scope and Content Summary	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	6
Series I, Charles DeWitt Lawton Field Books	6
Series II, Lawton Family Histories	6
Series III, Oversize Materials	7

Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	Lawton Family Collection
ID:	MS-785
Date [inclusive]:	1880-1968; 2007-2019
Date [bulk]:	1880-1968
Physical Description:	0.86 Cubic Feet (2 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize map folder)
Language of the Material:	English
Mixed Materials [box]:	1
Mixed Materials [box]:	2
Mixed Materials [folder]:	53 G
Abstract:	Collection, 1880-1968; 2007-2019, of the Lawton family of Michigan. Includes field notebooks of Charles DeWitt Lawton, written during his tenure as the State of Michigan Commissioner of Mineral Statistics, as well as correspondence of Charles Latham Lawton and Swaby Lawton. Also contains biographical information on family members including Charles Latham Lawton, Swaby Lawton, Nathan Oliver Lawton, Charles E. Wright and Ross Dunbar Blackburn.

Preferred Citation

MS-785, Lawton Family Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biography

A one-time professor of engineering at the University of Michigan, Charles DeWitt Lawton (1835-1909) also assisted Major T. B. Brooks in the geological survey of the Marquette Iron region and the Menominee Range. He continued with his interest in the development of Michigan's Upper Peninsula and assisted his nephew, Charles E. Wright, in his field work as the Commissioner of Mineral Statistics. Eventually Lawton took over the active duties of the mining department and writing the reports that covered the mines and mineral interests of the state. Although offered the position of state geologist, he preferred to continue as Commissioner of Mineral Statistics, a purely scientific position. He held this office until 1891. In 1897 Lawton was elected regent of the University of Michigan, a position he held for eight years.

Swaby Latham Lawton, brother of Charles Latham Lawton, general manager of the Quincy & Adventure mining companies of Hancock, Michigan, was the son of Charles DeWitt Lawton. Swaby graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1896 and in 1902 entered into partnership with Charles D. Hanchette, forming the law firm of Hanchette & Lawton which eventually became one of the prominent firms in Houghton County, Michigan. Swaby Lawton became director of the Quincy Mining Company in 1938, continuing in this position until 1948.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Scope and Content Summary

Collection, 1880-1968; 2007-2019, of the Lawton Family of Michigan. Includes field notebooks of Charles DeWitt Lawton, written during his tenure as the State of Michigan Commissioner of Mineral Statistics, as well as correspondence of Charles Latham Lawton and Swaby Lawton. Also found in this collection is biographical information on family members including Charles Latham Lawton, Swaby Lawton, Nathan Oliver Lawton, Charles E. Wright and Ross Dunbar Blackburn and oversize material relating to Upper Peninsula iron ranges and the Quincy Mine, Stamp Mill, and Smelter. Additional material includes the semi-published work "Charles Latham Lawton: His Family and Related History, Superintendent, Manager of Quincy Mine, 1905-1946, Hancock Michigan" researched and written by Lawton's great nephew, John M. Lawton. The work represents a compilation of historical research into Charles Latham Lawton's personal life and work at the Quincy Mining Company, with much of the primary source research conducted at the Michigan Technological University Archives.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection has been arranged into three series:

Series I, Charles DeWitt Lawton Field Books, 1853-1924; 2007 Series II, Lawton Family Histories, 1880-1968; 2007-2019 Series III, Oversize Material, 1903-1905

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Blueline prints
- Maps (Documents)
- Biographies
- Correspondence

- Mines and mineral resources -- History -- Michigan -- Upper Peninsula
- Field notes
- Upper Peninsula (Mich.)
- Genealogies
- Lawton, Charles DeWitt
- Lawton, Charles L. (Charles Lantham)
- Lawton, Swaby L.
- Michigan. Office of the Commissioner of Mineral Statistics
- Quincy Mining Company

Collection Inventory

Series I, Charles DeWitt Lawton Field Books, 1853-1924; 2007

Scope and Content Summary

Field books used by Charles DeWitt Lawton containing survey notes, historical descriptions, statistics, assessments, and Lawton's personal impressions of mines in Ontonagon, Keweenaw, Houghton, and Isle Royale counties and the Marquette, Menominee, Gogebic, and Mesabi iron ranges. Also found in this series is a biographical file created by Lawton's descendants.

Title/Description	Instances	
Charles DeWitt Lawton Biographical File, 1853-1870; 1907, 1924, 2007	box 1	folder 1
"A Review of Lake Superior Copper Mining" by Charles DeWitt Lawton, 1907	box 1	folder 2
Field Notes 1, Charles Dewitt Lawton, 1881	box 1	folder 3
Field Notes 2, Charles Dewitt Lawton, 1880-1881	box 1	folder 4
Field Notes 3, Charles Dewitt Lawton, 1887-1888	box 1	folder 5
Field Notes 4, Charles Dewitt Lawton, 1879-1893	box 1	folder 6
Field Notes 5, Charles Dewitt Lawton, 1889-1897	box 1	folder 7
Field Notes 6, Charles Dewitt Lawton, 1889-1894	box 1	folder 8
Field Notes 7, Charles Dewitt Lawton, 1885	box 1	folder 9
Field Notes 8, Charles Dewitt Lawton, 1893; 1903-1906	box 1	folder 10
Field Notes 9, Charles Dewitt Lawton, 1894	box 1	folder 11

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II, Lawton Family Histories, 1880-1968; 2007-2019

Scope and Content Summary

Included in this series are family histories, research material related to the Lawton family, photocopied and original photographs, and correspondence.

Title/Description	Instances	
Charles Latham Lawton, 1888, 1912, 1933, 1964, 1971, 2007	box 2	folder 1
Correspondence, Charles Latham Lawton, 1929, 1933	box 2	folder 2
Quincy Mining Company, Rules and Regulations for the Protection of Employees, 1912	box 2	folder 3
Swaby Latham Lawton, 1899; 1930-1946; 2007	box 2	folder 4
Swaby Lawton Photographs, 1898, 1944	box 2	folder 5
Correspondence, Swaby Lawton, 1933	box 2	folder 6
Nathan Oliver Lawton, 1903-1905; 1930-1940	box 2	folder 7
Charles E. Wright, 1880, 1884; 1921-1968; 2007-2008	box 2	folder 8
Ross Dunbar Blackburn, 1910, 2007	box 2	folder 9
Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1933	box 2	folder 10
Seventh Annual Meeting of the Lake Superior Mining Institute, 1901	box 2	folder 11
Miscellaneous, 1863, 1881, 1894	box 2	folder 12
"Charles Latham Lawton: His Family and Related History, Superintendent, Manager of Quincy Mine, 1905-1946, Hancock Michigan" researched and written by Lawton's great nephew, John M. Lawton, 2019	box 2	folder 13

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series III, Oversize Materials, 1903-1905

Scope and Content Summary

This series contains maps of the Gogebic Iron District and Copper Trap Range, Ironwood, Michigan, the lands of the Pennsylvania and Delaware Mining Companies at Keweenaw Point, and Houghton and Hancock. Also found in this series are blueprints from Quincy Mine, Smelter, and Stamp Mill.

Title/Description	Instances
Map of Gogebic Iron District and Copper Trap Range, Undated	folder 53 G
Map of Copper Trap Range, Undated	folder 53 G
Map of Ironwood, MI, Undated	folder 53 G
Map of Point Keweenaw showing the lands of Pennsylvania and Delaware Mining Cos. , Undated	folder 53 G

Map of Houghton and Hancock, 1903	folder 53 G
Smokestack of Reinforced Concrete, 1905	folder 53 G
General Designs – Stamp Mill #2, 1903	folder 53 G
Elevation – Stamp Mill #2, 1903	folder 53 G
Device for loading skip – Quincy Mine, 1903	folder 53 G
Pump House – Quincy Stamp Mill, 1903	folder 53 G
Mineral Building for Quincy Smelter, 1903	folder 53 G

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)