

**Dewey-Martin-Vaetsch Family Papers**  
**MSA 874-875**

**Introduction**

This collection contains chiefly genealogical notes, clippings, and photographic portraits of members of the Dewey, Martin and Vaetsch families in Vermont (principally Brattleboro and Montpelier), collected by Jessie (“Jay”) Dewey Vaetsch Buckley (1916-2006). The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society by the collector’s daughter, Loren Buckley, in 2012. The collection is stored in 2 archival flip-top boxes and measures .75 linear ft.

**Biographical Notes**

The Dewey family in America traces its origins to the arrival of Thomas Dewey, who landed in Boston in 1633. His descendants documented in this collection include the following:

- Julius Yemans Dewey (1801-1877), considered to be a co-founder of the National Life Insurance Company. He attended Norwich Military School (later known as Norwich University) and the medical department of the University of Vermont (class of 1824). He practiced as a physician for many years and then worked as an agent for National Life Insurance Co., eventually acting as medical examiner and ultimately president of the company from 1857 until his death.
- George Dewey (1837-1917), the son of Julius Y. Dewey and Mary Perrin, was born in Montpelier. He attended Norwich Military School before enlisting in the U.S. Navy. His naval career made him nationally famous: he was celebrated for leading the victory in the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War. He was appointed Admiral of the Navy in 1903, the only American to ever attain this rank.
- Edward Dewey (1829-1900), the second son of Julius Y. Dewey, worked for the Vermont Mutual Fire Insurance Company, served in the Eighth Vermont Volunteers during the Civil War, achieving the rank of Captain, and then went to work for the National Life Insurance Company, where he held progressively higher positions, including vice-president and director. With Susan G. Lilley, whom he married in 1856, he had six children.
- James Loren Martin (1846-1915) was the son-in-law of Edward Dewey, having married Jessie Lilley Dewey in 1884. Martin had a prominent career in Vermont law and politics. Positions he held include State’s Attorney of Windham County, Speaker of the Vermont House of Representatives, U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont, and U.S. District Judge for the District of Vermont. He and Jessie had three daughters: Margaret, Helen and Kathryn.
- Jessie (“Jay”) Dewey Vaetsch Buckley (1916-2006), the principal compiler of the materials in this collection, was the granddaughter of James and Jessie Martin and the daughter of Kathryn (Kate) Martin. After the death of her biological father Edward Utey during childhood and her mother’s subsequent remarriage, Jessie took her step-father’s last name, Vaetsch. With her husband Gordon Tucker Buckley, she had two children: daughter Loren and son Martin (1935-2000).

See the internal reference file (folder 00) and genealogical notes in the collection for more information on all families and individuals represented.

### Scope and Content

Chiefly genealogical notes, clippings, and photographic portraits of members of the Dewey, Martin and Vaetsch families in Vermont (principally Brattleboro and Montpelier), collected by Jessie (“Jay”) Dewey Vaetsch Buckley (1916-2006). Noteworthy among those documented in the collection are Julius Y. Dewey, physician and later agent and president of the National Life Insurance Company; Admiral George Dewey, celebrated hero of the Spanish-American War; and James Loren Martin, lawyer, state representative and Federal judge for the District of Vermont. Ancillary lines in the collection are the Lilley and Buckley families.

### Related Collections

- George Dewey Family Papers, 1844-1901 (MS 125)
- Edward Dewey 8th Vermont Papers, 1864 (MS 124)
- Julius Dewey Daybook, 1845-1869 (XMSC 37:2)
- Journal of Navigational Notes Kept by Ensign Theodore Gibbs Dewey, 1884-1888 (MSB 102:5)
- Theodore Gibbs Dewey U.S. Naval Academy Notebooks, 1879 (MSB 102:3-4)
- George Dewey, Journal of a Cruise in the U.S. Steam Frigate Wabash, 1858-1859 (XMSC 37:1)
- Letter from George Dewey to Colonel Markland, 1878 (MSA 696:02)
- Numerous books, music scores, broadsides, etc. about Admiral George Dewey: see catalog.

### Inventory

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| MSA 874:01 | Jessie Dewey Vaetsch Buckley – miscellaneous biographical notes on; death and estate of (materials pulled from photograph album)  |
| 02         | Dewey family genealogy  |
| 03         | Genealogical notes – Martin families and others   |
| 04         | James Martin, verses on “My Jessie” by Wallace Dunbar   |
| 05         | Recipe book kept by Jessie Lilley Dewey Martin, [1880s?]  |
| 06         | News clippings and articles on the life and career of James Loren Martin (three-ring binder)  |
| 07         | Inscribed pages taken from three bibles (given to Edward Dewey, c. 1852; Theodore G. Dewey, 1867, and passed on to Jessie Dewey from Theodore, 1874; and Julius Edward Dewey, 1892) |
| 08         | Notes on formerly framed portraits (now in following folders)   |

- 09 Portrait: Esther Wheatley, n.d.
- 10 Portrait: David Carpenter (1759-1845) [grandfather of James Martin?]
- 11 Portrait: unidentified woman, b. Ashford, CT, died Keene, NH 1849, age 83 [wife of David Carpenter and grandmother of James Martin?]
- 12 Portrait: Mary Campbell Thurston Griggs (1795-1878)
- 13 Portrait: Gibbs Lilley (1804-1853)
- MSA-875: 01 Portrait: Susan Griggs (Lilley) Dewey
- 02 Portrait: Edward Dewey (1829-1900)
- 03 Portrait: Margaret (Peg) Dewey
- 04 Photograph: [Federal courtroom, Boston, 1913]
- 05 Photographs: Martin family, Vaetsch family
- 06 Martin family house at 12 Linden Street & Camp, Brattleboro
- 07 Portraits: Charles Vaetsch, Jane Tucker
- 08 Jessie (Jay) Dewey Vaetsch Buckley – miscellaneous youth
- 09 Photographs: Buckley family
- 10 Portrait photograph: unidentified woman, c. 1800s

Peter Nelson  
October 2019  
Dewey-Martin-Vaetsch family papers.docx