



The Urbana Free Library

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**Pesotum History  
Collection, 1878-1999**

**Collection 17**

**Processed by:** Margaret Cusick, May 2011

**Creator/Corporate name:** Farrell E. Ware

**Inclusive Dates:** 1878-1999 (bulk dates, ca. 1910s-1990s)

**Physical Description:** 81.5 inches or 6.8 linear feet

**Provenance:**

Items in this collection were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in 2003 by Jackie Ware, mother to Farrell Ware.

**Access:**

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Biographical/Historical Note:**

Farrell E. Ware, resident of Pesotum, Illinois began collecting materials about his village in 1988. His goal was to collect materials to create the "Pesotum History Project," write a book, and donate the materials to local cultural heritage institutions. Ware worked with community members and organizations who donated materials for him to reproduce and collect. As a part of this project, he collected photographs, journals, maps, and ephemera from organizations and individuals in the community such as the Davis family, Margaret Roy, the Boy Scouts of America, the Women's Club, and the Pesotum Beatification Organization.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Pesotum History Project Collection includes a variety of materials from and about individuals and organizations in Pesotum, Illinois from the late nineteenth century through the 1990s. The collection includes unpublished histories and fact sheets about Pesotum, and ephemeral pieces from businesses in the village. A large portion of the collection covers local organizations and businesses such as schools, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, churches, the Pesotum Women's Club, the Hall of Grateful Lodge, and the Grain Elevator Company. Extant materials include publications (such as programs and bulletins), yearbooks, minutes, and record books. There is also a large subgroup in the collection concerning individuals in Pesotum. The majority of that subgroup relates to the Davis family, an important banking family in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There are a dozen folders of correspondence between J. Everett Davis (son of James E. Davis, organizer and president of the bank of Pesotum, founded in 1900) and insurance companies in Chicago and elsewhere during World War I. The collection also includes 3 photo albums with photos of the village from the 1990s taken and assembled by Farrell Ware as a part of this project. Hundreds of other photographs of Pesotum collected by Ware have been



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integrated into the photograph collection of the Champaign County Historical Archives and are searchable through the Local History Online catalog.

**Arrangement:**

**Series 1: Ware's Pesotum History Project, Notes and Correspondence:** This subgroup provides a background in Ware's thoughts, research processes, and contacts as he conceived of and assembled this collection.

**Series 2: Written Histories and Ephemera:** This subgroup includes unpublished written histories of Pesotum, ephemeral materials and general news clippings about the village.

**Series 3: Organizational Records:** This subgroup documents the local government, organizations and business of Pesotum.

**Subseries 1: Village Government and Events:** This series includes a list of governmental officers and correspondence and notes about local events such as the Pesotum Water Works.

**Subseries 2: Local Organizations and Businesses:** This large series holds a variety of materials from a dozen different organizations (e.g. Boy Scouts of America, Pesotum Women's Club), and businesses (Doctor's receipts, Grain Elevator Company) in Pesotum.

**Series 4: Personal Papers:** This subgroup includes correspondence, report cards, and reminisces about Pesotum written by individual Pesotum residents.

**Series 5: Photo Albums:** Included in this subgroup are 3 photo albums assembled by Farrell Ware. All photos were taken by Ware and document the town in the 1990s.

**Names:**

Ware, Farrell

Davis, J. Everett

Davis, James E.

**Subjects:**

Pesotum (Ill.)—History

World War One, 1914-1918

Grain elevators

Boy Scouts of America

Pesotum Women's Club



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**Container List:**

**Box 1**

**Series 1: Ware's Pesotum History Project, Notes and Correspondence**

Folder 1: Farrell Ware's Notes and Thoughts about the project, [1990s]

Folder 2: Correspondence to Farrell E. Ware about Pesotum History Project, 1987. 1991-1996

Folder 3: Correspondence from Farrell E. Ware about Pesotum History Project, 1991-1994, nd.

**Box 2**

**Series 2: Written Histories and Ephemera**

Folder 1: Unpublished written histories and fact sheets; 1908, 1910, 1900s

Folder 2: Pesotum ephemera; 1907, 1913, 1916, 1923, 1945

Folder 3: General news clippings, 1878-1989

**Box 3**

**Series 3: Organizational Records**

**Subseries 1: Village Government and Events**

Folder 1: List of local governmental officers and election files, 1940, nd.

Folder 2: Interstate 57 dedication Letter, 1965

Folder 3: Land parcel tax assessment letter, [1992]

Folder 4: Pesotum Water Works, [1997]

**Box 4**

**Series 3: Organizational Records**

**Subseries 2: Local Organizations and Businesses**

Folder 1: Schools – School Publications; 1906, 1915, 1921, 1990

Folder 2: Schools – Constitutional By-Laws of the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), 1990

Folder 3: Schools – Commencement Programs, 1899-1916

Folder 4: Schools – School Tax in Pesotum Township

Folder 5: Schools – News clippings; 1906, 1914, 1915, 1920, 1921, nd.

Folder 6: Boy Scouts Pack 66 – Pack and Organization Information; 1992, 1994-1996

Folder 7: Boy Scouts Pack 66 – Event Fliers, 1992-1996

Folder: Boy Scouts Pack 66 – Misc. Items, nd.

Folder 8: Girl Scouts – Individual Scouts' Records, 1930s-1940s

Folder 9: Girl Scouts – Misc. Troop Documents, 1940s

Folder 10: Pesotum United Methodist Church – Pastor's Reports; 1905, 1907

Folder 11: Pesotum United Methodist Church – Administrative Council and Financial Records, 1993-1996

Folder 12: Pesotum United Methodist Church – "Church Messenger" and Bulletin, 1912, 1951, 1962

Folder 13: Pesotum United Methodist Church – "The Circuit" Newsletter, 1995-1997



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Folder 14: Pesotum United Methodist Church – “The Circuit” Newsletter, 1998-1999

Folder 15: St. Joseph’s – Dedication Programs (1 photocopy); 1914, 1954

Folder 16: Neighborhood Watch Program, 1987

Folder 17: The Crusader Quartet, nd.

Folder 18: Pesotum PBO (Pesotum Beautification Organization), 1992

**Box 5**

**Series 3: Organizational Records**

**Subseries 2: Local Organizations and Businesses**

Folder 1: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club – Histories, nd

Folder 2: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– News clippings, 1932-1969

Folder 3: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Golden Anniversary Banquet Report, 1954

Folder 4: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Correspondence, 1960s-1970s

Pamphlets: The Nineteenth Century District, Illinois Federation of Women’s Clubs - Directories (1935-1948)

Pamphlets: The Nineteenth Century District, Illinois Federation of Women’s Clubs - Directories (1963-1965, 1971-1972)

Pamphlets: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Yearbooks (1907-1930/31)

Pamphlets: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club- Yearbooks (1931/32-1938/39)

Pamphlets: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club- Yearbooks (1940/41-1949/50)

Pamphlets: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Yearbooks (1950/51-1959/60)

Pamphlets: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club- Yearbooks (1960/61-1969/70)

Pamphlets: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club- Yearbooks (1970/71-1979/80)

Pamphlets: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club- Yearbooks (1980/81-1986/87)

Bound Volume: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Treasurer’ Book, 1905-1967

Bound Volume: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Minutes, 1936-1942

Bound Volume: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Minutes, 1942-1950

Bound Volume: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Minutes, 1950-1954

Bound Volume: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Minutes, 1954-1964

Bound Volume: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Minutes, 1964-1972

Bound Volume: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Minutes, 1972-1982

Bound Volume: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Yearly Reports, 1940-1960

Bound Volume: Pesotum Women’s Club/ Household Science Club– Yearly Reports, 1961-1982

**Box 6**

**Series 3: Organizational Records**

**Subseries 2: Local Organizations and Businesses**



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- Folder 1: Hall of Grateful Lodge No. 559-IOOF, Deceased Members and copy of Annual Banquet program, ca. 1915
- Folder 2: "Constitution and By-Laws and Rules of Order of Grateful Lodge no. 559," Pesotum, 1926
- Bound Volume: Hall of Grateful Lodge No. 559-IOOF, Member's Register and Constitution with Official Term Roll, Permanent Secretary's Weekly Entries, Auditing Committee's Report, and Treasurer's Receipt Book, 1874-1897
- Bound Volume: Hall of Grateful Lodge No. 559-IOOF, Minute Book, 1885-1897
- Bound Volume: Hall of Grateful Lodge No. 559-IOOF, Members dues record book, 1951-1980
- Bound Volume: Hall of Grateful Lodge No. 559-IOOF, Cash book, 1971-1979
- Folder 3: Local doctors' receipts (Dr. Hoffmann and Dr. Howe), 1893
- Folder 4: Grain Elevator Company/Davis and Gilles (blank letter head and statement), 1914
- Bound Volumes (2): Grain Elevator delivery record books (alphabetical by name of grain farmer), 1950s-1960s
- Folder 5: Meneley Construction (correspondence and brochure), 1968, nd.

**Box 7**

**Oversized**

**Series 3: Organizational Records**

**Subseries 2: Local Organizations and Businesses**

- Pesotum Telephone Company Directory, 1927
- Farmers and Merchants Bank Calendar, 1915

**Box 8**

**Series 4: Personal Papers**

- Folder 1: Burton, E.V. (Clippings, Biography); 1916. c1963, nd.
- Folder 2: Crawford, Lemuel (Family history written by J.E. Davis), 1900
- Folder 3: Davis – Marriage License of J. Everett Davis and Lutie Gardiner, 1897
- Folder 4: Davis – Mrs. J. Everett Davis (printing plate), nd.
- Folder 5: Davis – Davis, James E. (Last Will and Testament), 1920.
- Folder 6: Davis – Davis, J. Everett. (General Correspondence), 1915-1916
- Folder 7: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (General Correspondence), 1917-1918
- Folder 8: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (General Correspondence), 1919-1920
- Folder 9: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (General Correspondence), nd.
- Folder 10: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (Correspondence with the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief), 1918
- Folder 11: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (Correspondence with American Red Cross), 1918
- Folder 12: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (Correspondence with Continental Casualty Company), 1915-1918
- Folder 13: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (Correspondence with Dan G. Swannell Insurance), 1917



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Folder 14: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (Correspondence with the Dighton-Dilatush Loan Co.), 1916-1919

Folder 15: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (Correspondence with the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank), 1914-1917, 1919

Folder 16: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (Correspondence with German-American Insurance Company), 1914-1917, 1919

Folder 17: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (Correspondence with Great American Insurance Company), 1918-1919

Folder 18: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (Correspondence with Penn Mutual Life Insurance), 1916-1919

Folder 19: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (Correspondence with Salvation Army), 1918

Folder 20: Davis – Davis, J. Everett (Correspondence with University of Illinois YMCA), 1917-1918

Folder 21: Hilgenberg, Dr. James F. (photocopy of "return to practice" ceremony program), 1919

Folder 22: Lewis, Bernell S. (Reunion Poem), 1990

Folder 23: Roy, Margaret (original school report cards), 1910s

Folder 24: Ware, Farrell E. (general correspondence and business cards), 1993-1995

Folder 25: Various Individuals (Little Critter Poems), 1991

Folder 26: Various Individuals (Clara's Management, 10 Chapters), nd.

**Box 9**

**Series 5: Photo Albums**

3 photo albums assembled by Farrell Ware, 1990s.