

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

James, Davis Lawler, Scrapbook, 1838-1930

**LOCATION(S):**

Octavo vols. "J"  
Misc. mss. boxes "J"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

1 octavo volume; 1 folder (47 items)

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Purchased from L & T Respass, 2002

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Davis Lawler James (1848-1933) was the son of Uriah Pierson James and successor to the family business.

U.P. (Uriah Pierson) James (1811-1889) was the founder of one of the nation's pioneering book retailing businesses and a major figure in the publishing and bookselling industries of Cincinnati, Ohio, during the nineteenth century; Cincinnati being one of the largest manufacturers of books at that time. In partnership with his brother, J. A. (Joseph Allen) James (1807-1882), and others, U.P. James built an extensive business once referred to as "the Harper's of the West."

This scrapbook, which was most likely compiled by Davis L. James, is kept in a salesman's sample of an early twentieth century book entitled, "What Really Happened at Paris ... Edited by Edward Mandell House and Charles Seymour." A paper spine label reads "Book Trade/James Book Store/Cincinnati Literary Sundries."

The materials date from the 1840s to the early 1930 and amount to a history of the family business and of the publishing industry in Cincinnati during that time. Included are several prospectuses on histories of westward expansion published by J. A. and U. P. James, catalogs and clipped advertisements for published works by the James' and their competitors from the 1840s and a few items pertaining to the trade sales and events organized in the city with the assistance of the James', including a history of trade sales activities.

There is also a collection of several notices regarding Jonathan Harrington Green (1812- ), "The Reformed Gambler."