

ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT ARCHIVES

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

**DITMARS FAMILY FONDS  
(Annapolis County, NS)**

**Accession 1987.001-DIT**



**Compiled by Wendy G. Robicheau  
and Rebecca Prescott**

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**Ditmars family (Annapolis County, NS) fonds. – [textual records, cartographic materials]. – 1819-1965. – 17cm of textual records. – 6 maps**

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**1. Robert L. Ditmars papers. – (1882-1924). – 8 folders**

Series contains correspondence, personal business records, and an estate inventory for Robert L. Ditmars

**Note:**

Supplied title based on contents of series

File list included

**File List**

1987.001- DIT/12 correspondence (1882-1885), [18--?] to Robert Ditmars from Laura Ditmars

1987.001- DIT/13 correspondence (1885-1890) to Robert Ditmars from Charles Ditmars

1987.001- DIT/14 correspondence (1914) to Robert Ditmars from Harold Edward Ditmars

1987.001- DIT/15 correspondence (1918) to Robert Ditmars from Fred W. Harris

1987.001- DIT/16 correspondence (1919), [1---] to Robert Ditmars from unknown sender(s)

1987.001- DIT/37 correspondence [1---] from Laura Ditmars

1987.001- DIT/40 invoices and receipts (1900-1918) for Robert L. Ditmars

1987.001-CIT/57 estate inventories (1863, [19--?], 1924) for members of the Ditmars Family including Robert (1924)

**2. Emma G. Ditmars papers. – 1907-1966. – 27 folders**

Series contains correspondence, personal business records, property papers, and probate records for Emma G.(nee Coffill) Ditmars, wife of Robert L.

**Note:**

Supplied title based on contents of series

File list included

**File List**

1987.001- DIT/17 correspondence (1908-1934) to Emma Ditmars from Jessie MacQuarrie

1987.001- DIT/18 correspondence (1909-1924) to Emma Ditmars from Maria Ditmars

1987.001- DIT/19 correspondence (1913-1915) to Emma Ditmars from Annie Reid

1987.001- DIT/20 correspondence (1913-1934), [19--?] to Emma Ditmars from various acquaintances

1987.001- DIT/21 correspondence (1921-1964), [19--?] to Emma Ditmars from various nieces and nephews

1987.001- DIT/22 correspondence (1925-1930) to Emma Ditmars from Ernestine Bishop (?)

1987.001- DIT/23 correspondence (1925-1931) to Emma Ditmars from various Solicitors

- 1987.001- DIT/24 correspondence (1926-1948) to Emma Ditmars from Annie Coffill
- 1987.001- DIT/25 correspondence (1931-1933) to Emma Ditmars from Demetra Psilopoulau
- 1987.001- DIT/26 correspondence (1933-1936), [19--?] to Emma Ditmars from various Business Establishments
- 1987.001- DIT/27 correspondence (1940) to Emma Ditmars from Millicent Morris Insurance
- 1987.001- DIT/28 correspondence (1942) to Emma Ditmars from "Alice"
- 1987.001- DIT/29 correspondence (1958-1964), [19--?] to Emma Ditmars from "Charlie"
- 1987.001- DIT/30 correspondence (1945-1964) to Emma Ditmars from Various Friends
- 1987.001- DIT/31 correspondence (1946) to Emma Ditmars from "Madge"
- 1987.001- DIT/32 correspondence (1964) to Emma Ditmars from R. S. Longley
- 1987.001- DIT/33 correspondence (1966) to Emma Ditmars from the Registrar General of Nova Scotia
- 1987.001- DIT/34 correspondence [19-?], (1965) to Emma Ditmars from "Ethel"
- 1987.001- DIT/35 correspondence [1---?], (1908-1916) to Emma Ditmars from Unknown Senders
- 1987.001- DIT/36 correspondence (1935, 1953, 1964) from Emma Ditmars
- 1987.001- DIT/41 invoices and receipts (1907, 1925-1956) for Emma Ditmars
- 1987.001- DIT/45 mortgage (1925) Ernestine Bishop to Emma Ditmars
- 1987.001- DIT/55 rental decision document (1944-1946) for Emma Ditmars, who rented an apartment in Clementsport
- 1987.001- DIT/56 notice (1946) filed by Emma Ditmars about the probate estate of Aubrey DeWolfe Coffill
- 1987.001-CIT/57 estate inventories (1863, [19--?], 1924, 1945) for items belonging to the Ditmars Family including [Emma G.'s silver](#) (1945); presumably Emma was not deceased at the time of this inventory for her silver
- 1987.001- DIT/58 estate inventory request and information (1946) for Aubrey Coffill
- 1987.001- DIT/59 last will and testament (1963) for Emma G. Ditmars (voided)

**3. Gilbert F. Ditmars papers. – [18--?], (1887-1904). – 4 folders of textual records**

Series contains correspondence, personal business records, and citizenship records for Gilbert F. Ditmars

**Note:**

Supplied title based on contents of series

It is likely that the papers of Gilbert Fowler (born around 1810) and Gilbert F. (born 1866) are intertwined in this series. Because neither of their death dates are known, the Archivist chose to separate the papers based on likely dates. Letters from Charles and Laura, Gilbert's parents, are included here on an assumption

File list included

**File List**

1987.001- DIT/7 correspondence (1887) to Gilbert Ditmars from Charles Ditmars

1987.001- DIT/9 correspondence [18-?] to Gilbert Ditmars from Laura Ditmars

1987.001- DIT/39B invoices and receipts (1903, 1904) for Gilbert F. Ditmars

1987.001- DIT/54 notice of US citizenship (1895) for Gilbert Ditmars

**4. Gilbert Fowler Ditmars papers. – [18--?], (1825-1877). – 10 folders of textual records**

Series contains correspondence and personal business records for Gilbert Fowler Ditmars

**Note:**

Supplied title based on contents of series

It is likely that the papers of Gilbert Fowler (born around 1810) and Gilbert F. (born 1866) are intertwined in this series. Because neither of their death dates are known, the Archivist chose to separate the papers based on likely dates, but it is possible that Gilbert Fowler lived to 1904

File list included

**File List**

1987.001- DIT/1 correspondence (1825, 1829) to Gilbert Ditmars from Noah Disbrow

1987.001- DIT/2 correspondence (1828-1831) to Gilbert Ditmars from George Thomas

1987.001- DIT/3 correspondence (1832, 1860) to Gilbert Ditmars from J. C. Tobin

1987.001- DIT/4 correspondence (1864-1865) to Gilbert Ditmars from William H. Mills

1987.001- DIT/5 correspondence (1870, 1888) to Gilbert Ditmars from Gustavus Tony

1987.001- DIT/6 correspondence (1871, 1877) to Gilbert Ditmars from P. C. Hill or representative

1987.001- DIT/8 correspondence (1832), [18--?] to Gilbert Ditmars from unknown sender(s)

1987.001- DIT/10 correspondence [18--?] to Gilbert Ditmars from "Christina"

1987.001- DIT/11 correspondence (1870-1872), [18--?] to P. C. Hill from Gilbert Ditmars

1987.001- DIT/39A invoices and receipts (1870) for Gilbert F. Ditmars

**5. Family papers. – [1---], (1816-1927). – 23 folders of textual records and cartographic material**

Series contains correspondence, land documents, tavern license, ship information, sketches, schedule of insanity, bill of sale, calling cards, and maps

**Note:**

Supplied title based on contents of series

As none of these papers can be identified as belonging to either Gilbert, Robert, or Emma, the Archivist decided to put these records together separately

File list included

**File List**

1987.001- DIT/38 correspondence [1---] of an unknown sender and recipient

1987.001- DIT/42 mortgage (1834) William Turnbull to Henry Oakes

1987.001- DIT/43 indenture (1915) Joshua W. Knowles to Frank F. Stanley and George E. Gilbert

1987.001- DIT/44 assignment of mortgage (1915) Joshua Knowles to Emily Mathews

1987.001- DIT/46 [tavern and shop license](#) (1816) for Douwe Ditmars

1987.001- DIT/47 property descriptions and related correspondence (1850-1871), [18--?] for lands sold to various people, including the Shaw Wharf

1987.001- DIT/48 bond agreement (1859) Moses Shaw to Josiah Burile (?)

1987.001- DIT/49 tax documents (1861)

1987.001- DIT/50 foreign document (1869) Puerto Rican Document pertaining to ships in South America. Written in Spanish

1987.001- DIT/51 [schedule of insanity](#) (1873) John H. Ditmars Jr., being the copy sent to the asylum

1987.001- DIT/52 [bill of sale](#) (1875) witnessed by F. Ditmars, for a number of items including livestock

1987.001- DIT/53 departure manifest for the ship "Frank E" (1878)

1987.007-DIT/60 diagram [1---] of a structure, giving details about walls and outlets

1987.001-DIT/61 notes and sketchbook [1927?] written and drawn on the reverse of pages in a 1927 calendar. Author is unknown

1987.001-DIT/62 calling cards [1---] signed by various individuals including Cyprus Eagles, Frank Byrne, Carles Moody, Charles Jensen, and Winthrop Lodge. Also includes business cards for George Whitman of Clementsport and Hussey, Wells & Co. of Pittsburg. Also includes a post card (1876) addressed to James A. Drew of Boston with a note indicating that money is owed to the Township of Clements

1987.001-DIT/63 [manuscript](#) [1--- ; handwritten] entitled "How to lay a Dinner Table"

1987.001-DIT/64 manuscript [19--? ; typewritten] about an individual's personal experience in Viet Nam written by an unknown author

1987.001-DIT/65 Liverpool Road. – Scale: undetermined. – [1---]. – 1 map : col. ; 48cm x 79cm. – Item is a map of lands noting owners, such as Morton, Jackson, Cushing, Chute, Cohoon, Baxter, Potter, and many others. The location of lakes and rivers, such as Look Lake and the Port Medway River, are included. – Written on reverse in ink: "South / ~~North~~ & East / Liverpool Road". - Item is folded

1987.001-DIT/66 Plan of NSCR. – Scale: undetermined. – [1---]. – 1 map : col. ; 47cm x 70cm. – Item is a map of lands noting owners, such as Crowe, Kempton, Harlow, Burnaby, Eager, Freeman, and many others. The location of lakes and rivers, such as Kedgemakooge Lake and West River, are included. – Written on reverse in ink: "Plan of NSCR / West of Liverpool Road / & Kegamagoogy". – Item is folded

1987.001-DIT/67 Dalhousie. – Scale: undetermined. – [1---]. – 1 map : col. ; 48cm x 73cm. – Item is a map of lands noting owners, such as Stoddart, Tobin, Robertson, Chipman, and many others. The location of lakes and rivers, such as La Have Lake and the Nictaux River, are included. - Written on reverse in ink: "Dalhousie / South & East". – Item is folded

1987.001-DIT/68 Dalhousie and Roxbery. – Scale: undetermined. – [1---]. – 1 map : col. ; 24cm x 40cm. – Item is a map of lands noting owners, such as Vroom, Randolph, Whitman, Thorne, and others. The location of roads and lakes, such as Albany Road and Trout Lake, are included. - Written on reverse in ink: "Dalhousie & Roxbery". – Item is folded

1987.001-DIT/69 Trout Lake. – Scale: undetermined. – [1---]. – 1 map : col. ; 31cm x 48cm. – Item is a map of lands noting owners, such as Pickles and Mills, E.D. Davison & Sons, Beals, are included. The location of lakes and roads, such as Dalhousie Road and Trout Lake, are included. – Written on reverse in ink: "Trout Lake". – Item is folded

1987.001-DIT/70 Lunenburg Township. – Scale: undetermined. – [1---]. – 1 map : col. ; 4m x 94cm. – Item is a map of lands noting owners, such as Church, Boylan, Walker, Crandall, and many others. The location of lakes, rivers, and roads, such as Timber Lake, Gold River, and Old Annapolis Road, are included. – Item is folded

## Biographical History

The Ditmars family came to Clements Township in 1783. A Loyalist of German descent, Captain Douwe Ditmars of Long Island, NY, brought his family to Annapolis County and his descendants married families of Lunenburg County.<sup>1</sup>

Robert Lester Ditmars (1864-1924) was born in Clementsport. His was the son of Charles, a merchant in Clementsport, and Laura (nee Leslie). Robert married Emma G. Coffill, who may have died in 1966.

Gilbert F. Ditmars (b. 1866) was born in Clementsport. He was the son of Charles and Laura (nee Leslie) Ditmars and, therefore, Robert's brother. Gilbert F. may have been named after Gilbert Fowler Ditmars, although the direct relationship is unknown.

Gilbert Fowler Ditmars (b. around 1810) of Clementsport, was a Collector of Customs in Annapolis County. Gilbert's parents were farmers. He married Harriett Balcomb (widower) in 1875, at an Anglican church in Paradise; she was 66 and from Paradise. Her parents were Sarah and Thomas Ruggles, shipowner.

## Custodial History

Unknown

## Scope and Content

The fonds consists of records for the Ditmars family of Clementsport, Annapolis County, NS, and contains legal documents, indentures, estate inventories, correspondence, and related.

The fonds consists of five series:

1. Robert L. Ditmars papers (1882-1924)
2. Emma G. Ditmars papers (1907-1966)
3. Gilbert F. Ditmars papers ([18--?], 1887-1904)
4. Gilbert Fowler Ditmars papers ([18--?], 1825-1877)
5. Ditmars family papers (1816-1927)

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<sup>1</sup> For additional information on Douwe Ditmars, see <http://doug Sinclair's archives.com/ditmars/douweditmars.htm>. His descendants can be found in the Canadian census of 1851, 1881, 1901, and 1911 as well as in the Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics <https://www.novascotiagenealogy.com/>.

### Notes

Supplied title based on contents of fonds.

Items acquired by Jim Snowdon from the Ditmars family of Clementsport.

Order imposed by Archivist. The records of Gilbert F. and Gilbert Fowler were originally intertwined because of confusion over the similar name, although the dates and the census clearly indicate that these were two separate individuals.

It is possible that the records in series five were kept by Gilbert Fowler Ditmars, but the records do not indicate specifically.

Records subject to the *Copyright Act*.

Some items are available digitally.

See also *Genealogy of the Ditmars Family to 1928* by Gertrude Ethel Jones Boyland

See also *Clements Township – Its History and Its People, 1783-1870* by Ira Maxwell Sutherland [SPTHES 1957]

See also *History of the County of Annapolis* by W.A. Calnek [SPCOLL FC2345 .A5C35 1897], specifically page 501

See also The Douwe Ditmars House in Clementsport c.1789 on the Annapolis Heritage Society's 400 years of Heritage Buildings – Part one.

<http://www.annapolisheritagesociety.com/heritage%20buildings.htm>

Removed from the accession:

City of Boston harbor regulations [1881]. Item did not contain notations

Pike's Peak folding post cards [1---]. Items did not contain notations

For reasons of historic authenticity, all file titles provided by the author and captions provided by the photographer are transcribed unedited. The spelling of both peoples' and places' names has changed with time, so inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the titles are unavoidable. Files and captions may also contain inaccuracies or terms that would now be considered offensive.

### Citation for this electronic finding aid:

This finding aid should be cited as a website. Relevant information is as follows:

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Author: Esther Clark Wright Archives, Acadia University

### Access Points

Ditmars family (Clementsport, Annapolis Co., NS)

Ditmars, Emma G. (fl.1946)

Ditmars, Gilbert F. (b.1866)

Ditmars, Gilbert Fowler (b.1810)

Ditmars, Robert L. (b.1864)

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