



Finding Aid for

**HOWARD FAMILY PAPERS, 1841-1901**  
**Accession 62.168.9**

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## OVERVIEW

**REPOSITORY:** Benson Ford Research Center  
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**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 62.168.9

**CREATOR:** Howard family

**TITLE:** Howard Family papers

**INCLUSIVE DATES:** 1841-1901

**QUANTITY:** 1 linear ft.

**LANGUAGE:** The materials are in English.

**ABSTRACT:** Dr. Alonson Bingley Howard (1823-1883) was a country physician in mid-19th century Michigan, and conducted his medical practice in a building located on his property, Windfall Farm. This building was moved to Greenfield Village between late 1959 and 1961. Included in the collection are account books, medicinal recipes, correspondence and receipts reflecting the medical practice and personal affairs of Dr. Howard.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** The papers are open for research.
- COPYRIGHT:** Copyright has been transferred to the Henry Ford by the donor. Copyright for some items in the collection may still be held by their respective creator(s).
- ACQUISITION:** It is thought that the greatest portion of this material was probably transferred to the museum about 1962 by Howard D. Washburn, great-grandson of Dr. Alonson B. Howard and donor of the Howard office building to Greenfield Village.
- RELATED MATERIAL:** Related material held by The Henry Ford:  
- For additional information on the Howard family, see E.I. 186 Dr. Howard's Office, Family History
- PREFERRED CITATION:** Item, folder, box, accession 62.168.9, Howard Family papers, Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford
- PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Collection processed by Benson Ford Research Center staff, 1987.
- DESCRIPTION INFORMATION:** Original collection inventory list prepared by staff of the Benson Ford Research Center in April 1987.
- Finding aid prepared using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) and local guidelines.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

Dr. Alonson Bingley Howard (1823-1883) was a country physician in mid-19th century Michigan. He was born in Sweden, New York in 1823 and moved with his family to Tekonsha, Michigan about 1840. As a young man, Alonson Howard learned his first lessons in medical treatment from the Potawatomie Indians at the Athens Reservation near his father's farm and became skilled in the use and preparation of herbal medicines. Deciding to secure a formal medical education, Howard attended a course of lectures at the Cleveland Medical College in 1849 and was a member of the second medical school class at the University of Michigan from 1851-1852. A believer in homeopathic medicine, Howard combined the modern scientific practices of his day with his deep interest in herbal remedies throughout his career.

A. B. Howard conducted his medical practice in a building located on his property, Windfall Farm. This building, originally built as a schoolhouse in 1839, was acquired by Dr. Howard in 1855 and was in use until his death in 1883. This building was moved to Greenfield Village between late 1959 and 1961.

Alonson Howard was married twice, first to Letitia Cone (1823-1857) in 1844. Their children were Ella Amelia (1846-1848), Herbert W. (1849-1863) and Truman J. (1852-1923). In 1858, Howard was remarried to Cynthia Coryell Edmunds (1832-1899), a cousin of his first wife. They had four children: Manchie Eliphalet (1861-1921), Letitia Elizabeth (born 1864), Mattie Randall (1865-1940) and Camer Alonson (born 1868). Manchie Howard was the only offspring to pursue a medical career, attending the University of Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery and the Cincinnati College of Homeopathy. Manchie set up his own medical practice in Perryville, Arkansas. Camer Howard assumed ownership and management of the Howard property, Windfall Farm.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Included in the collection are account books, medicinal recipes, correspondence and receipts reflecting the medical practice and personal affairs of Dr. Alonson Howard. Also included is a small group of materials relating to other Howard Family members. Items of special interest in this group include the diary of Camer Howard describing his father's death, the early medical notes of Manchie Howard and a handmade memorial book with samples of hair of various Howard family members.

## ARRANGEMENT

The papers are arranged in two series as follows:

Series I: Dr. Alonson B. Howard

Series II: Howard Family Members

Subseries I: Camer Howard

Subseries II: Herbert W. Howard

Subseries III: Manchie Howard

Subseries IV: Miss S.C. Edmunds

Subseries V: Howard Family

## SUBJECT TERMS

### Names, Personal and Corporate

Howard family

Howard, Alonson Bingley, 1823-1883

### Subjects

Homeopathic physicians--Michigan

Physicians--Michigan

Medicine

### Genre and Form

Financial records

Diaries

Photographs

## CONTAINER LIST

**Box no.**                      **Description**

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### **DR. ALONSON B. HOWARD**

Account book

#### **Box 1**

- 1-1 1849-1853
- 1-2 1855-1857
- 1-3 1861-1862
- 1-4 1863-1865
- 1-5 1866
- 1-6 1867
- 1-7 1871-1873
- 1-8 1874
- 1-9 1875

#### **Box 2**

- 2-1 1878
- 2-2 1880-1881
- 2-3 Bible, 1878
- 2-4 Correspondence, 1872, 1878, 1881, 1883, undated
- 2-5 Correspondence with patients, 1867, 1876-1878
- 2-6 Homeopathic medical diary, 1869-1872
- 2-7 "Homeopathy: An Explanation of What It Is", by F.H. Orme, 1868
- 2-8 Insurance policies, May 1879
- 2-9 Medicinal recipe book, 1864
- 2-10 Medicinal recipe book, undated
- 2-11 Medicinal recipes, undated

#### **Box 3**

- 3-1 Receipts, 1855, 1858, 1870-1871, 1874, 1878-1881, 1885, undated
- 3-2 Receipts, Farrand, Williams & Co. medical supplies, 1880-1882
- 3-3 Tax receipts, 1851, 1856-1857, 1862, 1866, 1868-1876, 1879-1883
- 3-4 Theorem painting, undated

### **HOWARD FAMILY MEMBERS**

#### **Camer Howard**

- 3-5 Account book, 1841-1901
- 3-6 Account book, circa 1887
- 3-7 Diary and farm account book, 1883-1884
- 3-8 Receipt, 1891

#### **Herbert W. Howard**

- 3-9 Reward of merit certificate, circa 1860

#### **Manchie Howard**

- 3-10 Correspondence, 1895
- 3-11 Medical school notes and receipts, 1878-1879, undated

**HOWARD FAMILY MEMBERS (continued):**  
**Box 3 (continued):**

**Miss S.C. Edmunds**

3-12 A Token of Friendship, circa 1880 (memorial book with hair samples from various members of Howard family and their friends)

**Howard Family**

3-13 Howard family photograph information