

# Guide to the Town of Danby Collection

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## Collection Number V-2-5-1

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See also:

General Photo Collection – Danby I25  
School Records Collection – Danby V-6-2-5  
Danby School Register Collection – V-63-9-3  
Church Records Collection – Danby V-6-1-8  
Sarah Elbert Danby Collection – V-64-7-4  
Danby Telephone Company Records (1905-1927) – V-2-5-2

## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This township consists of the three communities of Danby, West Danby and South Danby. Located in the south central portion of Tompkins County, the town straddles the Danby Divide. This unique geological phenomenon separates two watersheds, one draining north via Buttermilk Creek and Cayuga Lake to the St. Lawrence River, the other draining south to the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers to the Chesapeake Bay. Nearly one-quarter of the town's 34,143 acres is made up of the Danby State Forest.

Unlike the northern portion of Tompkins County, Danby was not surveyed into military lots for the payment of Revolutionary War soldiers. It was part of the extensive Watkins and Flint Tract, a vast expanse of land that was named for wealthy developers John Watkins and Royal Flint and others. They bought more than 300,000 acres from New York after the state dispossessed Native Americans in the 1790s. Some of the early settlers of European descent were the Dumond, Yaple, and Beers families.

This collection contains an early history of the town in a transcript of an 1850 census, a collection of newspaper articles and a 1978 village tour with a copy of an 1879 history of Danby attached. The "Danby Area News" from 1988 to 1993 provides a more recent account.

Civil War related material includes a furlough notice and enrollment and descriptive records for Company F, 50<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

Other items of interest are correspondences to Jacob Willsey from 1839 to 1846 and the records of the Danby Cemetery.

### CONTAINER LIST

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BOX 2

“Enrollment of Persons Liable to Military Duty in Company F, 50 <sup>th</sup> Regiment, N.G.S.N.Y.” 1864	18
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