

# Guide to the Archibald Davidson Research Collection

*The History Center in Tompkins County*  
110 North Tioga Street, Suite 204A  
Tompkins Center for History and Culture  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607-273-8284  
[www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)  
[archives@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:archives@thehistorycenter.net)

## Collection Number V-45-1-1

### COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of research notes, correspondence, and magazine and newspaper articles concerning the nineteenth-century weaver Archibald Davidson. Born in Scotland in 1771, Archibald Davidson opened a weaving shop in Ithaca in the late 1820s. It was situated on Cascadilla Creek near what is now Collegetown. A special loom attachment developed around 1804 in France allowed weavers to produce curvilinear or “fancy” designs and to personalize coverlets, with decorations, dates, and family names. This was the Jacquard method and it arrived in America during the early 1820s.

Davidson worked in Ithaca creating coverlets and carpets until the mid-1840s, when he is thought to have moved to Warsaw, in Wyoming County, NY. Davidson died ca. 1854.

The History Center has a number of his coverlets in its textile collection.

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