Finding Aid: Brown Family Papers  
Nicole Helregel

Time: 1833 – 1993 (bulk: 1870 – 1920)  
Place: Mostly Beloit, Wisconsin

**Description of Collection:**

Donated to the Beloit College Archives by Holly Bachmeyer in 2009, the Brown Family Papers encompass a wide range of materials. The collection consists of one box of materials with a few oversized removed items and includes photographs (both individual prints and a scrapbook), newspaper clippings, correspondence, diaries, memorabilia, writings, and documents. The documents, writings, clippings, memorabilia, and diaries are arranged collectively by family member, the correspondence is arranged chronologically, and the photographs are arranged chronologically. Each folder contains a detailed inventory of its contents. The materials have been kept relatively unharmed, but many are very old and delicate and must be handled carefully.

**Overview of Contents:**

The collection covers a wide range of genealogy, including major holdings for the Brown, Bennett, Gregory, and Waterman families. Many of the Brown family members are Beloit College alumni. Highlights of the collection include: two diaries – Hila Mandana Brown (maiden name: Bennett), 6/24/1868–1/6/1870, and Arabella Frances Lee (maiden name: Waterman), 1/1/1863–12/11/1864; a large photo scrapbook with extensively detailed captions and annotations; two letters (one handwritten and one typed) from Almon Bennett to his family while in California during the Gold Rush in 1851; William Fiske Brown’s collection of research, articles, and personal writings related to Abraham Lincoln; a large collection very detailed letters and family correspondence.

The collection and its holdings will be most useful for those interested in Beloit, Wisconsin history, the establishment of families and communities in Wisconsin, and family life during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.