



For more information about
The Cowles Library Heritage Collections
visit: www.lib.drake.edu/heritage/
or contact:
Bart Schmidt at 515-271-2940 or
bart.schmidt@drake.edu

Drake
UNIVERSITY

Cowles Library
2507 University Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50311-4505

The Cowles Family Publishing Legacy



Cowles Library at Drake University

Cowles Library at Drake University holds the papers of three men who presided over the Cowles family publishing empire.

That empire began in 1883-1884 when Gardner Cowles Sr. helped publish a weekly *Alguna*, Iowa, newspaper.



(Gardner Cowles, Sr. with sons
Russell, John, and Mike
circa 1910)

Pictured on the front cover are John and Mike Cowles,
and David Kruidenier, Jr.

In 1903, Gardner Cowles Sr. bought a Des Moines newspaper which would become the Des Moines Register and Tribune and exert a dominant influence around Iowa.

The organization that he built eventually included his sons, John and Gardner Cowles, Jr. (Mike), his grandson, David Kruidenier, Jr., the Minneapolis Star & Tribune, *Look* magazine and other magazines, newspapers and radio and TV stations around the country.

The collection of Cowles family papers includes personal and professional correspondence, photographs, documents, speeches, published material, and artifacts from the 1920s to 2005.

Keyword searchable Finding Aids, biographies, as well as the family tree, are available online.

How to use the Finding Aids

Go to *The Drake Heritage Collections* at:
www.lib.drake.edu/heritage/

Open Cowles Family Publishing Legacy and click on Collection.

Beneath each set of papers, materials are grouped into categories and accompanied by a content description and a link to the relevant Finding Aid.

Click on the Finding Aids download. At the top of the Acrobat Reader window, type a keyword search in the *Find/Search* box. If the word is found, it will be highlighted.

Click on the *Find Next* arrow to the right of the *Find/Search* box, for the next possible instance of that word.

The Cowles family collections are housed in secure filing cabinets. Once you have found material you wish to examine in person, you will need to consult with library reference staff to obtain access.