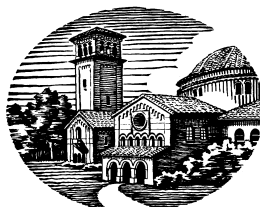


Charles L. Stilson Papers

MSS 130



Special Collections • Meriam Library • California State University, Chico

Contact Information

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Collection Summary

Title

Charles L. Stilson Papers, 1861-1900

Call Number

MSS 130

Creator

Charles L. Stilson

Language of Materials

English

Extent

Items: 2 boxes

Linear Feet: .75

Abstract

Diaries and legal note books of Charles L. Stilson, topics cover many prominent events in Chico and surrounding area.

Information for Researchers

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research without restriction.

Usage Restrictions

No restrictions.

Publication Rights

The library can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Users are responsible for satisfying any claimants of literary property.

Alternate Form of Material

Typed transcriptions of all or part of the following diaries: 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1871.

Acquisition Information

Source unknown.

Processing Information

Processed by:

Finding aid updated by: Pamela Nett Kruger, 20 November 2007

Preferred Citation

Charles L. Stilson Papers, MSS 130, Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

Online Catalog Headings

These and related materials may be found under the following headings in online catalogs.

[Bidwell, John, 1819-1900.](#)

[Chapman, A. H. \(Augustus Harley\), 1827-1899.](#)

[Butte County \(Calif.\) County Clerk.](#)

[United States. Army -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.](#)

[Pond & Stilson.](#)

[Chico \(Calif.\) -- History.](#)

[Butte County \(Calif.\) -- -- History.](#)

Related Collections

MSS 245, Butte County (Calif.). Recorder's Office. Correspondence.

sc21228, Butte County officials. [photograph]

Letter from Charles L. Stilson to wife Emma, 1872, at University of California Berkeley, Bancroft Library.

Biographical Note

Charles L. Stilson was born August 10, 1844 in Goshen, Indiana. At the age of three his parent died and was taken along with his two brothers to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin to live with relatives. He came to Butte County in 1863 working in Oroville retail. George Wood recruited him to work in Chico as a clerk for John Bidwell's downtown Chico store. From there he went to clerk for George Wood and A. H. Chapman's general merchandise company. In 1868, he established his own store with Charles L. Pond on Main Street. In 1886, he was appointed Butte County Clerk and elected to the office for four successive terms. While in office he studied law and in 1894 admitted to practice law in California establishing his legal practiced upon leaving public office. He was a founder of the Chico Gas and Water Company, trustee of local schools and helped secure the State Normal School in Chico. He was a mason in Chico Lodge no. 111. He was also a rancher owning two hundred acres in Stilson canyon which contained orchards and fields devoted to live stock. Married to Emma Dolliver they had two children Eleanor F. and Lois W., both of whom attended Chico State Normal School.

Scope and Content/Collection Overview

The journals begin in Shelbyville, Missouri on May 20, 1861, and very quickly concern themselves with the fighting between State and Federal troops during the early period of the Civil War. Stilson records a great deal about the movement of forces in the local area as well as major and minor battles near Shelbyville. The last entry while he is still living in Missouri is on July 14th, 1862.

The diary begins again upon Stilson's landing in San Francisco on May 28th, 1863. In his diaries he records many important events in Chico and the surrounding areas. The final entry is on June 11th 1872. The diary for the year 1870 is missing.

Also included are the accounts for the first months of operation of the hardware store started by Stilson and Charley Pond in 1868 (which includes the cost of materials to construct the building) and four notebooks from Stilson's legal practice during the 1890's.

Arrangement

Chronological.

Material Cataloged Separately

No material cataloged separately.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box 1

18 Folders

Diaries:

Folder 1: May 1861- July 1862

Folder 2: April- July 1863

Folder 3: July 1863- January 1, 1864

Folder 4: January 1 - December 31, 1864

Folder 5: January 1- August 1865

Folder 6: August - November 1865

Folder 7: November - December 1865

Folder 8: January 1 - December 31, 1866

Folder 9: January 1 - December 31, 1867

Folder 10: January 1 - December 31, 1868

Folder 11: February 1 - December 31, 1869

Folder 12: January 1 - 5, March 11- September 10, 1871

Folder 13: January 1 - June 11, 1872

Log Books:

Folder 14: 1868

Notebook:

Folder 15: 1890-1894 Alphabetic by City

Legal Notebooks:

Folder 16: 1891-1897

Folder 17: 1893, 1898, 1900

Folder 18: 1895-1900

Correspondence 1868:

Folder 19: Removed from 1868 diary, transcribed at end of 1868 diary.

Box 2

8 Folders

Typed Transcripts of Diaries

Folder 1: July 7- December 31, 1863

Folder 2: January 1- August 5, 1864

Folder 3: January 1- August 4, November 24-December 31, 1865

Folder 4: January 1- December 31, 1866

Folder 5: January 1- December 31, 1867

Folder 6: January 1- December 31, 1868

Folder 7: February 1- December 31, 1869

Folder 8: January 1-6, March 11- September 10, 1871