

Finding Aid to the Court Case Files

Descriptive Summary

Title: Court Case Files, Louis Stein Collection

Date Range: 1849-1930

Collection number: 1984.4

Collectors: Louis Stein

Extent: 275 boxes

Repository: County History Center, Contra Costa County Historical Society, 724 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553, 925-229-1042

Physical location: Room 5, Court Cases

Abstract: This is a collection of papers from criminal, civil, and probate court proceedings. They are housed in folders. Every name index is available.

Legal status: public

Information for Researchers

Access: Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights: [Contact the Contra Costa County Historical Society for publication permission.](#)

Preferred Citation: Suggested citation of these records is: [Identification of item], Louis Stein Court Case Collection, Contra Costa County Historical Society.

History: These files were found and protected by Louis Stein.

Scope and Content: This collection contains approximately 7,750 folders housed in gray boxes. There are approximately 275 boxes. Each box is labeled with a number, i.e. "CC34" and inside each folder may have as little as one or two documents or in some cases hundreds of pages. They cover Criminal, Civil, and Probate proceedings. The early years contain document that are all handwritten. There are no typed transcripts of these records. Records from later years, after the arrival of the typewriter, are easier to read.

The subject matter of these Case Files varies from detailed probates of the upper class families in the county down to the simple laborer. Criminal files may handle everything from murder to petty theft. Civil cases cover a very broad spectrum as well, including bankruptcy, land disputes, etc. These records are not a complete representation of the workings of our courts in that era. They are files that were found and protected by Louis Stein. They are a very valuable resource as most of the well-known family names of the county can be found here. Some knowledge of the law is helpful to our researchers, but is not required. Somewhat more difficult is reading the handwritten pages. Patience and a sense of humor can be very helpful here.

Arrangement of Materials

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Indexing Terms

Court Case Records

Louis Stein Collection