

Finding Aid to the Bray Family Collection

Descriptive Summary

Title: Bray Family Collection

Date Range: 1850-1960s, bulk in mid-1900s

Collection number: [Accession 02-28, 00-45, 13-21, 03-32, 15-38](#)

Extent: 14 boxes, various sizes

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

Physical location: Special Collections

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], Bray Family Collection, Contra Costa County Historical Society.

Additional Materials: See Bray items in the Veale Collection

Scope and Content: A.F. Bray (Absalom Francis Bray, Sr.), born 1 January 1987 in Montana and died 1 January 1987 in Martinez. He married Leila V. Bray, the daughter of Richard Raines (R. R.) Veale. They had a son, Absalom Francis Bray, III, known as Frank or Junior.

A.F. Bray became assistant district attorney in Contra Costa County in 1914 and was later a city attorney for Concord. In 1936, he became a Superior Court judge, and in 1946, he was named to the state appellate court, becoming the presiding judge in 1959. He retired

Bray was a founding member of the Contra Costa County Historical Society and served as its president. He was also active with Boy Scouting, Martinez Historical Society, and other local organizations.

This collection consists of personal papers he collected over the years about local history. Also in the collection are papers of R.R. Veale, Leila Veale Bray, and his son, Frank Bray. Other Bray information may be found in the society's Veale Collection.

Arrangement of Materials

[Radio Scripts, May 1936–December 1940](#)

[Typed scripts from weekly radio program "Human Aspects of Early California Supreme Court Cases," by A.F. Bray on station KLX in Oakland, California. He spoke on a different topic each week about the](#)

“human interest stories taken from the law reports of the first cases heard in the Supreme Court of the State of California...— only the human side of the cases. The character of the cases, the problems connected with them and their solution disclose admirably the character of the people, their manner of living, their methods of doing business and their customs.”

Misc. Artifacts

Plaque – Contra Costa County Peace Officers Association, for Leila Veale Bray

Misc. Newspaper Clippings

Miscellaneous newspaper clippings about the history of Contra Costa County, dates unknown 1960s-1970s

1950 Sample Ballot, Contra Costa County resident, Mrs. Leila Veale Bray

1969 notes of a speech given to the Library League by Ruth Galindo

January 1933 issue of *California Monthly*, published by the California Alumni Association (A.F. Bray, Jr.)

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Envelope

Drawing for Judge Bray

Boy Scout

Itinerary for the scout trip to Hawaii

Newspaper article about Honors for Camping Program

AF Bray Sr. – Retirement clippings, September 1964 [02-28]

AF Bray Jr. Papers

- Typed copy of the Address before California State Sheriff's Association, 22 Mar 1934, by Glenn Devore, District Attorney of Fresno County.

Bray [00-45]

- Receipt book, United Service Organizations, 1941. Most of the subscribers lived in Oakley.
- Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales (R.A.S.), *Annual*, 1919
- Photos (photocopied) of the California Bicentennial, July 4, 1970, at Walnut Creek's Heather Farm park.
- 1-captioned with: Walnut Creek Mayor Robert Schroder, Assemblyman James Dent, Lt. Governor Ed Reinecke, Justice A. Frank Bray, Grant Burton, Ken Castro of Californianos, taken by Roy S. Bloss.
- 2-captioned with: Ed Reinecke, wife, and daughter, Mimi, Justice A Frank Bray, and Louis L. Stein.
- Newspaper article on early land grants
- Newspaper article (March 1, 1936) from *Montana Standard*, about Businessmen of Butte, Montana in the 1880s, sent to A.F. Bray by sister, Frances. His father, A.F. Bray was mentioned.
- Newspaper article, *Contra Costa Times*, Apr 9, 1969, on Stow Homestead
- Typed "Pioneers of Contra Costa County," sorted by city/town
- Typed "Additional Pioneers"
- Handwritten list of judges 1850-1959
- Typed list of members of the Board of Supervisors, 1851-1959
- Dedication and Open House Contra Costa County Juvenile Hall, June 23, 1951

- Brochure, Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) & Official Program of the ground breaking ceremonies at the Diablo Test Track, June 19, 1964.

Box Bray #1 (02-28)

- 1967 U.C. Berkeley, Hastings College of Law, Yearbook
- Ledger, RR Veale, Account Book 1903
- Ledger, 1914-1924, daily weather account
- Ledger, Target Scores, August 1917-January 1918 (probably of the Home Guard)
- Ledger, D. J. Wall, dated Sept 1901, alphabetical listing of persons committed of crimes
- Ledger, Account Book of R.R. Veale, August 1903-September 1903
- *The White House Cook Book*, The Saalfield Publishing Co, NY, 1910
- Ledger, I Company C.H.G., Home Guard Roster, October 1917-October 1918; also Target Scores October 1917-October 1918.
- Stamps, "Let's Get Associated"
- Program, Annual Christmas Tree, given by the Cowell Portland Cement Co, 1925
- Misc. newspaper clippings about A.F. Bray
- Invitation, Honoring A.F. Bray, President and founding member
- Box containing ink bottles, metal stamp with initials M.I.M.
- Ledger, Los Medanos Irrigation Company, minutes
- Book, *Proceedings Seventeenth Annual Convention, California State Division, International Association for Identification*, 1932

Box Bray #2 (02-28)

- California Real Estate Directory-Bulletin, Jan. 1918
- Stanford Estate, book without its cover
- Obituary, Walter W. Head (1877-1954)
- Biography, Stephen Mallory White, California Statesman
- Treatise on "Investigation and Ramifications of Will Contests", probably written by A.F. Bray, Sr.
- Newspaper article on Grace Episcopal Church, Martinez from *Pacific Churchman*, Dec 1968
- Biography & letter from Clinton T Duffy, 1967
- Correspondence, misc., itemized list in folder
- Correspondence, from Mark Hopkins (duplicates of original), 1877
- Photos & correspondence, Mark Hopkins
- Superior Court, State of California, Edson F Adams et al vs. Emily B. Hopkins, et al, partial report , 1907 & final report, 1909
- Correspondence concerning U.S.O., 1942
- Booklet, California War Chest, Inc., 1943-46
- History, "Contra Costa County Medical Services," by Maxine Johnson, R.N.
- Certificate of Election, Appellate District Court, 1960
- John Marsh Home, news articles, maps, correspondence
- Correspondence concerning A.F. Bray retirement
- Newspaper articles, misc. about A.F. Bray
- Article, "The Parent and Juvenile Delinquency" by Judge A.F. Bray
- Correspondence, Contra Costa Camp Board, 1939-1942
- Correspondence, Mount Diablo Museum Advisory Committee, 1940; Water Use Appropriation on Personal Property, 1939; copies of various speeches
- Correspondence, nomination letters concerning appellate court, congratulatory letters, etc.
- Correspondence, miscellaneous, 1940s
- Correspondence, Kiwanis Club, 1942

- Photos (photocopies), misc. of A.F. Bray
- Negatives, crime scenes
- Photo, Louis L Stein, Horsecar to BART, 1973; Caricature of Assemblyman, R.P. "Bob" Easley, Antioch
- Photocopies of photos, labeled, A.F. Bray
- Medical Report, Mrs. Leila Veale Bray, 1937
- Letters of Introduction, Leila V. Bray and A.F. Bray Jr.; "The Brutal and Fiendish Slaying of Harry Lincoln Whited: The Aged Jeweler" by Leo G. Marcollo (mentions Sheriff Veale)
- Estate of W.R. Veale, sale of property
- Correspondence, California Water Service Co; Pacheco Adobe; Notes for Radio Talk
- Correspondence, Contra Costa County Development Association; Annual Report, 1940; newspaper article about founding of Richmond by A.S. Macdonald; about Contra Costa Day at Golden Gate International Exposition (1939)
- Certificates, Leila Veale Bray, Deputy Sheriff, 1927; correspondence with Wendell L. Willkie, 1941; Booklet, 1940 Republican Philadelphia Convention
- "Pay as You Go Park Plan" Park and Recreation Commission, 1963
- Miscellaneous published articles, A.F. Bray
- Published articles on Sheriff R.R. Veale
- Correspondence, personal letters, R.R. Veale and Mrs. R.R. Veale
- Correspondence, personal letters, A.F. Bray and Mrs. A.F. Bray
- *Pony Express* newsletter; *Pony Express: Heroic Beginning Tragic End* by Raymond W. Settle, 1959; *Have a Western! Meet Alexander Majors* by Leon L Loofbourow, 1957; *Sagebrush, Silver, Slot Machines: Methodism in Nevada* by Leon L. Loofbourow, 1957.
- Pamphlets: Carquinez Bridge opening, 1927; Southern Pacific Railroad bridge opening, 1930;
- Pamphlets: miscellaneous California history subjects
- "Chronology of Contra Costa County Public Library" by Bertha D. Hellum, presented to the CCCHS, Nov. 1971
- Bulletin, CCCHS, Nov 1952
- Abstract of Title to lands of George E. Ellis, William R. Ellis and Selena E. Ellis.
- Land Survey for J.H. Brennerman & John DeMartini Ranch; also Certificate of Sale for Taxes; also Treasurer's receipt, 1979 correspondence between A.F. Bray and Gordon Turner, of Turn & Huguet, Attorneys at Law.
- Deed, John Allyn to George Ellis, 1976 (land in Oakland)
- Hercules Logan, Opening Address to the Naturalization Class
- "Historic Shrines of Contra Costa County" by A.F. Bray, radio address
- Invitation list with addresses
- Miscellaneous items
- Memo to A.F. Bray, re Pony Express Plaque from Wells Fargo Bank
- Agreement with Martina Castro de Alvarado & husband (about land in Santa Clara county)
- Indenture for land in Rancho San Pablo to J.M. Tewksbury to George Ellis, 1862
- Tax Receipt, 1896-97, George E. Ellis; Tax Receipt 1906, George Ellis; Assessment List 1899 & 1900 for George Ellis; Oakland City Taxes 1906-07 for George E Ellis
- Description of Tewksbury Island by settler & claim (Potrero de San Pablo), 1861
- Estate of Charles T Ellis, Geo E. Ellis, Administrator
- Superior Court, City & County of San Francisco, Henry F. Emeric v. Henry V Alvarado et al (George E Ellis was one of them).

Bray Box #3 (02-28)

- Folder #0, Sheet Music: "Song to Contra Costa"

- Folder #1, Bumper stickers to re-elect Baldwin (close friend of A.F. Bray)
- Folder #2, misc. travel postcards sent to Mrs. A. F. Bray
- Folder #3, Booklets of California History from members of E. Clampus Vitus members
- Folder #4, Induction ceremonies/ Resolution of congratulations from lawyers, judges etc. on A.F. Bray being appointed Judge (superior) in Martinez
- Folder #5, article written by Alice Roosevelt Longworth, May 4, 1940, Saturday Evening Post about William Howard Taft for president.
- Folder #6, Promotional & Development brochures for Contra Costa County and various C.C. cities
- Folder #7, Commemorative folder for the Inaugural run of the "San Joaquin" Amtrak from SFO/Oak to Bakersfield 1974
- Folder #8, Sherriff's from Contra Costa County from 1850-1959
- Folder #9, Brochure of early history of Pittsburg, CA by M. Killough 1961
- Folder #10, Commemorative programs
- Folder #11, California & Bay history, misc. pamphlets
- Folder #12, Early history of Richmond, and of San Ramon & Dublin, booklets
- Folder #13, Invitations and Programs for various events
- Folder #14, Newspaper article and Commonwealth Club ticket about event with Mrs. Nhu Le Thuy, wife of South Viet Nam president
- Folder #15, Souvenir posters from Golden Gate International Exposition
- Folder #16, Souvenir brochures from Golden Gate International Exposition
- Folder #17, Souvenir items from Golden Gate International Exposition
- Folder #18, Souvenir items from Golden Gate International Exposition
- Folder #19, Mrs. A.F. Bray (Leila Veale Bray) papers dealing with Golden Gate International Exposition
- Folder #20, Golden Gate International Exposition brochures, and "Directory of Public Schools Contra Costa County, California, 1938-1939"
- Folder #21, Magazine *California Arts and Architecture*, December 1938
- Folder #22, *California Legislature Journal*, May 11, 1931, Bray and Veale mentioned on first page.
- Folder #23, H. M. Herman letters found in the papers of A.F. Bray
- Folder #24, Hugh H Donovan induction as Superior Court judge 1947, and *California Courts Commentary*, March 1967 (photo of Mr. & Mrs. Bray)
- Folder #25, Correspondence, misc. donated by Roy Bloss
- Folder #26, Booklet, *The Official Account of the Portola Expedition of 1769-1770*, edited by Frederick J Teggart, published 1909
- Folder #27, Miscellaneous mementos of A.F. Bray, R.R. Veale, and W.H. Veale
- Folder #28, Miscellaneous letterhead envelopes
- Folder #29, 1906 & 1907 calendars from Mount Tamalpais Military Academy, and program from San Rafael Military Academy, 1964.
- Folder #30, Miscellaneous programs
- Folder #31, Mementos from Elks club events
- Folder #32, Booklet, *The Kingdom of the Sun* from the Exposition in San Diego 1916
- Folder #33, Newsletter, *The Native Son*, March and April 1965 with photo of Bray
- Folder #34, Campaign info for Calvin Coolidge, 1924
- Folder #35, 1906 wedding invitation for Margaret Ann Veale (dau of W.R. Veale) to George Herbert Ott
- Folder #36, Copies of radio scripts by AF Bray
- Folder #37, Misc. papers, AF Bray (letters?)

- Folder #38, Mortgages between Veale and Raines
- Folder #39, Miscellaneous: attorney papers dealing with Seth M. Swain, deeds
- Folder #40, Miscellaneous correspondence, clippings, letterhead (Bray, Veale)

Box 4 (03-32)

- Folder #1. **Boy Scouts.** Small box with plaque from Mt. Diablo Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Cal-Stanford game ticket Nov 29, 1941, Key to New York City
- Folder #2. **Bray, Judge AF.** Certificates, programs, and correspondence
- Folder #3. Historical booklets and bulletins
- Folder #4. (13-21). **Biography** A.F. Bray
- Folder #5. Bray correspondence
- Folder #6. Bray, AF Jr., misc. items
- Folder #7. Bray, AF Jr., Family History
- Folder #8. Bray, Leila (Veale). Misc. items concerning women and WWII, Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), American Women's Voluntary Service (AWVS), "Directory of Public Schools Contra Costa County, California, 1939-1940"
- Folder #9. Byron
- Folder #10. Contra Costa County Development Association. 1966-1970. Newsletters, annual reports.
- Folder #11. Contra Costa County Historical Society, no. 1. 1950s & 1960s correspondence.
- Folder #12. Contra Costa County Historical Society, no. 2. Bray correspondence.
- Folder #13. California. Booklets and magazines.
- Folder #14. Pony Express. *The Pony Express*, published in Sonora. Issues: April 1970, May 1970, April 1969, Feb 1969, Feb 1963, Jul 1959, Sep 1955, Aug 1958.
- Folder #15. Railroads. Pamphlets & booklets.
- Folder #16. Salvation Army. *The War Cry*, Jun 9, 1951.
- Folder #17. RR Veale. Member association cards, newspaper clippings, correspondence, hand-written bio of R.R. Veale, brochures and booklets, aerial photo of Martinez c. 1933.
- Folder #18. Bray. Misc. newspaper clippings, Leila Bray bio, other items

Indexing Terms

Radio script
 California Supreme Court
 Early California history
 Newspaper clippings
 BART
 School Teacher Directory
 Golden Gate Exposition
 Contra Costa County Historical Society
 American Women's Voluntary Service (AWVS)
 Political campaign materials

Personal Names:

Veale
 Bray
 Raines