

## Finding Aid to the Miscellaneous Books Collection

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Miscellaneous Books Collection

**Date Range:** 1861-1970s.

**Collection number:** [Accession #84-4 \(but numerous items have other accession numbers, noted below\)](#).

**Extent:** 9 boxes and 6 books not in boxes.

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

**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], Miscellaneous Books Collection, Contra Costa County Historical Society.

**Scope and Content:** The scope and content of these books varies widely. They include business ledger books, other financial records, scrapbooks of calendars, scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, textbooks and a world atlas, property title search records, court case records and sheet music for piano. The books include items dating from 1861 to the 1970s, but most are from the late 1800s. Many of these books were collected and given to CCCHS as part of a very large donation (80 boxes) by Louis Stein in 1984. Born in 1902, Stein lived his entire life in Contra Costa County and was a pharmacist in Kensington for 38 years, an avid collector of local history, and a co-founder of CCCHS in 1954.

### Arrangement of Materials:

Materials are in 9 boxes, plus 6 books that are not in boxes.

#### Box 1

- *Monteith's Physical & Political Geography*, (A.S. Barnes & Co: New York, 1877). Previously owned by Mary Marie Denkinger (5/5/1880) and then Mrs. Karl Gehringer. Possibly a school text book for Lime Quarry School District.
- Scrapbook of commercial calendars from 1883-1888.
- Miscellaneous clippings from the *Byron Times 8<sup>th</sup> Booster Edition, 1922*. Bound in a scrapbook with images of East County and Martinez (county seat). Theme appears to be development of agriculture, commerce and infrastructure in eastern Contra Costa County.
- Notebook of Ralph H. Wight, student at Mt. Diablo Union High School, regarding the presidential election of 1824 and related political issues, 1905.

## **Box 2**

- Court Cases Record, Joseph P. Jones, Judge, 1888, volume 11. The day-by-day hand-written, court actions by Clerk LC Wittenmeyer, no index.
- Cash book belonging to John McCormack, 220 Clay St, San Francisco. First few pages dated 1880-84, showing shipments of flour via railroad and steam ship. Next set of pages dated 1946 with list of names and addresses.
- Dickinson Hotel ledger, Somersville, May 1900-Oct 1901. Six pages of listings of names of people who boarded.

## **Box 3**

- *Harper's School Geography*, (Harper & Bros: New York, 1876). Possible previous owners: F. Bacon, Thomas Bacon, Rachel Neustaedter, Anita Pacheco.
- Law Calendar, 1870-74.
- Book of Walnut Creek fruit invoices for the Guggenhime Company, 1923. (The Small Volumes Collection, Box #2, also includes Guggenhime Company material.)

## **Box 4**

- Day Book, 1907-10. Appears to be an accounting of expenses by an attorney. Each page for individual cases, some with case numbers.
- Cash Book, 1925-28. Possibly a Martinez merchant.
- Journal of shipments from Port Costa to Liverpool, 1895-1904. Owner not identified.

## **Box 5**

- Scrapbook of Janis (Van Thiel) Ludlum, 1935-49. Includes newspaper clippings, correspondence, programs, photos, musical partner Dorothy Young-Taylor. She had a music studio in Martinez. **Accession number 16-29.**
- Scrapbook of Alice McNeil Russi, 1967-68. Indexed. Clippings of local interest. **Accession number 84-09.**
- Scrapbook of Joanna Taliaferro, 1940s. Collection of greeting cards/correspondence, clippings, and drawings. **Accession number 14-10.**

## **Box 6**

- Scrapbook of Alice McNeil Russi, 1975-78. Indexed. Clippings of local interest. **Accession number 84-09.**
- Advices Received of Money Orders Drawn Ledger, Somersville Post Office, 1877-1910. Lists people from mostly Somersville and Nortonville.
- Advices Received of Money Orders Drawn Ledger, Antioch Post Office, 1882-91. Lists of people from mostly Antioch, Brentwood, and Byron.

## **Box 7**

- Shipments of flour mill orders to local customers from an unnamed flour mill, 1861-1862.
- Business Accounting ledger book for Neustaedter Store in Concord, 1947. (May be related to the Neustaedter Family Collection of small volumes.)

### **Box 8**

- Book of certificates, United Stock Yard Company of San Francisco. 1890-95. Filled out with seals.
- L. W. Connors Account Book, blacksmith business, Lafayette, 1862-74. Accession number 97-11.
- Account Book of unknown, showing orchard and garden work, 1901. Accession number 93-16. (Some misc. modern writing in the book as well.)
- Memorandum of Drawing Juries for the District Court and Court of Session of Contra Costa County, 1861-70. Multiple page lists of jury pools taken from assessment rolls. Accession number 96-79.
- Transfer Journal. Pacific Coast Steel & Iron Manufacturing Co. Lists of stock certificates and numbers. Original signatures of stock holders. 1884-85. Accession number 96-79.

### **Box 9**

- Scrapbook (inscribed with "2<sup>nd</sup> of 3") of newspaper clippings about the history and development of Walnut Creek, including articles from 1955-2003 and 1988-2009. Accession number 17-29. (The other two scrapbooks are described below in the "**Free-standing books**" section.)
- Binder of Nilda Rego's newspaper clippings and other clippings of Bay Area historical points of interest written by other authors. Donated by Mildred E. Freitas. Accession number 97-47.
- Port Costa Warehouse Receipt Book, 1897-1903.
- Pinole: City with a colorful past, looking toward the future, 1973. Accession number 94-43.
- Collection of menus from local restaurants, 1970s-80s, in two large manila envelopes, donated by R.C. Ferris. Accession number 05-21.

### **Free-standing books**

- Scrapbook of Hercules Logan containing newspaper clippings from 1941 mostly on local crimes, wartime preparations, and labor issues.
- Account book of Bott & Smith, Concord, 1892-1894. Book was later owned by Mrs. Karl Gehringer of Oakley.
- OS&D Reports book, containing records from Southern Pacific Railroad on shipments to customers, 1954. Inside back cover indicates the book was taken from the SP Station in San Leandro. "OS&D" label on binding refers to "over, short and damaged" which is railroad parlance for shipments that contained too much, too little, or damaged items.
- Ledger books (two) for an unnamed business from the San Leandro area, 1903-1910 and 1912-1913. Accession number 15-58.
- Music book of Abby S. Tuck, containing piano sheet music, 1847-1850. Accession number 87-35.
- Scrapbooks (two) of newspaper clippings about the history and development of Walnut Creek, including articles from 1955-2003 and 1988-2009. Accession number 17-29. Deed of gift for accession indicates there were three of these scrapbooks; the third one is included in **Box 9** as described above.

**Indexing Terms:** Business Records, Correspondence, Day Books, Letters, Music, Property, Scrapbooks.

**Personal Names:**