

## **Tooby and Prior Photo Album Finding Aid**

### **Collection Number**

1999.21

### **Contact Information**

The Library, Special Collections  
Humboldt State University  
One Harpst Street  
Arcata, California 95521

### **Processed By**

Kathryn LaSala and Edith Butler, MA, CA

### **Date Collection Processed**

2012

### **Language**

English

### **Collection Creator**

Tooby Family or Prior Family

### **Dates Covered by Collection**

ca 1903 - 1915

### **Size of Collection**

.5 cubic foot; 1 photo album (29.8 cm x 20.9 cm)

### **Abstract**

The album consists of 129 photographs pertaining to the Tooby and Prior families who ran a cattle company in Blocksburg, Humboldt County, California, during the early 20th century. Most images include Tooby or Prior family members, social gatherings, ranching activities, landscapes, and the Blockburg area.

### **Access**

The collection is open for research.

## **Copyright**

Copyright has not been assigned to Humboldt State University Library. To obtain permission to publish or reproduce in any format, please contact the Special Collections Librarian.

## **Acquisition Information**

The album was in the possession of the Humboldt State University Library Special Collections prior to 1997.

## **Biographical Information**

The Tooby family's association with the Prior family began in 1902. In 1903 the Tooby brothers, Frank, Ernest (E. N.), and Ira purchased the Western Livestock Company's ranch land in Blocksburg and started a cattle company with the Prior family. The cattle company's holdings were known as Tooby and Prior, Inc.

## **Scope and Content of the Collection**

The photographs in the album document the everyday lives of two families in the ranching business around 1903 in Blocksburg. The majority of the images contain a member of the Tooby or Prior families as well as friends and other local residents. Most photographs are either of social gatherings or ranching activities.

The album is in fair condition with one loose image, one partial image, and five spaces that probably once had images. The majority of the images are black and white. The images do not appear to be arranged in chronological order and only a small portion of the photographs have been labeled. In order to preserve the context in which the photographs were created and arranged, the album was left intact.

Subjects taken from captions include:

- Blox Church [Blocksburg]
- Blox Hotel [Blocksburg]
- Dry Lake, Blox [Blocksburg]
- Harris
- Helmke Home, Blox [Blocksburg]
- Hotel Bridgeville
- Lassek Peak, Blox [Lassic Peak, Blocksburg]
- Prior Home, Blox [Blocksburg]

Names of individuals identified:

- L. Glenn

D. Glenn  
Ed. Godfrey  
G. Helmke  
R. Hope  
D. Prior  
N. Prior  
Grandma Schroder  
E. N. Tooby  
Stella Tooby

**Container List**

Box 1

1. One photo album (29.8 cm x 20.9 cm) with 25 pages and 129 photographs.

**Subject Headings**

Blocksburg (Calif.)

Ranch life - California - Humboldt County