

## Finding Aid to the Thomas A. Brown Collection

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**Title:** Thomas A. Brown Collection

**Date Range:** 1840s-1890s

**Collection number:** [Accession # 2020.16](#)

**Extent:** Nine boxes and 5 microfilms; indexed

**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], Thomas A. Brown Collection, Contra Costa County Historical Society.

**Scope and Content:** This collection was part of a personal archive of pioneer attorney and political leader of Contra Costa County, Thomas A. Brown, covering material from 1847-1885. He was a county judge from 1856-64 and from 1874-80. He served in the State Assembly 1864-68. He was a candidate for U.S. Senate and a judge of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County. He also practiced law in Martinez.

The collection, donated by the Contra Costa County Library, contains letters, notes, deeds, mortgages, and other legal documents from many of the early pioneers and settlers of the county. Such names include Horace Allen, Mathew R Barber, Elam Brown, Horace W. Carpentier, Joseph Emerick, Hiram Mills, Napoleon B Smith, Joseph Swanson, and Francis M Warmcastle.

There are also documentary material concerning Mexican Land Grants in the county, particularly Rancho Acalanes, Rancho Arroyo de las Nueces y Bolbones, Rancho Boca de la Canada del Pinole, Rancho Canada de los Vaqueros, Rancho Canada del Hambre y las Bolsas del Hambre, Rancho San Antonio, Rancho San Pablo, Rancho San Ramon, and Rancho El Sobrante.

Political papers include election returns, petitions, manuscript legislative acts, opinions and briefs, and other legal papers.

Other topics include education, transportation and mining in the county.

**Arrangement of Materials:** Nine boxes of file folders, 5 microfilms of same, one index finding aid. The papers are arranged primarily in alphabetical order by the writer, a reference note or the name of the

addressee, the date of the document, and note as to its nature. See “Index and Key Arrangement to Microfilm of Thomas A. Brown Papers.”

**Indexing Terms:** Correspondence, Court artifacts, land grants, election, legal papers.

**Personal names:** Horace Allen, Mathew R Barber, Elam Brown, Thomas A. Brown, Warren J Brown, Lawrence M Brown, Horace W. Carpentier, Joseph Emerick, Hiram Mills, Napoleon B Smith, Joseph Swanson, and Francis M Warmcastle.