

2013

Robert H. Willey Legal Collection

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Robert H. Willey Legal Collection MSS.2013.04.30



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Title: Robert H. Willey Legal Collection

Identifier/Call Number: MSS.2013.04.30

Contributing Institution: SJSU Special Collections & Archives

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 0.416 Linear feet 1 Hollinger box

Date (bulk): Bulk, 1860-1880

Date (inclusive): 1831-1911

Abstract: The collection of Robert H. Willey contains records pertaining to Willey's law practice in Monterey County from 1879-1916. The first series consists of records documenting various Willey family legal transactions. Series two consists of a variety of legal records that include: deeds, legal agreements, mining documents, financial statements, patent correspondence, court documents and other legal records. Series three consists of a single petition and includes a typescript. The petitioner requests Colonel R. B. Mason, the Governor of Upper California (1847-1849) for enforcement of protection of rancheros' located in San Diego, San Luis, Santa Ana, and San Bernardino from continued robbery of cattle, horses, and mules by Native American's and others. Applications for armed protection were made to the Military Commandant without result. The petitioner requests assistance from the Governor by providing a detachment of U.S. military officers to enforce the rule of law in the region.

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

creator: Willey, Robert H., 1852-1916

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Robert H. Willey Legal Collection, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Processing Information

Collection arranged and processed by Danielle Lopez, 2013, edited and reviewed by Danelle Moon.

Organizational/Biographical History

Robert H. Willey (1852-1916) was born in 1852 in New York, New York, while his father was a temporary worker in New York and following the end of his assignment, he and his family returned to their home in Yorkshire, England. At the age of seventeen Robert Willey traveled to San Francisco with his father and from this experience he moved to Napa Valley to study law. While in Napa Valley, Willey met and married Susie Clark. In 1879, the couple relocated to Monterey where Willey established his law practice. Some years later Willey became Monterey's City Attorney while continuing his private law practice. Willey died November 30th, 1916 leaving behind a widow and three children.

Bibliography:

Ingersoll, Luther A. *Memorial and Biographical History of the Coast Counties of Central California*. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1893), 418-419.

"San Diego-Port and City," in *An Illustrated History of Southern California Embracing the Counties of San Diego, San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Orange, and the Peninsula of Lower California, from the Earliest Period of Occupancy to the Present Time: Together with Glimpses of Their Prospects: Also, Full-page Portraits of Some of Their Pioneers and of Prominent Citizens of To-day*. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1890), pp. 174-176.

Scope and Content of Collection

The collection of Robert H. Willey contains records pertaining to Willey's law practice in Monterey County from 1879-1916. The first series consists of records documenting various Willey family legal transactions. Series two consists of a variety of legal records that include: deeds, legal agreements, mining documents, financial statements, patent correspondence, court documents and other legal records. Series three consists of a single petition and includes a typescript. The petitioner requests Colonel R. B. Mason, the Governor of Upper California (1847-1849) for enforcement of protection of rancheros' located in San Diego, San Luis, Santa Ana, and San Bernardino from continued robbery of cattle, horses, and mules by

Native American's and others. Applications for armed protection were made to the Military Commandant without result. The petitioner requests assistance from the Governor by providing a detachment of U.S. military officers to enforce the rule of law in the region.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three series: Series I, Wiggin's Family Records, 1842-1890; Series II, Robert Willey Legal Records, 1831-1911; Series III, Petition to Colonel M.B. Mason, Governor Upper California (cira 1847-1849)

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Law--California--Monterey County

Mining--California

Monterey County--History

Wiggins, William

Willey, R.H.

Series I: Wiggin's Family Records 1842-1890

Physical Description

5 Folders

Scope and Content Summary

This series consists of family documents that include: legal records, letters, notes, ledgers, newspaper clippings, and one stock certificate. Several documents include information about the Guadalupe and Wiggins Mining operation. The records are arranged into four subject headings: Court Proceedings, Family Correspondence, Financial statements, Land/Property agreements, and Mining papers. A few non-translated Spanish documents and one transcribed letter are included within the series.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically by date.

Folder 1: Court Proceedings 1850-1880

Folder 2A: Family Papers 1851-1880

Folder 2B: Ms.Gracie Letter n/d

Folder 3: Financial Papers 1850-1880

Folder 4A: Land/Property Agreements 1861-1890

Folder 4B: Land Document 1842

Folder 5: Mining Papers 1850-1878

Series II: Robert Willey Legal Records Bulk, 1865-1880 1840-1911

Physical Description

4 Folders

Scope and Content of Collection

This series documents Robert Wiley's law practice in Monterey County. The records include: property deeds, land agreements, patent requests, court summons, money transactions, letters, personal notes, and client lists. The court documents primarily relate to land and property legal transactions. The patent documents within the series chronicle the effort and success of an official patent for the invention of a Baking and Glazing Apparatus. The United States Patent Office acknowledged the invention from Luke House and granted R.H. Willey two-thirds ownership rights of the patent.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by subject and by chronological date order.

Folder 6: Court Documents 1864-1877

Folder 7: Land/Property Agreements 1831-1907

Folder 8: Miscellaneous Documents 1984,1900

Folder 9: Patent Documents 1908-1911

**Series III: Petition to Colonel M. B. Mason, Governor Upper California, (circa 1847-1849)
n/d**

Physical Description

1 Folder

Scope and Content of Collection

This series consist of a hand written petition addressed to Colonel R.B. Mason, Governor of Upper California, and a typescript. The petitioner requests military protection of rancheros' located in San Diego, San Luis, Santa Ana, and San Bernardino from continued robbery of cattle, horses, and mules by Native American's and others. Applications for armed protection were made to the Military Commandant without result. The petitioner requests assistance from the Governor by providing a detachment of U.S. military officers to enforce the rule of law in the region.

Arrangement

This series is arranged into a single folder.

Folder 10: Petition to Colonel M. B. Mason, Governor Upper California, (circa 1847-1849) n/d