Finding Aid to the Cooper-Molera Family Papers

Lara Michels
The Bancroft Library

2015
The Bancroft Library
University of California
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URL: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/libraries/bancroft-library
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library
Title: Cooper-Molera family papers
creator: Cooper, Juan Bautista Rogers
creator: Molera, E. J. (Eusebius Joseph)
creator: Molera, Andrew J.
creator: Molera, Frances Mary
creator: Cooper family (Monterey County, California)
creator: Molera family (Monterey County, California)
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 78/57 c
Physical Description: 11 linear feet (7 cartons, 8 volumes, 2 oversize folders)
Date (inclusive): 1803-1970
Abstract: Papers of the Cooper and Molera families of Monterey County, California. Includes some nineteenth-century materials from patriarch John B. Rogers Cooper and papers from his descendants, many of which relate to the operations of El Sur Ranch.
For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
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Immediate Source of Acquisition
The Cooper-Molera family papers were gifted to the Bancroft Library by The National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1977.
Processing Information
Processed by Lara Michels in 2015.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Cooper-Molera family papers, BANC MSS 78/57 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.
Biographical / Historical
John Rogers Cooper (1791-1872) came to Monterey, California from New England in 1823 as captain of the trading schooner Rover. In Alta California, Cooper became a Mexican citizen and took the name Juan Bautista Rogerio Cooper. He married Encarnacion Vallejo (1809-1902), sister of General Mariano Vallejo.
In 1829, Cooper purchased Rancho Bolsa del Potrero y Moro Cojo, which sat between the Salinas River and the Tembladero Slough, near present Castroville. Rancho El Sur, a land grant made in 1834 by Governor Jose Figueroa to Juan Bautista Alvardo, was transferred to Cooper in 1840 in exchange for Rancho Bolsa del Potrero y Moro Cojo. Cooper's claim on Rancho El Sur was confirmed by the United States in 1866.
Until the late 1920s, Rancho El Sur was a working ranch and farm operated by descendants of John B. Rogers Cooper, including daughter Amelia Cooper (1844-1918) and her husband Eusebio Joseph Molera (1846-1932), and Amelia's and Eusebio's children, Andrew J. Molera (1875-1931) and Frances Mary Molera (1879-1968). On this land currently sits Andrew Molera State Park.
Content Description
Papers of the Cooper and Molera families of Monterey County, California. Includes some nineteenth-century materials from patriarch John B. Rogers Cooper and papers from his descendants, many of which relate to the operations of El Sur Ranch.
Among the John B. Rogers Cooper materials are ship log books dating from 1811 to 1846 and account books and other financial material dating from 1804 to 1832.

The largest part of the collection consists of the papers of Cooper’s grandson Andrew J. Molera. These papers mostly document the operations of the El Sur Ranch and consist of correspondence, materials relating to ranching and agriculture, and a large number of invoices and receipts.

Other family members with scattered papers in the collection include Eusebio Joseph Molera (Cooper’s son-in-law), Ana Cooper Wohler and Herman Wohler (Cooper’s daughter and son-in-law), and Frances Mary Molera (Cooper’s granddaughter).

Subjects and Indexing Terms

- Ranching -- California
- Animal pedigrees
- Rancho El Sur (Calif.)
- Monterey County (Calif.)
- Account books
- Leases
- Ships’ papers
- Ships’ logs
- Receipts
- Cooper, Juan Bautista Rogers
- Molera, E. J. (Eusebius Joseph)
- Molera, Andrew J.
- Molera, Frances Mary
- Cooper family (Monterey County, California)
- Molera family (Monterey County, California)

Series 1: Juan Bautista Rogers Cooper 1803-1875

Physical Description: Carton 1

**Carton 1, Folder 1, Reel 1**

Hunter (ship) log book September 9, 1810-September 16, 1811

Content Note
Voyage from Boston to the Fiji Islands, William M. Rogers, Commander. Several pages missing in front and indefinite number of pages missing at end of log.

**Carton 1, Folder 2, Reel 1**

Elizabeth (brig) log book February 27, 1843-July 16, 1844

Content Note
Several voyages from Gambia to Salem, Salem to Gambia (points between Rio Nuñez, Russis, Cochoe. Includes letter from James Coghlan (2 pages) 1845, 21 pages (printed and hand-written) sea songs and stories, 3 blank pages. Eden B. Hooper, Captain.

**Carton 1, Folder 3, Reel 1**

California (schooner) log book April 28, 1844-January 19, 1846

Content Note
Last pages missing. Several voyages Monterey to Mazatlan (and Acapulco). John B. R. Cooper, Captain.

**Carton 1, Folder 4, Reel 1**

Joven Guipuzcoana log book February 6, 1846-June 3, 1846

Content Note
San Diego to Callao. Captain unknown.

**Carton 1, Folder 5, Reel 1**

Invoice book November 1, 1803-April 28, 1804
Carton 1, Folder 6, Reel 1  John B. Cooper's Ledger 1805-1806
Carton 1, Folder 7, Reel 1  John R. Cooper's day book 1805-1806
Carton 1, Folder 8, Reel 1  John R. Cooper's trial balance 1805-1806
    Content Note
    Including one added page for account of articles sold onboard "Rover" and expenses.

Carton 1, Folder 9, Reel 2  Accounts for goods sold in California 1825-1826
Carton 1, Folder 10, Reel 2  Account book from the Schooner Rover 1824-1827
    Content Note
    General inventories, merchandise sold, and wages. Voyages to Woahoo, Manila, Guhan, Canton, and California.

Carton 1, Folder 11, Reel 2  Account book (Santiago) 1827-1829
    Language of Material: In Spanish.

Carton 1, Folder 12, Reel 2  Laborers' financial accounts (Monterey) 1828-1830
Carton 1, Folder 13, Reel 2  Account book (Lima) 1827-1831
    Content Note
    Mr. John Evans

Carton 1, Folder 14, Reel 1  Laborers' account book 1829-1832
Carton 1, Folder 15, Reel 2  Account book, financial records 1831
Carton 1, Folder 16, Reel 2  Day book 1830-1832
    Content Note
    Account of articles sold from "Volunteer" and record of debts of employees and J.B.R. Cooper.

Carton 1, Folder 17, Reel 1  Ledger 1832-1840
Carton 1, Folder 18, Reel 2  Laborers' accounts approximately 1847
Carton 1, Folder 19, Reel 2  Disbursements de la California 1840-1842
Carton 1, Folder 20, Reel 2  Account book 1842-1846
Carton 1, Folder 21, Reel 2  Accounts, George Benton 1844-1846
Carton 1, Folder 22, Reel 2  A book of rents of rooms (Valperaiso) 1845-1846
Carton 1, Folder 23, Reel 2  Boarders' Book (Valperaiso) 1846
Carton 1, Folder 24, Reel 2  Account book (Monterey) 1827-1845
Carton 1, Folder 25, Reel 1  Wage book for seamen from the Brig Eveline (to Wahoo and to Hong Kong)
 Carton 1, Folder 26, Reel 1  1849-1850
 Carton 1, Folder 27, Reel 2  Blotter (accounts) 1851-1852
Series 1: Juan Bautista Rogers Cooper 1803-1875

Carton 1, Folder 28, Reel 1
Financial diaries 1852

Carton 1, Folder 29, Reel 2
Ledger 1851-1853

Carton 1, Folder 30, Reel 2
Small account book 1859-1860

Carton 1, Folder 31
Letter to John Cooper from Henry O. Howard 1862

Carton 1, Folder 32, Reel 2
Small account book 1862-1867

Carton 1, Folder 33, Reel 2
Small account book 1867

Carton 1, Folder 34
Account books 1862-1870

Carton 1, Folder 35
Account book 1875

Carton 1, Folder 36
Accounts, summons undated

Carton 1, Folder 37
Household accounts undated

Carton 1, Folder 38, Reel 2
Directions of the house of Don Juan Ant. Vallejo undated

Carton 1, Folder 39
Manuscript map of Monterey undated

Content Note
2 floor plans, 1906, by David Little and Berry in oversize.

Carton 2, Folder 1
Lease from J.B.H. Cooper to Esperidion Vasques 1898-1899

Carton 2, Folder 2
Trial affidavits for land case and defendants' brief for Martin vs. Cooper approximately 1899

Carton 2, Folder 3
Indentures 1867-1869

Series 2: Eusebio Joseph Molera approximately 1893

Carton 2, Folder 4
E.J. Molera report on the Tehuantepec Railroad

Series 3: Ana Maria de Guadalupe Cooper and Herman Wohler 1861-1911

Carton 2, Folder 5
H. Wohler taxes 1861-1862

Carton 2, Folder 6
Letters to Ana M. (Cooper) Wohler 1872-1880

Carton 2, Folder 7
Invitations to Ana Wohler undated

Carton 2, Folder 8
Account book

Series 4: Andrew J. Molera approximately 1890-1931

Physical Description: Carton 2, Folder 9-24; Carton 3-6; Carton 7, Folder 1-4; oversize Folder 1-2

Carton 2, Folder 9-24
Correspondence 1900-1927

Carton 2, Folder 25
University of California materials approximately 1895

Carton 3, Folder 1-27
Ranching/Breeding on El Sur Ranch approximately 1895-1919

Scope and Contents
Herd books for sheep and cattle; stud books; pedigree documents; inventories; lists of horse names; account books; day books; horse family trees; stud advertisements; checkbooks and stubs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carton 4, Folder 1-5</th>
<th>Ranching/Breeding on El Sur Ranch approximately 1895-1919</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| volume 1 | Ranching/Breeding on El Sur Ranch: Ledger 1907-1911 |
| volume 2 | Ranching/Breeding on El Sur Ranch: Ledger, Employee's Account Book 1918-1920 |
| volume 3 | Ranching/Breeding on El Sur Ranch: Ledger 1907-1917 |
| volume 4 | Ranching/Breeding on El Sur Ranch: Insurance 1908 |
| volume 5 | Ranching/Breeding on El Sur Ranch: Ledger 1907-1911 |
| volume 8 | Ranching/Breeding on El Sur Ranch: Account book 1913-1918 |
| oversize-folder 1 | Ranching/Breeding on El Sur Ranch: Pedigree chart for Bathos (horse) |
| Carton 4, Folder 6-15 | Invoices/receipts 1915-1920 |
| Carton 5 | Invoices/receipts 1920-1924 |
| Carton 6 | Invoices/receipts 1924-1927 |
| Carton 7, Folder 1-4 | Invoices/receipts 1927-1929 |
| oversize-folder 2 | Other materials approximately 1890-1930 |
|                     | Content Note                                            |
|                     | Architectural drawings for homes and apartment building; front/elevation for theater building in Monterey; a circa 1910 hand-drawn plat map of part of Carmel Valley (including locations for the properties of the Paizzoni family, James Martin, Owen Smith and others as well as locations for Corral de Tierra, Los Laureles, Los Tularcitos, El Toro, Llano de Buena Vista, the tract of James Meadows). |

Series 5: Frances M. Molera approximately 1930-1970

| Carton 7, Folder 5-13 | Financial, property records, artichoke ephemera, legal records 1930-1970 |