
Finding Aid to the Henry D. Cogswell Papers, 1846-1960 (bulk 1850-1899)

Processed by Elizabeth Stephens

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Finding Aid to the Henry D. Cogswell Papers, 1846-1960 (bulk 1850-1899)

Collection number: BANC MSS 84/61 c

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Finding Aid Author(s):
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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Henry D. Cogswell papers

Date (inclusive): 1846-1960

Date (bulk): 1850-1899

Collection Number: BANC MSS 84/61 c

Creator: Cogswell, Henry D. (Henry Daniel), 1820-1900

Extent: Number of containers: 6 boxes, 2 cartons
Linear feet: 3.3

Repository: The Bancroft Library.

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Abstract: The collection contains diaries of Henry Cogswell and his wife Caroline and are an unusually long and consistent record of busy personal and financial life in the western United States. The collection also contains Cogswell's financial and business records, and materials on the various schools with which he was involved. A significant portion of the collection consists of research materials of Loren B. Taber pertaining to Henry and Caroline Cogswell, the history of dentistry in California, and a biography of William Brown Gilden.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

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

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

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Some printed materials have been transferred to the book collection of The Bancroft Library.

Photographs have been transferred to Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog

Gilden, William Brown

Taber, Loren B. Compiler

Business enterprises--California--San Francisco

Dentistry--California

Fountains--Design and construction

Real estate investment--California--San Francisco Bay Area

Technical education--California--San Francisco

Business records

Legal instruments

Acquisition Information

The Henry D. Cogswell Papers were donated to The Bancroft Library in two installments, in December 1983 and in May 1987, by his grandson, Professor Richard D. Taber.

Biographical Information

California pioneer, Henry D. Cogswell was a dentist by profession, an inventor, a real estate manipulator and investor, entrepreneur, philanthropist, temperance advocate, and founder of Cogswell Polytechnic College (1887), the first engineering institute west of St. Louis. Dr. Cogswell donated several statues of himself, as well as numerous fountains, to the city of San Francisco.

Scope and Content

The diaries of Henry and his wife Caroline cover 37 years (1860-1897) and are an unusually long and consistent record of busy personal and financial life in the West, including travels and the transactions of day to day life. In addition to the diaries, the collection contains Cogswell's financial and business records, including tax receipts, deeds, mortgages, legal documents, and mining certificates. Material on the various schools with which Cogswell was involved, and information and correspondence about the various fountains and statues Cogswell donated is also included.

Another significant portion of this collection is research done by Loren B. Taber pertaining to Henry and Caroline Cogswell, the history of dentistry in California, and a biography on William Brown Gilden, as well as a reference file of index cards for the Cogswell material and for Taber's correspondents re Cogswell.

Series 1: **Cogswell Family Diaries. 1846-1898.**

Henry D. Cogswell Diaries. 1853-1898

box 1, folder 1-18	v. 1-18 1853-1877
box 2, folder 1-14	v. 19-32 1878-1891
box 3, folder 1-7	v. 33-39 1892-1898

Caroline Cogswell Diaries. 1846-1896

box 3, folder 8-15	v. 1-8 1846-1871
box 4, folder 1-13	v. 9-21 1873-1896

Series 2: **Indexes to Cogswell Subject Files. undated**

box 5	Loren B. Taber index to Cogswell Subject Files undated
box 6	Loren B. Taber index to Cogswell Correspondents undated
	Series 3: Subject Files of Henry D. Cogswell. undated
	File outline [prepared by Loren Taber]
carton 1, folder 1	A: Fountains, monuments
carton 1, folder 2-6	
carton 1, folder 7	A: Drawings and photographs of monuments
carton 1, folder 8-12	B: Tax Records
carton 1, folder 13-16	C: Street Railroads
carton 1, folder 17-20	D: Insurance policies, deeds, real estate
carton 1, folder 21-23	E: Foltz; regents; Phelps
carton 1, folder 24	F: Mining
carton 1, folder 25	G: Inventors Institute, Patents
carton 1, folder 26	H: Mausoleum
carton 1, folder 27	I: Miscellaneous
carton 1, folder 28	J: Cogswell Polytechnic College: Culver
carton 1, folder 29	K: Jameson
carton 1, folder 30	L: Begging letters
carton 1, folder 31-33	M: Cogswell Medal, philanthropic societies
carton 1, folder 34-35	N: Investments, Meiggs
carton 1, folder 36	O: 319 Broadway
carton 1, folder 37	P: Kindergarten
carton 1, folder 38-39	R: Receipts for photos, engravings, household expenses, etc.
carton 1, folder 40	S: Lambat; Ladies' Seamen's Friends Society
carton 1, folder 41	T: Trips, home and abroad
carton 1, folder 42	V: Other Cogswell's and very close friends
carton 1, folder 43	V: Libraries
carton 1, folder 44	W: Politics, temperance; Frances Willard
carton 1, folder 45	X: 610 Front Street
carton 1, folder 46	Y: James L. Cogswell; S. L. James; miscellaneous power of attorney
carton 1, folder 47	Z: Early days in California
carton 1, folder 48	Clippings
carton 1, folder 49	Punch Magazine 1877 & 1879
carton 1, folder 50	Miscellaneous souvenirs undated
	Series 4: Research Files of Loren B. Taber, ca. 1900-1958, undated

Regarding Cogswell. ca. 1900-1958.

carton 2, folder 1	Biographical material undated
carton 2, folder 2	Notes on diaries of Henry D. and Caroline Cogswell undated
carton 2, folder 3-6	Transcripts of diaries of Henry D. Cogswell, v. 1-3, 10 (ca. 1853-1871) undated
carton 2, folder 7	Transcript of expense book of Caroline Cogswell, v. 1 (1853-1857) undated
carton 2, folder 8-11	Transcripts of diaries of Caroline Cogswell, v. 2, 4, 6, 11 (1853-1862) undated
carton 2, folder 12	Burgess, Gelett, 1866-1951 - letter Sept. 11, 1939
carton 2, folder 13-18	Correspondence ca. 1918-1960

Regarding Cogswell. ca. 1900-1958.

carton 2, folder 19	Cogswell bibliography undated
carton 2, folder 20-22	Copies of articles and clippings undated
carton 2, folder 23	Cogswell Polytechnical College correspondence ca. 1933-1958
carton 2, folder 24	<i>Cogswell Petit Courier</i>, v.2, no.2 Sept. 1900
carton 2, folder 25-26	<i>Cogswell Polytechnical Life</i> v.I, no.1; v.II, no.2 undated; Nov. 1903
carton 2, folder 27	<i>Cogswell Spirit Builder</i> student journal, v.ix, no. 12 Mar. 7, 1941
carton 2, folder 28	<i>Are You Ready for Tomorrow</i> Cogswell Polytechnic College bulletin 1958
carton 2, folder 29	Cogswell Polytechnic College newsletter 1958
carton 2, folder 30	Cogswell College Semi-Centennial Celebration March 1937
carton 2, folder 31	Cogswell Mission High School Records scrapbook 1891-1908

Regarding History of Dentistry in California. undated

carton 2, folder 32	Notes
carton 2, folder 33-34	Bibliography and notes
carton 2, folder 35	Notes on teeth in native cultures
carton 2, folder 36	Miscellaneous historical reports
carton 2, folder 37-38	Research committees— California State Dental Association

Regarding William Brown Gildea. undated

carton 2, folder 39-40	Notes for biography
carton 2, folder 41	Correspondence