Guide to the Wells Drury Papers, 1871-1932BANC MSS 86/36 c

Processed by Karen Gracy; completed by Elizabeth Stephens

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Note
Arts and Humanities --Literature --American Literature
Arts and Humanities --Journalism
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library
Title: Wells Drury Papers,
Creator: Drury, Wells, 1851-1932
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 86/36 c
Physical Description: 1.25 linear feet (1 carton)
Date (inclusive): 1871-1932
For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Abstract: Correspondence, articles and stories by Drury, and newspaper clippings including obituaries.
Language of Material: English
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Wells Drury Papers, BANC MSS 86/36 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.
Acquisition Information
The Wells Drury papers were given to The Bancroft Library in September 1976 by Newton B. Drury.
Scope and Content
Wells Drury, pioneer newspaperman and member of the Nevada House of Representatives, was born September 16, 1851 in New Boston, Illinois. Orphaned while crossing the Oregon Trail in 1852, he was adopted and brought up in Oregon on an Indian reservation on Puget Sound. Drury arrived in San Francisco in 1873. Successful investments in mining concerns in the Comstock in Nevada convinced him to move to Virginia City, where he became one of the editors of the Virginia City Chronicle, the Territorial Enterprise, the Gold Hill News, and the Bodie Daily Miner. As a reporter in the Comstock, Drury knew Mark Twain and Bret Harte and later, in San Francisco, met Robert Louis Stevenson. In 1882 Drury became deputy secretary of the state of Nevada and in 1887 became a member and speaker pro tem of the Nevada House of Representatives.
Drury returned to California in 1888. He was at different times managing editor of the San Francisco Call, city editor of the San Francisco Examiner, a news editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, news editor of the Sacramento Union, managing editor of the Los Angeles Record, and on the staff of the Oakland Tribune. In addition, Drury was one of the first presidents of the San Francisco Press Club. Beginning in 1908, he was for fifteen years managing director, and later president, of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce. When Drury died in 1931, he was known as a politician, newspaperman, and publicist.
While the collection covers all aspects of his life, the material primarily concerns his activities as a newspaperman in the Comstock, including articles and stories written during that time or about his experiences there. The collection includes correspondence with Dan de Quille as well as typed copies of articles by de Quille; photostats and clippings of articles by Bret Harte; and tear sheets, notes and clippings by and about Mark Twain. A small group of correspondence, including some with family members, is found at the beginning of the carton and concerns primarily newspaper business.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Drury, Wells, 1851-1932

SERIES 1: OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE, 1871-1927.

Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 1-5
Scope and Contents
Arranged alphabetically by name of recipient, with miscellany preceding folders of correspondents receiving more than two letters.

carton 1, Folder 1 Miscellany, A-Z 1923-1931, Undated
Brisbane, Arthur Apr. 4, n.y.
SERIES 1: OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE, 1871-1927.

The Bulletin, Editor Nov. 17, 1925
California Historical Society, Undated
California State Library, Historical Section July 2, 1923
California State Library, State Librarian July 5, 1923
The Daily Telegram, Feb. 5, 1924
E. F. Houghton Co., President Aug. 5, 1924
Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Curator of Collection, Undated
The Independence, Editor, Undated
Louideck, Edward L. Jan 25, 1927
Mackay, Clarence H. Jan. 18, 1925
Markham, Edwin Feb. 15, 1923
Merrill, Clarence S. July 18, 1925
Miller, Joaquin and Juanita Jan. 24, 1924
Mills, Charles B. July 20, 1925
Naylor, F. Linden July 16, 1924
Nevada State Historical Society July 3, 1923
New York Evening Post, Editor of the Literary Review Mar. 17, 1923
Oregon Historical Society Jan. 31, 1924; July 26, 1925
The Press Club of San Francisco, Dec. 19, 1925
Reade, Frank R. Jan. 21, 1924
Reardon-Lavery, Anita Dec. 19, 1924
Ruxton, Robert June 13, 1925
The Sacramento Union, City Editor July 2, 1923
San Francisco Examiner, Editorial Rooms Jan. 17, 1924
Schneider, George L. July 14, 1927
Smith, Grant H. Dec. 13, 1923
The Star Press, Manager Jan. 28, 1920
Thurston County Pioneer and Historical Society Mar. 17, 1923
Todd, Frank Morton June 20, 1923
The University of Washington, Librarian June 18, 1925
The Virginia Chronicle July 31, 1924
Wells, Gabriel Aug. 1, 1923
Unidentified

Carton 1, Folder 2
Drury, Marion 1871-1872, Undated

Carton 1, Folder 3
Drury, Newton Bishop and Aubrey 1918-1921

Carton 1, Folder 4
[Sisters]: Melissa and Celinda 1923-1924

Carton 1, Folder 5
Unidentified family correspondence

SERIES 2: INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE, 1915-1937.

Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 6-11
Scope and Contents
Arranged alphabetically by name of writer with miscellany preceding folders of correspondents writing more than two letters. A final folder holds letters neither to nor from Wells Drury.

Carton 1, Folder 6
Miscellany, A-Z 1915-1937, Undated
Alameda County Development Commission Apr. 9, 1926
Ancient Order of Sciots, Berkeley Pyramid No. 30 Feb. 14, 1930
Bekeart, Phillip Baldwin Jan. 19, 1931
Berkeley Chamber of Commerce Dec. 16, 1915
Berkeley Country Club Sept. 12, 1923
Borst, Virgil Dec. 17, 1927; Dec. 18, 1929
California Historical Society May 12, 1923; June 29, 1923
City of Sacramento, City Librarian July 3, 1923
Cleaver, Lon Aug. 7, 1937
Contra Costa County, Office of County Recorder Nov. 26, 1924
Driver, M.B. Aug. 14, 1930
Dunlap, Boutwell Feb. 7, 1924; Mar. 8, 1928

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E. F. Houghton Co. Aug. 12, 1924
Elder, Alfred D. July 21, 1924
Emslie Lorenz Mar. 3, 1932
Hutchinson, T.O. May 11, 1928
Irvine, Leigh H. (Leigh Hadley) Aug. 19, 1928
McWilliams, Carey July 19, 1928
Maxwell Park Company Sept. 30, 1925
Merrill, C.S. July 18, 1925
Minnesota Historical Society Dec. 30, 1932
Mt. Tacoma Club Nov. 26, 1924
Nevada Historical Society July 9, 1923
Nevada Reunion Committee Aug. 9, 1927; Aug. 11, 1928
Oregon Historical Society Aug. 1, 1925
Oregon Pioneer Association Dec. 12, 1925
The Press Club of San Francisco Dec. 15, 1925
Reade, Frank R. July 11, 1923
Rearden-Lavery, Anita Undated
Richardson, F.W. Dec. 14, 1915
Ross, G.M. Nov. 4, 1925; Oct. 28, 1928
Schneider, George L. June 30, 1927
Seibold, Louis May 13, 1923; Jan. 11, 1931
Smith, Grant H. Dec. 6, 1923
Staats, Redmond C. Sept. 12, 1928
The University of California. The Bancroft Library July 18, 1923
The University Press June 19, 1925
United States Senate. Committee on Immigration Apr. 25, 1928
Watt, Rolla Vernon Nov. 25, 1924
Wells, Gabriel Aug. 6, 1923
Woolery, Ruby F. June 2, 1926
Young, John July, 1931
Unidentified

Carton 1, Folder 7
Bagley, Clarence B. 1923-1930
Carton 1, Folder 8
Barry, James H. 1927
Carton 1, Folder 9
California State Library, State Librarian 1923-1931
Carton 1, Folder 10
Mortimer, W.J. 1926-1932
Carton 1, Folder 11
Letters neither to nor from Wells Drury

SERIES 3: WRITINGS, Undated
Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 12-23
Scope and Contents
Articles and stories, arranged alphabetically by title. Also includes notes, fragments and miscellaneous drafts.

carton 1, Folder 12
A-F, Miscellaneous

Abe Curry’s Oddities
Aunty’s Big Pension
Baldy Green
Baldy Green’s Song
The Banshee
Berkeley’s Prominence Due to Many Natural Advantages
A Blast Against Ambrose Bierce
Book Reviews
A Bucket of Dollars
Captain Jack - The Poet Scout
Colonel Brown of Virginia City Discourse on the Etiquette of the Free-Lunch Counter
Columbus Mining District
Comstock Days - and Nights
Decadence of Politeness in Drinking Customs
The Eureka Stage Robber
Extracts from newspapers, Virginia City, Nevada
Fair and Modjeska
The Famous Highwayman
First Birth in Reno
From a Comstock Editor's Scrapbook

The Game Cook is a Genuine Gentleman
Geological Reminiscences
George H. Lowe - An Appreciation
Handling Wild Horses
How Senatorial Fights Are Fought in Sagey Nevada
John Mackay's Last Poker Hand
Judging the Hand of a Check Thief
Manager Pat Holland
Memorandum on the Files of the Virginia City "Territorial Enterprise," 1886-1972
Men Who Held Down Claims
Misplaced Titles
Nevada
Nevada Stage Robbers
A Nevada Town With a Past
Nickanora Was a King

Old Gillis' Pet Pig
The Passing of a Pioneer
Pilgrim Hazlitt and Others
The Prima Donna's Bow to the Comstock Boys
The Problem John Mackay Solved
Rich, Yet Poor
Robbed Again

Sam Davis Fighter
Sam Wagner's Notice to the Public and His Fiends
A Second Robbery
Shelton's Blue Mare
Shacking Afraid
The Stage Robber Captured
The Story of Sandy Bowers
The Stranger's Story
They Played It Wrong
Thin Racers Matched
Victory for Grubbs, Alias Dubbs
What Nevada Did for the Union
When I Struck the Comstock

Markham, Edwin— article by Wells Drury
Point Lobos and its Grove of Monterey Cypress
SERIES 3: WRITINGS, Undated

Carton 1,
Folder 19
Carton 1,
Folder 20
Carton 1,
Folder 21
Carton 1,
Folder 22
Carton 1,
Folder 23

Advertising copy
Miscellaneous writings
Comstock Days and Nights —Notes and fragments
Miscellaneous story fragments
Photostats of Wells Drury stories

SERIES 4: SUBJECT FILES, ca. 1871-1931.

Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 24-43
Scope and Contents
Arranged alphabetically by subject. Includes clippings, miscellaneous notes, and articles on a variety of topics of interest to Drury.

carton 1,
Folder 24-25
Carton 1,
Folder 26
Carton 1,
Folder 27
Carton 1,
Folder 28
Carton 1,
Folder 29
Carton 1,
Folder 30
Carton 1,
Folder 31
Carton 1,
Folder 32
Carton 1,
Folder 33
Carton 1,
Folder 34
Carton 1,
Folder 35
Carton 1,
Folder 36
Carton 1,
Folder 37
Carton 1,
Folder 38
Carton 1,
Folder 39
Carton 1,
Folder 40
Carton 1,
Folder 41
Carton 1,
Folder 42-43

The Comstock Lode—clippings and tear sheets
What was happening on the Comstock 45 years ago today —clippings of series
de Quille, Dan— typed copies of correspondence to Dan de Quille
de Quille, Dan— typed copies of articles
Harte, Bret— photostats and clippings
Joy, Oliver— annotated transcripts of his diary (2 copies)
Nevada— miscellaneous clippings
Oregon— miscellaneous clippings and ephemera
Oregon Trail
Piper's Opera House—notes and miscellany
Politics and Politicians—notes and fragments
Sharp, Milton— notes, fragments, and clippings on Sharp
Twain, Mark— tear-sheets and notes
Twain, Mark— clippings
Virginia City— articles
Washington— clippings and miscellany
Miscellaneous

SERIES 5: BIOGRAPHICAL DATA, ca. 1922-1931.

Physical Description: Carton 1, folders 44-51
Scope and Contents
Includes articles, biographical notes, diaries for 1922-1924, miscellaneous personalia, reviews, and clippings by or about Drury.
carton 1, Folder 44
Carton 1, Folder 45
Carton 1, Folder 46
Carton 1, Folder 47
Carton 1, Folder 48
Carton 1, Folder 49
Carton 1, Folder 50
Carton 1, Folder 51

Article and programs re speaking engagements of Wells Drury
Biographical notes on Wells Drury
Diaries of Wells Drury—1922 and 1924
Material re Drury’s membership in the Elks Club
Miscellaneous personalia of Wells Drury
Clippings on or by Wells Drury
Reviews and articles re Drury’s An Editor on the Comstock Lode
Clippings of obituaries of Wells Drury