

Finding Aid to the Woolsey Family Papers, 1875-1990 (bulk 1935-1959)

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Collection number: BANC MSS 99/132 c

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Woolsey Family Papers

Date (inclusive): 1875-1990

Date (bulk): 1935-1959

Collection Number: BANC MSS 99/132 c

Creator: Woolsey Family

Extent: 4 cartons, 3 oversize folders 6.25 linear feet

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Abstract: The collection represents the personal, familial, and business activities of three generations of the Woolsey family, a family influential from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries in Berkeley, California. The bulk of the correspondence in the Woolsey family papers is addressed to or from William Harold Woolsey and his wife, Mary Catherine Woolsey.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Access Information

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Woolsey Family Papers, BANC MSS 99/132 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

Alternative Form of Materials Available

There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Removed or Separated Material

Photographs have been transferred to Pictorial Collection 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
Hart, Nellie

Robson, Francis Shattuck, 1885-1949

Shattuck, Francis Kittridge

Woolsey, Mary Catherine, b. 1897

Woolsey, Rosa Morse, b. 1861

Woolsey, William Edgar, 1854-1939

Woolsey, William Harold, 1900-1956

Woolsey, William Harold, 1931-

Young, Sally Woolsey, 1929-

Shattuck family

Woolsey Family

Woolsey family--Archives

Land tenure--California--Alameda County

Landowners--California--Alameda County

Real property--California--Alameda County--Maps

Berkeley (Calif.)--History

Berkeley (Calif.)--Maps

Shattuck Hotel (Berkeley, Calif.)

Cadastral maps.

Family papers

Maps

The Woolsey Family Papers were given to The Bancroft Library by Helene Woolsey on August 27, 1998.

No additions are expected.

Processing Information

Processed by Jae Mauthe in 2012.

Biography/Organization History

William Edgar Woolsey was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1854 to Ezra Woodhull and Martha Ann Woolsey. The E.W. Woolsey family moved to California in 1868, renting homes and land in Oakland and Berkeley until 1877 when they purchased 200 acres in Sonoma County, 9 miles from the city of Santa Rosa. W. E. Woolsey graduated from Oakland High School and attended the University of California, Berkeley (then the College of California) for three years. W. E. Woolsey married Rosa Livingstone (born 1861) the niece of Francis Kittredge and Rosa Morse Shattuck in 1884. The couple settled on the Woolsey family ranch in Sonoma County where W.E. Woolsey was instrumental in organizing the first Prune Growers Association in Sonoma County as well as the first fruit growers cooperative in the State - the California Cured Fruit Association.

After the death of Francis K. Shattuck in 1906, W. E. and Rosa Woolsey sold the Sonoma ranch and moved to Berkeley to manage the Shattuck estate for Rosa M. Shattuck. The Woolseys inherited the Shattuck home at 2216 Shattuck Avenue after the death of Rosa M. Shattuck in 1908. The estate's grounds were bounded by Shattuck Avenue, Allston Way, Milvia Street, and Kittredge Street. As president of the Shattuck Hotel Association, incorporated in 1907, W.E. Woolsey carried out Francis K. Shattuck's plans to build a magnificent hotel in Berkeley, erecting the Shattuck Hotel at Shattuck Avenue and

Allston Way. Construction on the hotel began in 1909 and was completed in 1913. In 1910, W.E. and Rosa Woolsey donated the land at Allston Way and Milvia Street for the construction of the YMCA building. In 1919, W.E. and Rosa Woolsey sold the Shattuck Hotel - and the block bounded by Shattuck Avenue, Allston Way, Harold Way, and Kittredge Street - to Wallace W. Whitecotton for one million dollars and purchased 2,000 acres of the Leland Stanford Ranch at Vina, in Tehama County, California.

W.E. Woolsey was director of the First National Bank of Berkeley, first clerk and charter member of the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, and member of the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Association, the Elks Lodge, Durant Lodge of Mason No. 248, Berkeley Commandery No.42 Knights of Templar, charter member of the Berkeley Country Club and the San Francisco Commonwealth Club in San Francisco. W.E. Woolsey died at his Berkeley home at 52 Oakvale Avenue in 1939.

W.E. and Rosa Woolsey had three children: Mrs. Florence May Heidt (born 1893), Mrs. Frances Shattuck Robson (born 1885), and William Harold Woolsey (born 1900). In 1924, after graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, William Harold Woolsey (a.k.a. "Hap" and "Hatch") took charge of the family ranch in Vina, California. He also managed the Woolsey family land corporation, Woolsey, Robson, and Heidt. (Frederick T. Robson and Horace Heidt were W.H. Woolsey's brothers-in-law).

William Harold Woolsey married Mary Catherine Hart (born 1897) in 1928. They had two children: William Harold Woolsey Jr. (born 1931) and Mrs. Sally Young (born 1929). The Woolsey family papers were donated to the Bancroft Library by Helene S. Woolsey, the wife of William H. Woolsey Jr.

Scope and Content Note

The collection represents the personal, familial, and business activities of three generations of the Woolsey family, a family influential from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries in Berkeley, California. The bulk of the correspondence in the Woolsey family papers is addressed to or from William Harold Woolsey and his wife, Mary Catherine Woolsey. Materials also include the correspondence of their son William H. Woolsey, Jr. (often referred to as "Bill") and their daughter Sally. Nellie G. Hart was the mother of Mary Catherine Woolsey and figures prominently in much of the personal correspondence. The collection provides detailed genealogical information for the Woolsey family as well as the Shattuck, Livingstone and Robson families. Business records, including those of the Shattuck Hotel Association and Berkeley Tract Maps as well as records from Stanford Vina Ranch in Tehama County, California, are included in the Family Business Papers Series. Records of the Woolsey family properties in Berkeley contain financial, legal and narrative reports, documenting their important influence on the city of Berkeley.

Series 1 Outgoing Correspondence undated

Physical Description: carton 1, folders 1-2

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Scope and Content Note

Mary Catherine (Jane) Woolsey's outgoing correspondence contains two letters, one addressed to "Flossie" and the other to "Junie". Rosa M. Woolsey's outgoing correspondence contains one letter addressed to "Darling Daughter". All three letters are undated.

carton 1, folder 1
carton 1, folder 2

Woolsey, Mary Catherine (Jane) undated

Woolsey, Rosa M. undated

Series 2 **Incoming Correspondence 1894-1963****Physical Description:** carton 1, folders 3-32; carton 2; carton 3, folders 1-26**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by recipient and then chronologically.

Scope and Content Note

Materials contain incoming correspondence to various family members with the bulk of the correspondence being to Mary Catherine (Jane) and W.H. Woolsey. Contains correspondence from W.H. Woolsey Jr. (Bill) and Sally Woolsey to their parents W.H. Woolsey and Mary Catherine (Jane) Woolsey while Bill was attending Kentucky Military Institute and Stanford University and from Sally Woolsey while attending college at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Mary Catherine's mother Nellie Hart also figures prominently within the incoming correspondence to W.H. and Mary Catherine (Jane) Woolsey.

carton 1, folders
3-4
carton 1, folder 5
carton 1, folder 6
carton 1, folder 7
carton 1, folder 8
carton 1, folder 9
carton 1, folders
10-32
carton 2, folders
1-3
carton 2, folders
4-37
carton 3, folder 1
carton 3, folders
2-3
carton 3, folders
4-5
carton 3, folder 6
carton 3, folders
7-17
carton 3, folders
18-24
carton 3, folder 25
carton 3, folder 26

Hart, Nellie 1915-1962**Hart, Robert 1894, 1917****Heidt, Horace 1934****Robson, Francis 1939****Ross, Charles 1945****Woolsey, Karla 1961****Woolsey, Mary Catherine (Jane) 1908-1963, undated****Woolsey, Mary Catherine (Jane) undated****Woolsey, W.H. & Mary Catherine (Jane) 1928-1958, undated****Woolsey, W.H. & Mary Catherine (Jane) undated****Woolsey, Rosa M. 1908-1939****Woolsey, Sally 1929-1958****Woolsey, W.E. 1923, 1927****Woolsey, W.H. 1928-1951, undated****Woolsey, W.H. Jr. (Bill) 1930-1961, undated****Woolsey, W.H. Jr. (Bill) & Karla undated****Woolsey, W.H. Jr. & Sally 1930, 1931, 1937, 1940, 1941**Series 3 **Miscellaneous Family Papers 1901-1990****Physical Description:** carton 3, folders 27-33; carton 4, folders 1-18; oversize folder 1**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Content Note

Materials contain genealogical information for the Woolsey, Shattuck, Robson and Livingstone families. Mary Catherine's partially filled diaries are included, with the 1929 dated diary being an account of Sally Woolsey's first year. Christmas card lists for W.H. and Mary Catherine Woolsey's annual Christmas card contain recipient's full name and address.

carton 3, folder 27
carton 3, folder 28
carton 3, folder 29
carton 3, folder 30
carton 3, folder 31
carton 3, folder
32-33
carton 4, folder 1

Autograph Book- Woolsey, W.H. Jr. (Bill) 1944-1947**Berkeley Banks History undated****Christmas Card Lists- Woolsey, W.H. & Mary Catherine (Jane) 1927, 1947-1955****Christmas Package Tags- Various Family Members undated****Civilian Defense Reports- Woolsey, W.H. circa 1941****Diary- Woolsey, Mary Catherine (Jane) 1918-1919, 1929****Genealogical Research- Robson Family 1990**

carton 4, folder 2-4	Genological Research- Shattuck/Woolsey Family 1940-1941, undated
carton 4, folder 5	Military Ephemera- Woolsey, W.H. Jr. (Bill) 1954-1957
carton 4, folder 6	Miscellaneous Ephemera- Hart, Nellie undated
carton 4, folder 7	Miscellaneous Ephemera- Woolsey, E.W. 1901
carton 4, folder 8	Miscellaneous Ephemera- Woolsey, Mary Catherine (Jane) 1927, 1935, 1939, 1941, 1949
oversize-folder 1A	Passport 1914
carton 4, folder 9	Miscellaneous Ephemera- Woolsey, Sally 1935, 1936, 1942-1949, 1952
carton 4, folder 10	Miscellaneous Ephemera- Woolsey, W.H. 1919, 1944, 1956
carton 4, folder 11	Miscellaneous Ephemera Woolsey, W.H. Jr. (Bill) 1942, 1944, 1945, 1954, undated
carton 4, folder 12	Miscellaneous Notecards- unaddressed undated
carton 4, folder 13	School Records- Woolsey, Sally 1937-1939, 1941, 1943
carton 4, folder 14	School Records- Woolsey, W.H. Jr. (Bill) 1937, 1941, 1942, 1948, 1949
carton 4, folder 15	Song Lyrics- Woolsey, W.H. undated
carton 4, folder 16	Unidentified Correspondence 1906, undated
carton 4, folder 17	Unidentified Poetry 1943, undated
carton 4, folder 18	Valentines- Various Family Members undated

Series 4 **Financial Records 1875-1959**

Physical Description: carton 4, folders 19-52, oversize folders 1-3

Arrangement

Arranged hierarchically.

Scope and Content Note

Financial records are primarily related to the Woolsey family properties, originally owned by F.K. and Rosa Shattuck, and the management of those properties. Included are deeds, maps and other property records pertaining to the Vina Ranch, Hotel Shattuck and land holdings in Berkeley, California. Also included are the personal financial records such as wills, inventories and financial statements of individual family members. Records of the Woolsey-Robson-Heidt Partnership are also found in this series.

Hotel Shattuck

Articles of Incorporation 1907

Certification of Articles of Incorporation 1907

Land Appropriation for Building 1907

Minutes 1907-1930

Builders Contract 1909

Corporation License Tax 1909

Copy of Certificate of Decrease Capital Stock 1911

Examination of Records for Hotel Shattuck Regarding Fraud 1914

Shattuck Tract

Map No. 2 and map of portion of Lot 3, block 2 undated, 1942

Scope and Content Note

Two revised subdivision blueprint survey maps and one of a portion of Lot 3, block 2 of the Shattuck Tract located in Berkeley, California.

carton 4, folder 19
oversize-folder 3B
carton 4, folder 20
carton 4, folder 21
carton 4, folder 22
carton 4, folder 23
carton 4, folder 24
carton 4, folder 25

oversize-folder 1A

oversize-folder 3B

Map No. 2- blocks 3 & 6 1912

Scope and Content Note

Revised subdivision survey map of blocks 3 & 6

oversize-folder 1A

Map No. 5 1891

Scope and Content Note

Two survey maps

oversize-folder 1A	<p>Map No. 6 1890</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Two survey maps.</p>
carton 4, folder 21 carton 4, folder 26 carton 4, folder 27 oversize-folder 1A	<p>Stanford Vina Ranch</p> <p>Minutes 1907-1930</p> <p>Contract of Purchase 1919</p> <p>Miscellaneous Financial Papers 1934, 1936, 1937</p> <p>Architectural Drawing and maps 1941, undated</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>One floor plan of the main house, three blueprints of the property and one hand drawn map of the orchards surrounding the property.</p>
carton 4, folder 28 carton 4, folder 29 carton 4, folder 30-31 carton 4, folder 32	<p>Woolsey-Robson-Heidt Partnership</p> <p>Monthly Statements of Cash Receipts 1931-1959</p> <p>Annual Statements 1941, 1949, 1950-1952</p> <p>Woolsey Properties, Inc.- Annual Statements 1950-1957</p> <p>Woolsey Properties, Inc.- miscellaneous papers 1957</p>
carton 4, folder 33 carton 4, folder 34 oversize-folder 2A	<p>Various Properties</p> <p>Abstract of Title Lot 4 undated</p> <p>Alameda City Land Company Note 1921</p> <p>Allston Way and Milvia, Berkeley- map undated</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>One small blueprint survey map of corner lot at Allston Way and Milvia.</p>
oversize-folder 2A	<p>Downtown Berkeley Map undated</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Two blueprint maps covering Milvia Street to Shattuck Avenue and Allston Way to Kittridge Street, Berkeley, California.</p>
oversize-folder 3B	<p>Plot 68 V. & D. Peralta Rancho- map 1879</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Survey map of the the V. & D. Peralta Ranchero showing the subdivisions owned by F.K. Shattuck.</p>
oversize-folder 2A	<p>Properties of Shattuck Estate undated</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Four Shattuck Estate property maps located in Berkeley, California.</p>
oversize-folder 2A	<p>Spruce Street, Berkeley- map undated</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>One plat map showing the Woolsey home on Spruce Street and the surrounding street of Alamo Avenue located in Berkeley, California.</p>
oversize-folder 2A	<p>Woolsey Estate- map undated</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Two building and property maps for Woolsey Estates, located in Berkeley, California.</p>
carton 4, folder 35 carton 4, folder 36	<p>Shattuck, F.K. - will 1897</p> <p>Shattuck, Rosa M.- will 1877, 1906</p> <p>Woolsey, Mary Catherine (Jane)</p>
carton 4, folder 37 carton 4, folder 38 carton 4, folder 39	<p>Financial Statements 1926, 1935</p> <p>Deed of Release 1928</p> <p>Investment Securitates 1928-1931</p>

carton 4, folder 40	Woolsey, Rosa M.
carton 4, folder 41	Deeds 1875, 1895, 1906, 1908-1909
carton 4, folder 42	Waiver 1908
carton 4, folder 43	Kelly vs. Woolsey 1916
carton 4, folder 44	Will 1930
carton 4, folder 45	Statements of Estate 1939
carton 4, folder 46	Woolsey, W.E. and Rosa M.- Annual Statements 1915, 1926, 1928, 1933, 1937-1939
	Woolsey W.E. & Rosa M.- Trust 1930
	Woolsey, W.E.
carton 4, folder 47	California Livery and Boarding Stables- Statements 1908
carton 4, folder 48	California Livery and Boarding Stables- Mortgage 1909
carton 4, folder 49	Will 1918
carton 4, folder 50	Bebe, Olga- correspondence 1929, 1931, undated
carton 4, folder 51	Safe Deposit Box Inventory 1939,1956
carton 4, folder 52	Woolsey, W.H.- will 1939