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

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

**Collection number:** BANC MSS 99/132 c

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**Finding Aid Author(s):** Jae Mauthe  
**Date Completed:** August 2012  
**Finding Aid Encoded By:** GenX

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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  
**Repository:** The Bancroft Library,  
University of California, Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000  
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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

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
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
Hart, Nellie 1915-1962

carton 1, folder 5
Hart, Robert 1894, 1917

Heidt, Horace 1934

Robson, Francis 1939

Ross, Charles 1945

Woolsey, Karla 1961

Woolsey, Mary Catherine (Jane) 1908-1963, undated

carton 2, folders 1-3
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
Autograph Book- Woolsey, W.H. Jr. (Bill) 1944-1947

Berkeley Banks History undated


Christmas Package Tags- Various Family Members undated

Civilian Defense Reports- Woolsey, W.H. circa 1941

Diary- Woolsey, Mary Catherine (Jane) 1918-1919, 1929

Genological Research- Robson Family 1990
Series 3 Miscellaneous Family Papers 1901-1990

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder 1A</th>
<th>Document/Content</th>
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| Map No. 6 1890 | Scope and Content Note  
  Two survey maps. |
| **Stanford Vina Ranch** | Minutes 1907-1930  
  Contract of Purchase 1919  
  Miscellaneous Financial Papers 1934, 1936, 1937  
  Architectural Drawing and maps 1941, undated | Scope and Content Note  
  One floor plan of the main house, three blueprints of the property and one hand drawn map of the orchards surrounding the property. |
| **Woolsey-Robson-Heidt Partnership** | Monthly Statements of Cash Receipts 1931-1959  
  Annual Statements 1941, 1949, 1950-1952  
  Woolsey Properties, Inc.- Annual Statements 1950-1957 | |
| **Various Properties** | Abstract of Title Lot 4 undated  
  Alameda City Land Company Note 1921  
  Allston Way and Milvia, Berkeley- map undated | Scope and Content Note  
  One small blueprint survey map of corner lot at Allston Way and Milvia. |
| **Downtown Berkeley Map undated** | Scope and Content Note  
  Two blueprint maps covering Milvia Street to Shattuck Avenue and Allston Way to Kittridge Street, Berkeley, California. |
| **Plot 68 V. & D. Peralta Rancho- map 1879** | Scope and Content Note  
  Survey map of the the V. & D. Peralta Ranchero showing the subdivisions owned by F.K. Shattuck. |
| **Properties of Shattuck Estate undated** | Scope and Content Note  
  Four Shattuck Estate property maps located in Berkeley, California. |
| **Spruce Street, Berkeley- map undated** | Scope and Content Note  
  One plat map showing the Woolsey home on Spruce Street and the surrounding street of Alamo Avenue located in Berkeley, California. |
| **Woolsey Estate- map undated** | Scope and Content Note  
  Two building and property maps for Woolsey Estates, located in Berkeley, California. |
| Shattuck, F.K. - will 1897  
  Shattuck, Rosa M.- will 1877, 1906  
  Woolsey, Mary Catherine (Jane) | Financial Statements 1926, 1935  
  Deed of Release 1928  
  Investment Securities 1928-1931 |
Woolsey, Rosa M.
carton 4, folder 40  Deeds 1875, 1895, 1906, 1908-1909
carton 4, folder 41  Waiver 1908
carton 4, folder 42  Kelly vs. Woolsey 1916
carton 4, folder 43  Will 1930
carton 4, folder 44  Statements of Estate 1939
carton 4, folder 46  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