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## **Finding Aid to the Bancroft Reference Notes for the Western States, excluding California, circa 1870s-1890s**

Processed by Carola De Rooy and Iris Donovan

The Bancroft Library

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## **Finding Aid to the Bancroft Reference Notes for the Western States, excluding California, circa 1870s-1890s**

### **Collection number: BANC MSS B-C 8**

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GenX

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### **Collection Summary**

**Collection Title:** Bancroft reference notes for the western states, excluding California

**Date (inclusive):** circa 1870s-1890s

**Collection Number:** BANC MSS B-C 8

**Collector:** Bancroft, Hubert Howe, 1832-1918

**Extent:** Number of containers: 28 cartons Linear feet: 35

**Repository:** The Bancroft Library.

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**Abstract:** Consists of bibliographic and research notes pertaining to and used in preparation of v. 25-31 of Hubert Howe Bancroft's History of the Pacific states of North America. His research notes track the settlement and development by Europeans and American pioneers of the western states, including various political, religious, military, and economic upheavals, changes, and developments in each new state or territory between the 1450s and the 1890s. References are to both primary sources, including ship's logs, diaries, and military and church correspondence, and secondary sources, including pamphlets, journals, and newspapers. The variation in scripts found in these handwritten notes provide evidence of the team of researchers employed by H.H. Bancroft. The majority of notes were taken from manuscripts and books which were part of Bancroft's collection during the years 1879 to 1890.

**Languages Represented:** Collection materials are in English

**Physical Location:** Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

#### **Access**

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<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/reference/permissions.html> .

#### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Bancroft Reference Notes for the Western States, excluding California, BANC MSS B-C 8, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

#### **Related Collections**

##### **Library**

Hubert Howe Bancroft, Records of the Library and Publishing Companies, BANC MSS B-C 7

Hofmann & Curtis Architects, Specifications ... in the erection of a ... library building for H. H. Bancroft, 1881, BANC MSS 73/122 c: [no.] 64

Catalogue of the Bancroft Library of Pacific Coast Books, Maps, and Manuscripts, BANC MSS B-C 4

William Henry Knight, Bancroft Library MS Scrapbooks, 1860-64, BANC MSS C-E 200

*San Francisco Bulletin* index, 1855-1872, BANC MSS B-C 2

##### **Publishing Companies**

Hubert Howe Bancroft, *In these Latter Days*, BANC MSS B-A 1

John S. Hittell, *A History of the City of San Francisco*, 1878, BANC MSS 90/19 c

History Company. *The History Company periodical index*, BANC MSS B-C 3

Hubert Howe Bancroft, Letters and papers from Mexico, 1886-91, BANC MSS M-M 384

Porfirio Diaz Collection of Papers, 1881-93, BANC MSS M-M 392

Hubert Howe Bancroft, Authorities quoted in the *History of California*, BANC MSS B-C 1

Thomas Savage, Report of labors in archives and procuring material for the History of California, 1876-79, BANC MSS C-E 191

Hubert Howe Bancroft, Preliminary notes and plans for the *Pioneer Register*, BANC MSS C-E 170

Hubert Howe Bancroft, Correspondence relating to the History of Oregon, 1863-1889, BANC MSS P-A 169

Hubert Howe Bancroft, Correspondence, BANC MSS C-B 362

Bancroft Reference notes for Central America, BANC MSS B-C 9

Bancroft Reference notes for Mexico, BANC MSS B-C 10

Bancroft Reference notes for British Columbia and Alaska, BANC MSS B-C 11

Bancroft Reference notes for California, BANC MSS B-C 12

Bancroft Reference notes--Bibliography, BANC MSS B-C 13

Bancroft Reference notes on the conquest of Mexico, BANC MSS B-M 1

Bancroft Reference notes, BANC MSS 97/31 c

Bancroft Miscellaneous Newspaper Clippings, 1860-1890, BANC MSS B-C 14

Henry Cerruti, Sketches of the California Pioneers, BANC MSS C-E 65

Ivan Petroff, Journal of Trip to Alaska in Search of Information for the Bancroft Library, 1878, BANC MSS P-K 62

Harry Bishop Hambly, Information for the Bancroft Library, 1936, BANC MSS C-D 5081

Henry Lebbeus Oak, Correspondence and papers, BANC MSS C-B 387

Henry Lebbeus Oak, Letters from H.H. Bancroft and diary, 1874-87, BANC MSS 67/153

Frances Fuller Victor, Correspondence and notes relating to the History of Oregon, 1865-[ca. 1886], BANC MSS P-A 170

A.L. Bancroft & Co., Account of stock, Jan. 1, 1879, BANC MSS C-E 195

A.L. Bancroft & Co., Resolutions for the year 1890, BANC MSS C-E 196

##### **Bancroft family**

Albert Little Bancroft, *My Brother Hubert Howe Bancroft*, 1907, BANC MSS 73/122 c:109

Hubert Howe Bancroft family papers, BANC MSS 73/64 c

Bancroft family, Family genealogical data, 1886-1907, BANC MSS 89/91 c

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Hubert Howe Bancroft letters to his family, 1882-1918, BANC MSS 77/169 c

### **Indexing Terms**

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

Arizona--History

Colorado--History

Dakota Territory--History

Idaho--History

Montana--History

Nevada--History

New Mexico--History

Northwest Coast of North America--History

Oregon--History

Texas--History

Utah--History

Washington (State)--History

Wyoming--History

Notes

### **Acquisition Information**

The Bancroft Reference Notes for the Western States, excluding California, were part of the Bancroft Collection purchased by the University of California in 1905.

### **Biography**

Hubert Howe Bancroft was born in Granville, Ohio on May 5, 1832. After working for some time in the Buffalo, N.Y. book store owned by his brother-in-law, George H. Derby, Bancroft came to California in 1852 to establish a West Coast outlet for the shop. In 1855, after selling the initial stock, he went east and returned with sufficient books and stationery to open a San Francisco store the following year. Within two years, his firm on Montgomery Street began to grow into a publishing house, issuing such items as law books and legal stationery, texts and maps for schools, and music and piano sales.

In 1860, as an outgrowth of assembling research materials for publication of a Pacific Coast handbook, Bancroft began to collect regional writings: this was the beginning of his unparalleled collection of books and manuscripts on the West. Within a decade he had 16,000 volumes, encompassing not only California and the Pacific Coast as the central focus, but also British Columbia and Alaska to the north, the Rocky Mountains to the east, and Mexico and Central American to the south, extending back in time from the native Indian cultures of all these regions and the subsequent era of Spanish control. The collection continued to grow as a result of collecting trips to the east and Europe, as well as through extensive purchases at a number of major auctions. Eventually it included not only books and manuscripts, but pamphlets, maps, newspapers and other periodicals, and transcriptions of manuscripts made by his corps of copyists from originals still in private hands or in government and church archives. Bancroft and his staff also created original materials by interviewing pioneers whose recollections might not otherwise have been preserved, resulting in hundreds of early oral histories termed "dictations".

By 1868, a move became necessary to relieve overcrowding in Bancroft's expanding and prosperous Montgomery Street headquarters. He bought property on Market Street near Third, and began to build in 1869. In April 1870, the completed five-story building boasted a modernized steam engine in the basement to provide power for the printing presses. The first four floors accommodated nine departments, including wholesale and retail books, and stationary, music, law, and education sales; a subscription department; and a printing, bindery, and blank book production division. The fifth floor of the new Bancroft Building was a literary workshop, completely divorced from the business, where Bancroft's collections could be put to use. He engaged Librarian, Henry Lebbeus Oak, to catalog the works he had acquired.

Bancroft continued to collect materials as he planned a vast publication project of a series of histories of western North American, which in the end numbered 39 volumes: the *History of the Pacific States of North America*, also known as Bancroft's *Works*. First were five volumes on The Native Races (1874-1875), then three volumes on the History of Central America and six more on the History of Mexico, followed by two volumes on the Northern Mexican States and Texas, and one treating Arizona and New Mexico. All of these preceded his central topic, a seven-volume History of California (1886-1890), which were followed by nine more volumes on other parts of the west, and a number of more informal works, including *Literary Industries*, the author's biography.

Bancroft's ten year marriage to his beloved wife, Emily Ketchum Bancroft, ended upon her death in 1869. Left alone to raise their daughter, Kate, born in 1860, Bancroft devoted his energies to family and literary productions. He placed the full

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responsibility of managing the business interests of the firm with his younger brother, A. L. (Albert Little) Bancroft, creating a new partnership in 1860 under the title, A. L. Bancroft and Company. The business expanded and prospered under A. L. Bancroft's direction until a fire destroyed the Bancroft Building and its contents in 1886. Old resentments and quarrels erupted following the traumatic event which eventually severed the brothers personal and professional relationships. Fortunately, the library (referred to as both the Bancroft Library and the Pacific Library) was spared. In 1881, it had been moved from the fifth floor of the Market Street location to a specially constructed fire-proofed brick building on Valencia Street. Following the fire and dissolution of his partnership with A. L. Bancroft in 1886, Hubert Howe Bancroft formed two new companies: The History Company, and the Bancroft Company. In August 1887, under these new imprints, the production, publication, and marketing of Bancroft's *Works* resumed in the rebuilt quarters at 723 Market Street, known thereafter as the History Building.

Throughout the West, Bancroft's numerous sales agents continued to sell subscriptions to his *Works* and the seven-volume *Chronicles of the Builders*. Following a successful marketing campaign which secured orders for more than 6,000 sets of volumes during the 1870's and 80's, the canvassing effort was abandoned in 1892. In the late 1880's, Bancroft's methods for writing and marketing his works came under attack by literary critics and several of his former employees, including Mr. Henry Oak and Mrs. Francis Fuller Victor. Oak and Victor claimed authorship for major portions of the *Works* that were credited solely to Bancroft, calling the historian's methods and reputation into question. The retail book and stationary store finally closed its doors in 1894, after a long and bitter price war had made the business unprofitable.

In 1905, Bancroft's accomplishments as an historian and collector were recognized by the University of California. The institution purchased the book and manuscript collections of the eminent historian, numbering over sixty-thousand items, for \$250,000. Although the collector contributed \$100,000 of the purchase price, the contents of the library had been appraised at twice the net cost to the University. *The History of the Pacific States* won recognition as an indispensable work for students of western history. The collection as a whole remains a distinguished primary source of unique books, maps, pamphlets, and documents on the early history of the West, from Alaska to Central America.

In his later years, Bancroft wrote several volumes (*Retrospection, The New Pacific, In These Latter Days*) expressing his political, moral, economic, and social concerns for a modernizing world. On March 3, 1918, at the age of 86, Hubert Howe Bancroft died at his home, having been struck by a street car several days earlier. He was survived by his daughter, Kate, and his four children (Paul, Philip, Griffing, and Lucy Bancroft) by his second wife, Matilida Griffing Bancroft. They were married in 1876 and she predeceased him in 1910.

Harry Clark, *A Venture in History: The Production, Publication, and Sale of the Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft*. University of California Press, 1973.

John Walton Caughey, *Hubert Howe Bancroft, Historian of the West*. University of California Press, 1946.

The Bancroft Library, University of California, *The Bancroft Collection of Western and Latin Americana*, June 4, 1998, <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/bancroft.html>.

### Scope and Content of Collection

Bancroft Reference Notes for the Western States, excluding California, ca. 1870s-1890s, consist of bibliographic and research notes pertaining to and used in the preparation of volumes 25-31 of Hubert Howe Bancroft's, *History of the Pacific States of North America*, including the *History of Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming, the History of Utah, the History of Northwest Coast* (v. I-II), *the History of Oregon* (v. I-II), and *the History of Washington, Idaho, and Montana*. The research notes as a whole track the settlement and development by Europeans and American pioneers of the western states. The notes follow, in a chronological manner, various political, religious, military, and economic upheavals, changes, and developments in each new state or territory between the 1450s and the 1890s.

The western states notes reflect primary sources, such as ship's logs, diaries, and military and church correspondence. Secondary source notes, such as pamphlets, journals, and newspapers, focus on the interaction of the settlers and the native races, as well as internal relations in establishing governmental regulations. Of note is the vast amount of research preserved for the History of Oregon; Utah also presents a remarkable quantity of research concerning Mormon history.

Notably, the variation in scripts found in these handwritten notes provide evidence of the team of researchers employed by H.H. Bancroft. While the assistants compiled notes using a systematic method of topic research, Bancroft himself collated and edited the notes, often in a literal cut-and-paste fashion. In this manner, he carefully documented the sources he intended to draw upon and quote as authorities while constructing chapter outlines and textual drafts for the history of the western states volumes.

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Series 1: **Bibliographic and Research Notes. ca. 1870s-1890s.**

**Physical Description:** Cartons 1-28

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by state, then subject, and finally, chronologically.

**Content/Description**

The majority of notes were taken from manuscripts and books which were part of Bancroft's collection during the years 1870 to 1890. Bibliographic notes include title, author, volume, and page citations; many notes are simple, 1- to 4-line summaries of a specific region and date noted in the left hand margin. Research notes of one to ten pages are transcriptions or summaries of historical events or persons. The miscellany files represent, chronologically, items with singular or no subject headings. The subject headings listed under each state are not necessarily uniform, but were derived from the quantity of research notes found within each state.

**Arizona**

carton 1, folder 1  
carton 1, folder 2  
carton 1, folder 3-11  
carton 1, folder 12-13  
carton 1, folder 14-16  
carton 2, folder 1  
carton 2, folder 2  
carton 2, folder 3  
carton 2, folder 4-13

**Agriculture. 1870-1889**

**Crime. 1860-1890**

**Indians and the Military. 1850-1889**

**Legislature and Governmental Affairs. 1820-1889**

**Mining and Minerals. 1840-1889**

**Mining and Minerals. 1840-1889**

**Missions and Churches. 1760-1889**

**Pioneers and Settlements. 1870-1889**

**Miscellany. 1800-1889**

**Colorado**

carton 2, folder 14  
carton 2, folder 15  
carton 2, folder 16  
carton 2, folder 17  
carton 2, folder 18-23  
carton 3, folder 1-5

**Judges, Senators, Governors. 1876-1897**

**List of New Publications. 1860-1899**

**Newspaper Clippings. 1869-1884**

**Silver Bill, Mint, Mining Clippings. 1880-1888**

**Miscellany. 1800-1869 undated**

**Miscellany. 1870-1889**

**Dakota**

**Miscellany. 1850-1887**

**Idaho**

carton 3, folder 7  
carton 3, folder 8-11  
carton 3, folder 12-14  
carton 3, folder 15-18  
carton 4, folder 1-15

**Crime. 1850-1889**

**Indian and Military Affairs. 1850-1889**

**Mining and Minerals. 1850-1889**

**Miscellany. 1850-1889**

**Miscellany. 1850-1889**

**Lower California**

**Miscellany. 1704-1868**

**Montana**

**Miscellany. 1867-1887**

carton 5, folder 1-12

**Nevada**

carton 5, folder 13

**Agriculture. 1870-1887**

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carton 5, folder 14-15	<b>Biography. 1850-1887</b>
carton 5, folder 16	<b>Climate and Natural Resources. 1860-1880</b>
carton 5, folder 17	<b>History, Annexation, and Legislation. 1850-1865</b>
carton 5, folder 18	<b>Indians and the Military. 1800-1865</b>
carton 5, folder 19	<b>Indians and the Military. 1866-1885</b>
carton 6, folder 1	<b>Land Survey and Land Use. 1865-1879</b>
carton 6, folder 2-3	<b>Legislature and Governmental Affairs. 1860-1880</b>
carton 6, folder 4-13	<b>Mining and Minerals. 1860-1880</b>
carton 6, folder 14-15	<b>Pioneers. 1850-1886</b>
carton 6, folder 16-18	<b>Railroads, Transportation, and Communication 1860-1880</b>
carton 7, folder 1	<b>Stock Raising. 1849-1885</b>
carton 7, folder 2-13	<b>Miscellany. 1800-1885</b>
	<b>New Mexico</b>
carton 8, folder 1	<b>Administration of Justice. 1820-1840</b>
carton 8, folder 2	<b>Cities and Boundaries. 1810-1869</b>
carton 8, folder 3	<b>Conquest and Settlement. 1583-1589</b>
carton 8, folder 4-5	<b>Churches and Missions. 1550-1835</b>
carton 8, folder 6	<b>Education. 1810-1889</b>
carton 8, folder 7-9	<b>Exploration and Voyages. 1550-1859</b>
carton 8, folder 10-11	<b>Governors and Government. 1595-1846</b>
carton 8, folder 12-16	<b>Indian Affairs and Insurrections. 1550-1885</b>
carton 9, folder 1-2	<b>Indian Affairs and Insurrections. 1550-1885</b>
carton 9, folder 3	<b>Land Administration. 1850-1890</b>
carton 9, folder 4-6	<b>Military Affairs. 1820-1889</b>
carton 9, folder 7-8	<b>Mining. 1650-1870</b>
carton 9, folder 9	<b>Pioneers. 1820-1889</b>
carton 9, folder 10	<b>Railroads and Communication</b>
carton 9, folder 11	<b>U.S. Trade and Trade Routes. 1824-1825</b>
carton 9, folder 12-19	<b>Miscellany. 1502-1889</b>
carton 10, folder 1-2	<b>Miscellany. 1820-1889</b>
	<b>North Mexican States and Texas</b>
carton 10, folder 3-7	<b>Miscellany. 1530-1786</b>
	<b>Northwest Coast</b>
carton 10, folder 8	<b>Anson's Voyage. 1740-1777</b>
carton 10, folder 9	<b>Cortes' Voyage, Grijalvas' Voyage. 1530-1539</b>
carton 10, folder 10-11	<b>Early Exploration, Northern Mystery. 1500-1775</b>
carton 10, folder 12	<b>Fur Trade. 1750-1800</b>
carton 10, folder 13	<b>Guzman's Fate, Alavion's Voyage. 1532-1541</b>

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carton 10, folder 14	<b>Hurtado's Voyage, Niza's Expedition. 1530-1539</b>
carton 10, folder 15	<b>NW Passage and Shipping. 1450-1825</b>
carton 10, folder 16	<b>Passes Through Mountainous Regions. 1839-1859</b>
carton 10, folder 17	<b>Miscellany. 1800-1850</b>
	<b>Oregon</b>
carton 11, folder 1-4	<b>Agriculture. 1850-1889</b>
carton 11, folder 5-21	<b>Biography (A-R). 1800-1899</b>
carton 12, folder 1-7	<b>Biography (S-Z). 1800-1899</b>
carton 12, folder 8-10	<b>Biography Miscellany. 1820-1890</b>
carton 12, folder 11	<b>British America. 1800-1860</b>
carton 12, folder 12-17	<b>Churches and Missions. 1830-1860</b>
carton 12, folder 18	<b>Congressional Debates, Re-occupation. 1824-1825</b>
carton 12, folder 19-24	<b>Counties and Towns. 1820-1890</b>
carton 13, folder 1-4	<b>Counties and Towns. 1820-1890</b>
carton 13, folder 5-10	<b>Emigration and Immigration. 1835-1870</b>
carton 13, folder 11	<b>Forts in Astoria. 1811-1840</b>
carton 13, folder 12	<b>Fur Trade. 1830-1870</b>
carton 13, folder 13	<b>Fur Trappers and Traders. 1840-1850</b>
carton 13, folder 14-16	<b>Geography and Resources. 1835-1875</b>
carton 13, folder 17	<b>Gray's Voyage</b>
carton 13, folder 18-20	<b>Indians and Military. 1845-1870</b>
carton 14, folder 1-14	<b>Indians and Military. 1845-1870</b>
carton 14, folder 15	<b>John Jacob Astor and Astoria. 1810-1846</b>
carton 14, folder 16-17	<b>Manufacturers and Industries. 1840-1870</b>
carton 15, folder 1-2	<b>Manufacturers and Industries. 1840-1870</b>
carton 15, folder 3-8	<b>Mining. 1855-1870</b>
carton 15, folder 9	<b>Northwest Company. 1811-1832</b>
carton 15, folder 10	<b>Pacific Fur Company. 1810-1813</b>
carton 15, folder 11-19	<b>Politics and Government. 1840-1869</b>
carton 16, folder 1-4	<b>Politics and Government. 1840-1869</b>

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carton 16, folder 5-6	<b>Printing and Newspapers. 1830-1889</b>
carton 16, folder 7-8	<b>Public Schools. 1830-1876</b>
carton 16, folder 9	<b>Sale of Astoria. 1813</b>
carton 16, folder 10	<b>Ships (Tonquin, Beaver, Lark). 1810-1813</b>
carton 16, folder 11-12	<b>Social Life. 1850-1875</b>
carton 16, folder 13-19	<b>Transportation and Communication. 1820-1875</b>
carton 17, folder 1-8	<b>Transportation and Communication. 1820-1875</b>
carton 17, folder 9	<b>Willamette Orthography. 1819-1874</b>
carton 17, folder 10-13	<b>Miscellany. 1810-1889</b>
carton 18, folder 1-10	<b>Miscellany. 1810-1889</b>
	<b>Texas</b>
carton 19, folder 1	<b>Agriculture and Husbandry. 1828-1885</b>
carton 19, folder 2-3	<b>Annexation. 1830-1848</b>
carton 19, folder 4	<b>Biography. 1810-1885</b>
carton 19, folder 5	<b>Boundaries. 1815-1850</b>
carton 19, folder 6	<b>Colonization and Land Grants. 1800-1835</b>
carton 19, folder 7	<b>Education. 1835-1880</b>
carton 19, folder 8	<b>Expeditions and Voyages. 1689-1848</b>
carton 19, folder 9-15	<b>Indian and Military Affairs</b>
carton 19, folder 16-20	<b>Legislature and Governmental Affairs</b>
carton 20, folder 1	<b>Railroads and Communication</b>
carton 20, folder 2-11	<b>Miscellany. 1520-1870</b>
carton 20, folder 12	<b>United States- Pacific Coast. 1830-1867</b>
	<b>Utah</b>
carton 20, folder 13	<b>Agriculture and Husbandry. 1860-1885</b>
carton 20, folder 14-15	<b>Biography. 1812-1880</b>
carton 20, folder 16-17	<b>Brigham Young. 1550-1586</b>
carton 21, folder 1-2	<b>Brigham Young. 1550-1586</b>
carton 21, folder 3-4	<b>Emigration and Immigration. 1831-1887</b>
carton 21, folder 5-9	<b>Indians and the Military. 1830-1889</b>
carton 21, folder 10	<b>Land. 1858-1879</b>
carton 21, folder 11-12	<b>Legislature and Government. 1830-1889</b>
carton 21, folder 13-19	<b>Mining and Minerals. 1840-1889</b>
carton 22, folder 1-15	<b>Mormonism. 1839-1889</b>

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carton 23, folder 1-5	<b>Mormonism. 1839-1889</b>
carton 23, folder 6	<b>Mountain Meadows Massacre. 1857</b>
carton 23, folder 7	<b>Newspaper Clippings. 1820-1889</b>
carton 23, folder 8	<b>Pioneers and Settlement. 1860-1885</b>
carton 23, folder 9	<b>Poems and Songs. 1850-1860</b>
carton 23, folder 10-13	<b>Politics and Government</b>
carton 23, folder 14-16	<b>Polygamy. 1845-1880</b>
carton 23, folder 17	<b>Transportation and Railroads. 1860-1885</b>
carton 23, folder 18-22	<b>Miscellany. 1540-1879 undated</b>
carton 24, folder 1-14	<b>Miscellany. 1840-1889</b>
	<b>Washington</b>
carton 25, folder 1-3	<b>Agriculture and Husbandry. 1830-1879</b>
carton 25, folder 4-7	<b>Biography. 1840-1885</b>
carton 25, folder 8	<b>Churches and Missions. 1830-1879</b>
carton 25, folder 9	<b>Clippings. 1875-1885</b>
carton 25, folder 10	<b>Crime. 1849-1879</b>
carton 25, folder 11	<b>Education. 1850-1885</b>
carton 25, folder 12	<b>Fisheries and Canning. 1848-1880</b>
carton 25, folder 13-19	<b>Indians and the Military. 1845-1885</b>
carton 26, folder 1	<b>Indians and the Military. 1845-1885</b>
carton 26, folder 2-5	<b>Legislature. 1840-1885</b>
carton 26, folder 6	<b>Libraries. 1850-1869</b>
carton 26, folder 7-8	<b>Lumbering. 1830-1880</b>
carton 26, folder 9	<b>Mail Matters. 1850-1885</b>
carton 26, folder 10-12	<b>Manufactures and Industries. 1845-1879</b>
carton 26, folder 13-16	<b>Mining and Minerals. 1850-1880</b>
carton 27, folder 1	<b>Mining and Minerals. 1850-1880</b>
carton 27, folder 2	<b>Olympia. 1845-1880</b>
carton 27, folder 3-5	<b>Pioneers and Settlement. 1830-1875</b>
carton 27, folder 6	<b>Printing. 1835-1885</b>
carton 27, folder 7-8	<b>Puget Sound. 1845-1880</b>
carton 27, folder 9-12	<b>Railroads and Passes. 1860-1885</b>
carton 27, folder 13	<b>Rivers and Bays. 1850-1880</b>
carton 27, folder 14	<b>San Juan. 1850-1879</b>
carton 27, folder 15	<b>Seattle. 1850-1885</b>

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carton 27, folder 16	<b>Shipbuilding and Steamers. 1840-1880</b>
carton 27, folder 17	<b>Walla Walla. 1845-1875</b>
carton 28, folder 1-7	<b>Miscellany. 1840-1880</b>
	<b>Washington Territory</b>
carton 28, folder 8	<b>History. 1851-1853</b>
carton 28, folder 9	<b>History Outlines. 1500-1882</b>
carton 28, folder 10	<b>Index and Notes Used</b>
carton 28, folder 11	<b>Indian Affairs. 1850-1875</b>
carton 28, folder 12	<b>Miscellany. 1830-85</b>
	<b>Western States</b>
carton 28, folder 13	<b>Treatment of Indians. ca. 1858</b>
	<b>Wyoming</b>
carton 28, folder 14	<b>Anti-Chinese Riots and Expulsion. 1885</b>
carton 28, folder 15-17	<b>Miscellany. 1800-1880</b>
carton 28, folder 18	<b>Unidentified pages. 1847-1885 undated</b>