Guide to the J.J. Martin Papers, 1880-1972, bulk 1885-1936

Collection Number: BANC MSS C-B 363

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California

Guide Written By:
Alison E. Bridger and Andrea O'Neill

Date Completed:
January 2006

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: J.J. Martin papers

Date (inclusive): 1880-1972,
Date (bulk): , bulk 1885-1936

Collection Number: BANC MSS C-B 363

Creators: Martin, J. J., (James John), 1845-1938

Extent: Number of containers: 5 boxes and 4 volumesLinear feet: 2.2

Repository: The Bancroft Library
Berkeley, California 94720-6000

Abstract: Contains documents from and relating to the Kaweah Colony, the Hartly Bay Lumber, Trading & Fishing Company, the Tasmania Colony, as well as information on other cooperatives. The Kaweah Colony records include official documents, correspondence, legal documents from a case with the U.S. Government, a scrapbook and two histories, including one unpublished manuscript by Martin. Papers also include a small amount of personal and family papers including an unpublished manuscript, "Religion and Socialism."

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

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], J.J. Martin Papers, BANC MSS C-B 363, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available

Correspondence from Upton Sinclair is available on microfilm, [BANC FILM X-X film 5].

Related Collections

Kaweah Cooperative Colony Company Records (BANC MSS C-A 303)
Haskell Family Papers (BANC MSS C-B 364)
Joseph Cummings Rowell Papers (BANC MSS C-B 419)
P.N. Kuss Papers (BANC MSS 2002/193 c)
Rodney Sydes Ellsworth Papers: Relating to the Kaweah Cooperative Colony Co. (BANC MSS 81/27 c)
Ruth Krandis Lewis Correspondence (BANC MSS C-B 365)
Scrapbooks of Clippings Regarding Kaweah Cooperative Colony (BANC MSS C-V 24)
Thomas Waters Papers (BANC MSS C-B 983)
Why Kaweah Failed: transcript, by Joseph E. Doctor (BANC MSS 82/143 c:2)

Separated Material
Printed materials have been transferred to the book 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.
Martin, J. J. (James John), 1845-1938--Archives
Martin, J. J. (James John), 1845-1938--Pictorial works
Sinclair, Upton, 1878-1968--Correspondence
Kaweah Colony
Hartly Bay Lumber, Trading and Fishing Company
Tasmania Colony
Credit Foncier Company
Bucklands Settlement
Huapai Estate
Hotel Del Monte (Monterey, Calif.)--Correspondence
Tasmania Colony--Pictorial works
Cooperative societies--California
Cooperative societies--Tasmania
Cooperative societies--New Zealand
Cooperative societies--Mexico
Cooperative societies--South Africa
Clippings
Scrapbooks
Manuscripts for publication
Photographs

Acquisition Information
The J.J. Martin Papers were given to The Bancroft Library by Daisy Martin Redstone in September, 1941. Additions were made in 1985 and 1988 by Ellis Redstone.

Accruals
No additions are expected.

Processing Information
Processed by Alison E. Bridger and Andrea O'Neill (SJSU SLIS student) in 2005-2006.

Biographical Information
James John Martin was born in 1845. The early years of his adulthood were spent in railroad endeavors and efforts related to labor unions. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Coast Seaman’s Union of San Francisco in the 1880s. These efforts were followed by his involvement in the founding of the Kaweah Co-Operative Colony. The Colony was begun with the filing of land claims in 1885 and the formal purchase of land in 1887. Martin served as the Secretary of the Kaweah Colony for five years during which time the Colony was constructed, occupied, investigated by Federal agents, prosecuted by the Federal government and eventually dismantled. After leaving Kaweah, Martin moved to Los Angeles where he continued to fight for compensation of the colonists by the government. During this time Martin and some colleagues began to explore the possibility of establishing a cooperative colony in Mexico, but exploration proved fruitless.

At the beginning of the 20th century Martin moved to Victoria, British Columbia where he worked for a short period as a salesman before becoming involved in a labor dispute on behalf of the Marine Engineer’s Association. Following the resolution of that labor dispute, he was hired as the organizing Secretary and Treasurer of the Merchant Service Guild of Canada. Amidst a dispute within the organization, Martin resigned in 1909. For the next two years Martin was involved in the establishment of the entrepreneurial enterprise of the Hartly Bay Lumber, Trading and Fishing Company. This business collapsed in 1911 and Martin spent the next 4 years working as Special Representative for the Hotel Del Monte in Western...
Canada.
In 1914 Martin retired from his work with the Hotel Del Monte and spent the next two years working to establish a cooperative colony similar to the Kaweah Colony in Tasmania. Despite the backing of prominent governmental officials in Tasmania, the colony failed to secure parliamentary approval for their establishment and in 1915 efforts were abandoned. Following the failure of the Tasmania Colony, Martin suffered a nervous breakdown and spent several weeks convalescing with friends in Tasmania. Upon his recuperation he returned to British Columbia and unsuccessfully sought employment again with the Hotel Del Monte. Martin spent the next 19 years in retirement spending time with his children and grandchildren. He died on May 10, 1938 in San Luis Obispo.

Scope and Content of Collection
Contains documents from and relating to the Kaweah Colony, the Hartly Bay Lumber, Trading & Fishing Company, the Tasmania Colony, as well as information on other cooperatives. The Kaweah Colony records include official documents, correspondence, legal documents from a case with the U.S. Government, a scrapbook and two histories, including one unpublished manuscript by Martin. Papers also include a small amount of personal and family papers including an unpublished manuscript, “Religion and Socialism.”

The collection is arranged into five series. Series 1: Kaweah Colony; Series 2: Hartly Bay Lumber, Trading & Fishing Company; Series 3: Tasmania Colony; Series 4: Other Cooperatives; Series 5: Personal and Family Papers.

Series 1 KAWEAH COLONY 1885-1972
Physical Description: Box 1-3, v. 1-3
Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.
Scope and Content Note
Contains official documents of the colony, correspondence, documents related to the case between the colony and the U.S. Government, scrapbook and clippings and writings on the history of the Kaweah Colony including *Curse of Capitalism*, by J.J. Martin and *Kaweah: a Saga of the Old Colony*, by Will Purdy. Official documents include a state school land grant, taxes, an annual report and stocks. Correspondence includes correspondence of J.J. Martin concerning the colony after its demise. The documents relating to the court case include correspondence, legal documents, clippings and a map of the area where the colony was located.

| Box 1, Folder 1 | Official documents 1887-1889 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Correspondence |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | General 1890-1893 |
| Box 1, Folder 4-5 | To J.J. Martin 1889-1903 |
| Box 1, Folder 6-8 | Concerning the Kaweah Colony 1889-1938 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Kaweah Colony vs. United States Government |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Correspondence 1885-1886 |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Legal documents 1891-1898 |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Map [ca. 1890] |
| Volume 1 | Clippings 1891-1902 |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Scrapbook 1885-1916 |
| Volume 2 | Writings |
| Box 1, Folder 12-14 | *Curse of Capitalism*, by J.J. Martin |
| Box 2, Folder 1-6 | Typescript, final [ca. 1930’s] |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Typescript, draft [ca. 1930’s] |
| Box 3, Folder 1-5 | Manuscript [ca. 1930’s] |
| Volume 3 | Drafts [ca. 1930’s] |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | *Kaweah: a Saga of the Old Colony*, by Will Purdy |
| Box 1, Folder 15 | Typescript, final undated |
| Box 1, Folder 16 | Typescript, draft undated |
| Volume 3 | Other writings on Kaweah, by various authors [ca. 1890-1928] |
Series 2  HARTLY BAY LUMBER, TRADING AND FISHING COMPANY 1906-1911

Physical Description: Box 4, folders 1-4

Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.

Scope and Content Note
Contains official documents, resolutions, accounts and a map of the location of the company. Official documents include a prospectus, legal agreements, articles of association, meeting minutes, land documents and stocks.

- Box 4, Folder 1  Official documents 1906-1911
- Box 4, Folder 2  Resolutions 1906-1909
- Box 4, Folder 3  Accounts 1906-1910
- Box 4, Folder 4  Map undated

Series 3  TASMANIA COLONY 1910-1916

Physical Description: Box 4, folders 5-8, v. 4

Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.

Scope and Content Note
Contains official documents, correspondence, scrapbook, clippings and photographs. Photographs include pictures of individuals in the colony and of their arrival. Official documents include articles of association and other legal documents.

- Box 4, Folder 5  Official documents 1910-1915
- Box 4, Folder 6  Correspondence 1914-1916
- Box 4, Folder 7  Scrapbook 1914-1915
- Box 4, Folder 8  Clippings 1914-1915
- Box 4, Folder 9  Photographs 1915

Series 4  OTHER COOPERATIVES 1890-1916

Physical Description: Box 4, folders 9-11

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by cooperative.

Scope and Content Note
Contains information on the Bucklands Settlement near Douglas, South Africa, the Credit Foncier Company in Sinaloa, Mexico and the Huapai Estate in New Zealand. The Bucklands Settlement documents include maps and floor plans of the colony and of Alby's Farm. The Credit Foncier Company documents include a photograph of members.

- Box 4, Folder 9  Bucklands Settlement, near Douglas, South Africa [ca. 1910]
- Box 4, Folder 10  Credit Foncier Company, Sinaloa, Mexico [ca. 1890]
- Box 4, Folder 11  Huapai Estate, New Zealand 1916

Series 5  PERSONAL AND FAMILY PAPERS 1880-1942

Physical Description: Box 4, folders 12-19, Box 5

Arrangement
Arranged hierarchically.

Scope and Content Note
Contains correspondence, legal documents, clippings, photographs and writings. Correspondence includes family letters and letters to Martin during his tenure at the Hotel Del Monte. Photographs include pictures of Martin's home in Vancouver, B.C., some photographs of Nora [Martin's] trip around Cape of Good Hope and other family photographs. Martin's writings include the unpublished manuscript to Religion and Socialism. See other series for more of Martin's writings.

- Box 4, Folder 12  Correspondence
- Family 1897-1930

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