Guide to the John Augustus Sutter papers, 1846-1870

Processed by The Bancroft Library staff
The Bancroft Library

© 1997
The Bancroft Library
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000
bancref@library.berkeley.edu
URL: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/libraries/bancroft-library
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library
Title: John Augustus Sutter Papers,
creator: Sutter, John Augustus, 1803-1880
Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS C-B 631
Physical Description: 1.25 linear feet: 2 boxes and 1 oversize folder
Date (inclusive): 1846-1870
For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Abstract: Includes letters from Sutter, documents relating to property, and copy of inventory of Russian-American
Company property at Fort Ross and Bodega.
Language of Material: English
Access
Collection is open for research.
Permission to reproduce the letters from the Huntington Library in whole or in part must be obtained from the Huntington
Library.
Publication Rights
Copyright has not been assigned to The Bancroft Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts
must be submitted in writing to the Head of Public Services. Permission for publication is given on behalf of The Bancroft
Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which
must also be obtained by the reader.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], John Augustus Sutter papers, BANC MSS C-B 631, The Bancroft Library, University of California,
Berkeley.
Material Cataloged Separately
The following were removed from the collection for separate processing:
1. Watson, Douglas S.: Life of Johan August Sutter, 3 l. (?)
2. Portraits (3) and picture of Sutter's Fort
3. 4 newspaper clippings
Biographical Sketch
John Augustus Sutter, a colorful figure of Swiss parentage who came to the United States in 1834, first settled in Saint
Louis, where he operated as a trader on the Santa Fe Trail. Then in 1838, he left for the West via the Oregon Trail with
detours to Alaska and the Sandwich Islands before arriving in California in 1839. He obtained a land grant in what is now
the Sacramento area, building a fort/trading/trapping post at New Helvetia in 1841 and acquiring property from the
Russians at Fort Ross. The gold found in his property in 1848 led to his financial downfall. In 1849 he was one of the
delegates to the state constitutional convention. He lived with his family at Hock Farm from 1850 until 1864 when his
homestead was burned. He spent his last years in the east.
Scope and Content
The original material in this collection is mainly from the T. W. Norris Collection. Photocopy and transcripts of original Sutter
letters in the Huntington Library and in the California State Library in Sacramento complete the collection. Permission to
reproduce the letters from the Huntington Library in whole or in part must be obtained from the Huntington Library. Much
of the photocopy and transcripts came from the Du Four material on Sutter, removed from the Bolton papers.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Sutter, John Augustus, 1803-1880
box 1, volume 1  Sutter, John Augustus 1854-1874
box 1, volume 1  Outgoing correspondence 1846-1880
Scope and Contents
Letters to William Worthington Chipman, James William Denver, William Alexander
Leidesdorff, Orville C. Pratt, Bennett Riley, John F. Romie, Ad. Eggis, A. Peri, and Jasper
O'Farrell.
Documents concerning sale of land on Yuba River to Mr. Rose April 1850

Deed of sale of land in Sacramento to Mayor R. P. Johnson April 28, 1854

Statement about himself 1854

Order to pay a bill July 17, 1857

Power of attorney to Darius Ogden Mills and Co. June 4, 1864

Roster of forces which left Sutter’s Fort January 1, 1845

Map of area along part of Sacramento and Plumas Rivers, known as Rancho de Flugge. Certified true copy by Sutter undated

For further materials relating to property, see also separate portfolio volume

Micheltorena, Manuel: Formal title to New Helvetia, Copy. December 22, 1844

Sutter, Emil Victor, d. 1883: Letter to A. Peri, October 5, 1874

Sutter, John Augustus (son ), 1826-1897

Letter to William Worthington Chipman June 18, 1870

Inventory of Russian-American Co. at Fort Ross and Bodega 1841

Scope and Contents

In French. With agreement for terms of sale to Sutter. Copy of original. Original signed by Sutter, Jacob Leese, J. J. Viogt and Francisco Guerrero. With typescript translation and notes.

Photocopy and transcripts of Sutter’s letters 1840-1854

Arrangement

Grouped alphabetically according to addressee, and chronologically within each group.

Scope and Contents


Photocopy and transcripts of Sutter letters

Arrangement

Grouped alphabetically according to addressee, and chronologically within each group.

Scope and Contents

Partial list of contents: 46 letters to Antonio Suñol, 1840-1846 (originals in the California State Library; there are extracts of these letters in the H. H. Bancroft Collection, BANC MSS C-E 110). 1 letter to Mr. Struck, Apr. 14, 1854. 5 letters to Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Sept. 23-Dec. 21, 1844 (originals in the Huntington Library). 2 letters to Vital Ferdinand Vignes, 1852-1856 (Originals in private possession). Miscellaneous letters printed in newspapers and/or books.

Photocopies of miscellaneous documents, mainly relating to New Helvetia

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically insofar as size permits.

Alvarado, Juan Bautista, 1809-1882. Grant to Sutter of New Helvetia. Translation only June 18, 1841

[Espediente promovido or Don Juan Agusto Sutter en solicitud de un terreno que se halla a las margenes del Rio Sacramento] June 19, 1841

Sutter vs. U.S. no. 92

Regarding New Helvetia grant May 15, 1855

U.S. Land Commissioners. Evidence taken in case 192, John A. Sutter vs. The United States 1854
| oversize-folder 1 | U.S. Supreme Court. U.S. vs. Sutter, case no. 135, argument for intervenors Nicolas Algier et al. Typescript only 1864 |
| oversize-folder 1 | 2 maps of New Helvetia, one undated, the other filed June 28, 1854. |