
Guide to the John Augustus Sutter papers, 1846-1870

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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.

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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.

box 1, volume 1	Documents concerning sale of land on Yuba River to Mr. Rose April 1850
box 1, volume 1	Deed of sale of land in Sacramento to Mayor R. P. Johnson April 28, 1854
box 1, volume 1	Statement about himself 1854
box 1, volume 1	Order to pay a bill July 17, 1857
box 1, volume 1	Power of attorney to Darius Ogden Mills and Co. June 4, 1864
box 1, volume 1	Roster of forces which left Sutter's Fort January 1, 1845
box 1, volume 1	Map of area along part of Sacramento and Plumas Rivers, known as Rancho de Flugge. Certified true copy by Sutter undated
	General
	For further materials relating to property, see also separate portfolio volume
box 1, volume 1	Micheltorena, Manuel: Formal title to New Helvetia, Copy. December 22, 1844
box 1, volume 1	Sutter, Emil Victor, d. 1883: Letter to A. Peri, October 5, 1874
box 1, volume 1	Sutter, John Augustus (son), 1826-1897
box 1, volume 1	Letter to William Worthington Chipman June 18, 1870
box 1, volume 2	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. Vioget and Francisco Guerrero. With typescript translation and notes.
box 1, volume 2	Photocopy and transcripts of Sutter's letters 1840-1854
	Arrangement
	Grouped alphabetically according to addressee, and chronologically within each group.
	Scope and Contents
	Partial list of contents: 5 letters to John Bidwell, 1851-1854 (originals in the California State Library). 27 letters to William Alexander Leidesdorff, 1844-1848 (originals in the Huntington Library). 22 letters to John Marsh, 1840-1846 (from Bolton transcripts, and also 5 from originals in the California State Library). 33 letters to Pierson Barton Reading, 1844-1846 (originals in the California State Library).
box 2	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.
oversize-folder 1	Photocopies of miscellaneous documents, mainly relating to New Helvetia
	Arrangement
	Arranged chronologically insofar as size permits.
oversize-folder 1	Alvarado, Juan Bautista, 1809-1882. Grant to Sutter of New Helvetia. Translation only June 18, 1841
oversize-folder 1	[Espediente promovido or Don Juan Agosto Sutter en solicitud de un terreno que se halla a las margenes del Rio Sacramento] June 19, 1841
oversize-folder 1	Sutter vs. U.S. no. 92
oversize-folder 1	Regarding New Helvetia grant May 15, 1855
oversize-folder 1	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.

oversize-folder 1

Meyer, Albert Fr.: Stammbaum Sutter. A Sutter genealogy prepared for Julian Dana. Gift of Warren Howell July 26, 1949